

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Diagnostic Innovation and Livestock (DIAL):

Towards more effective and sustainable applications of antibiotics in livestock farming

You have been approached to take part in a research project focusing on current and future developments in rapid diagnostics to support effective use of antimicrobials in farmed animals. Before you consent to taking part, more information about the project, its funding body and projected outcomes are included in this information document. Please ask if there is anything which is unclear or you require any further clarification.

Purpose of the Study

The aim of this project is to investigate how the field of rapid diagnostics for antimicrobial resistance, including developments in your area of expertise, is changing and the ways in which animal health systems are ready and able to respond to the challenges and opportunities it offers.

The main objectives of the research are to:

- understand how to support the development of novel diagnostics to address antimicrobial resistance in livestock.
- assess how diagnostic innovation can be facilitated by regulatory and governance systems.
- identify the key factors for ensuring uptake and developing successful markets for rapid diagnostics.

Organisation and Funding

This major collaborative award, covering both the UK and Tanzania, is led by the University of Exeter (Principal Investigator: Professor Henry Buller) with the University of Edinburgh, Innogen Institute, and the University of Bristol, School of Veterinary Medicine. This is an interdisciplinary investigation bringing together social, veterinary and innovation sciences. The project is part of the Antimicrobial Resistance Cross Council Initiative supported by the seven research councils in partnership with other UK funders including the Medical Research Council (MRC). The support of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is gratefully acknowledged.

Outcomes of the Project

The research is part of a larger project to understand how novel diagnostics can be used to reduce the use of antibiotics across farming systems. The project intends to make an important contribution towards supporting the development and uptake of diagnostic tests that can be used to help vets and farmers to make decisions around antimicrobial use in farmed animals. Scientific, public and political concern regarding antimicrobial resistance is increasing, and improved diagnostic decision making is a critical step to delivering more effective use of antibiotics in animal health.

Your Role in the Project

You have been approached as a participant in this project because of your involvement in the field of animal health diagnostics. Your experience and expertise will make an invaluable contribution to advance our understanding of the range of factors that might shape the adoption of novel, rapid diagnostic tests to address antimicrobial resistance in livestock.

The Content of the Interview

What you are being asked to consent to is an informal interview where you will be asked about your work within the field. Broadly, this interview will cover the background of your work, the impact as you see it of diagnostic innovation on antimicrobial use and resistance in livestock, the challenges and opportunities for diagnostic development and the support required from regulatory bodies. Please feel free to elaborate on any answer or area which you think is particularly relevant or important. The interview will take approximately one hour and will be recorded on an audiotape and later transcribed for analysis.

Ethical Approval

This project has been approved by the University of Edinburgh's Social and Political Science Ethical Committee. This Committee is satisfied that the following potential ethical problems have been addressed:

Consent: Attached to this document is a consent form, which you will need to sign before the start of the interview to acknowledge that you are aware of what the project is about and your role within it. You are free to withdraw this consent at any point before, during or after the interview until the data is being analysed, which will mean that any responses you have given will not be used in the analysis. You are also free to refuse to answer any questions during the interview.

Confidentiality: All of your responses will be treated in the strictest confidence. Unless you indicate otherwise, your data will be completely anonymised so that anything you say cannot be traced back to you personally. In addition, any audio files from this interview will be destroyed when the data analysis has been completed.

Data storage and archiving

Data will be stored in a secure location at the University of Edinburgh for 15 years. You will be asked for permission for an anonymised transcript of your interview to be stored in the UK Data Archive. This means that other researchers may be able to use valuable data in future, subject to strict confidentiality agreements.

Contact details of the researcher

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