

Information Sheet

(People with MS/Arthritis)

About me

My name is Dr. Colleen Butler and I am carrying out further study on a Masters in Design for Health and Wellbeing at the University of Limerick. I come from a background of study and work experience in the fields of psychology and human performance – I studied Applied Psychology and now work in health and safety research as a Human Factors Specialist in the UK. I am contacting you to inform you about my Masters Design Project at the University of Limerick and invite you to take part in this research.

Background to Masters Design Project (MDP)?

For people living with disabilities/illness, clothing related barriers are often overlooked relative to the more documented environmental barriers such as transportation or building accessibility (Brown et al., 2012). People living with disability and impairments often face a deficit of clothing and shoe choices to fit the activities in which they would like to engage (Kabal et al., 2017). Research has shown that these unmet needs have compromised social engagement and relationships, presented employment barriers and negatively impacted involvement in exercise and other health promotion activities for people living with disabilities/long term chronic illness.

Purpose of Study?

The aim of this MDP is to enhance understanding of clothing design needs for people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or Arthritis and use this understanding to inform the inclusive design of clothing. The research has been designed to include a key consultation phase, consultation that includes a range of stakeholders: people with MS/Arthritis, design researchers, designers and advocates for people with disabilities.

What will happen if I agree to take part?

If you choose to take part in this research, you will be invited to take part in a telephone or online MS Teams interview, which is expected to take up to 1 hour. During this interview, I will ask you some background questions about you to add context to the data i.e. to confirm your diagnosis and how long you have had that diagnosis for. I would also like to ask about any day-to-day challenges you have with clothing; your experiences with sourcing clothing that meets your needs (you're your positive and negative experiences of mainstream outlets in terms of clothing choices); and your views on improvements that could be made to address their needs. Interview questions have been attached to this document.

Confidentiality

Audio recordings may be taken of the interviews with your permission but anonymity will be maintained at all times and no data that will identify you will be shared with another person. All recordings from the interviews will be destroyed once transcribed.

Data Storage

Data will be stored on the UL server for at least 7 years and will be protected using a password security.

Right to Refuse/Discontinue

You have the right to turn down the invite to take part the research and also stop your participation at any stage throughout the research and this shall be respected.

Research Approval

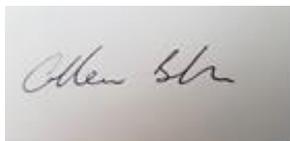
Approval for this research has been granted by the Engineering and Science ethics committee at the University of Limerick.

Further Information:

If you have concerns about this study and wish to contact someone independent, you may contact: The Chair, Faculty of Science & Engineering Research Ethics Committee, University of Limerick, Limerick. Tel: 061 237719

Alternatively, if you have further questions regarding this research please feel free to get in touch with either myself or my supervisor using the email addresses listed below.

Yours Sincerely,



Student Name: Colleen Butler Email Address: 20167415@studentmail.ul.ie	Supervisor Name: Dr. Louise Kiernan Department: School of Design, Faculty of Science & Engineering Email Address: louise.kiernan@ul.ie
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