

Scoping study for portable high-sensitivity and multiplexed immunosensor

Use of a portable diagnostic technology in the community to test for infections.

The project:

A short study of market opportunities for a portable diagnostic tool that is able to identify the body's immune response to bacterial and viral infections.

The study is looking at how a portable diagnostic testing tool could be used in the community. The test is able to identify the body's immune response to an infection that can either be caused by a virus or by bacteria. It can thereby inform the choice of treatment; for example, some patients may have a viral infection but show no symptoms, so may need no treatment; for other patients, the test is able to determine whether antibiotics should be used or not. Other tests may be possible; for example, the test may be able to identify the presence of antibodies against viral infections such as influenza or Covid-19, or directly identify the virus itself. A key motivation for the study is to identify the market need for an immunosensor in a post-Covid world.

The study is being conducted by researchers of the Photonics Group (Department of Physics) at the University of York and funded by Grow MedTech, a consortium of six universities (including York) which provides specialist support for innovation in medical technologies.

The research team would like to invite Pharmacists, currently working in the community or hospitals, to discuss the potential user-experience of this technology and inform the most suitable application area of the technology as well as its design. It is anticipated that the technology would be similar to that used to test cholesterol or measuring blood/glucose levels.

Time commitment and timeframe:

We would like you to join one, possibly two, 1-hour long meetings (either online or by telephone) in June (exact dates to be confirmed).

These meetings are expected to be during the day (i.e. 9-5), but can also be conducted outside of these hours should you prefer.

Additionally, this study may go on to inform a larger study in the future, so there may be further opportunities to be involved in the research project.

Please email Hannah Gray, Involvement@York PPI network manager, hannah.gray@york.ac.uk to register your interest in the project or to ask questions/find out more.