

Information sheet UCL iGEM Interviews

We are the 2015 University College London iGEM team, and we are taking part in a worldwide synthetic biology competition. Our aim is to improve the treatment of mental diseases by redesigning the gut microbiome. The research we carry out has the long-term goal of producing easy to administer probiotics, that will provide a sustainable and long-lasting treatment for a variety of mental health conditions.

You are being asked to take part in an interview, which aims to collect the public's opinion on our project, genetically modified organisms and probiotics. This interview will help us to redirect our lab research so that we try to meet your requirements, needs and suggested improvements.

UCL iGEM team is affiliated to University College London, supervised by UCL Biochemical Engineering Department. This research has received full ethical approval by the UCL Ethics Chair.

In this study you will be asked to answer a set of questions about your mental health condition (if applicable), your views on our project, genetically modified organisms and synthetic biology. The interview will take place at UCL and will be fully recorded by one of the team members. The interview will typically take 20 minutes.

If you suffer from depression or anxiety some of the questions you will be asked may be sensitive and distressing for you. Please do let know the researcher who is interviewing you if you feel uncomfortable with any of the questions.

You may decide to stop being a part of the research study at any time without explanation and without penalty. You have the right to ask that any data you have supplied to that point be withdrawn/destroyed. You have the right to omit or refuse to answer or respond to any question that is asked of you and without penalty. If you have any questions as a result of reading this information sheet, you should ask the researcher before the study begins.

The data we collect do not contain any personal information about you except the answers to the questions you provided. No one will link the data you provided to the identifying personal information you supplied as name and email.

The data you provide will be presented at iGEM 2015 conference and published on UCL iGEM 2015 website as a case study. As your interview has been recorded, contemplate that you will be identifiable in the videos.

For further information our supervisor Darren Nesbeth will be glad to answer your questions about this study at any time. You may contact him at +44 (0)20 7679 3507 or d.nesbeth@ucl.ac.uk.

The final results and videos will be posted by 24th of September on UCL iGEM team 2015 website after the end of the data collection phase (<http://2015.igem.org/Team:UCL>).