



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Effect of Gender on Operative Autonomy in Surgical Trainees (GOAST)

### Dear UK Orthopaedic Registrar or New Consultant:

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study, which will help us assess whether there is any effect of gender on operative autonomy (whether a trainee is the 'operative surgeon' in a case) in UK orthopaedic training.

The study will be the first attempt to recruit **every** orthopaedic registrar with a UK national training number and every recently qualified orthopaedic consultant to participate and share their eLogbook data. All participants will be named as collaborative authors on the resultant publication (target JAMA Surgery, impact factor 13.6) and will be part of the first ever UK-wide research collaborative of orthopaedic surgeons (**British Orthopaedic Research Collaborative, BORCo**).

### What do I have to do?

1. If you agree to take part, please read this information sheet then proceed to the following link to complete the demographic questionnaire:

<https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/goastortho>

2. Once you have completed this questionnaire, you should download your eLogbook summary data (see guide document):

[https://static.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/media/account/93/survey/748518/question/210320\\_v2\\_eologbook\\_guide\\_docum.pdf](https://static.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/media/account/93/survey/748518/question/210320_v2_eologbook_guide_docum.pdf)

and email it to the Chief Investigator at [Samantha.downie3@nhs.scot](mailto:Samantha.downie3@nhs.scot)

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It is up to you to decide whether to participate or not. If you change your mind after submitting data, you can still leave the study at any point up until the data is analysed (August 2021). Just contact us at the above address.

### **How will the results be analysed?**

We will use the study data to identify the rate of independent operating by grade across the UK. We will then calculate this for males and females and assess whether there is any difference in the rate of operating by gender overall. We will adjust our analysis for time out of programme for any reason to ensure that this doesn't bias the results. We will only report results back to your deanery if a sufficient number of trainees within that deanery have participated to allow us to generate a report that doesn't identify any particular individual.

### **Am I eligible to participate?**

You can participate in this study if you are **either** a UK orthopaedic trainee with a national training number (NTN) at grade ST2-ST8 **or** an orthopaedic consultant or fellow who trained in the UK and has qualified within the last 5 years (2016-present).

### **What if I don't consider myself as 'male' or 'female'? Can I still participate?**

Of course! If you participate you will have to option to register your gender as male, female or any term you choose. If you choose to have your data analysed in a different group from male or female participants, your data will be included in the overall analysis and you will still be able to compare your operative numbers to the other participants. However, if there are small numbers of non-binary trainees (i.e. less than 5-10), we will not publish operative data for participants within this group in order to avoid the risk of identifying them in the final report.

### **Privacy and confidentiality**

We need your name, training grade and gender along with your eLogbook data to complete the analysis. Once we have received your data, your personal information will be removed and we will perform our analyses on anonymised data. To do this, we will convert identifiable information such as any dates or specific reasons for time out of training into simple 'yes/no' check boxes. None of your personal data will ever be transferred outside the University of Edinburgh. We will retain your name to name you as an author on the study but your name will not be attached to your operative data. Your anonymised data will be retained for 5 years after the end of the study to allow this study to be repeated in 3-5 years' time.

**If you choose to provide your name, your name will be included in the journal publication, which may reveal to others that you have taken part in the study.**

If we have any questions about the data you have submitted, we may contact you using the email address you provide. You can opt out of this if you want to. You can also participate anonymously if you don't wish to provide your name.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been approved by the University of Edinburgh Research Ethics Committee and funded by AO UK and the Tayside Orthopaedic Research Collaborative (TORC). It is a requirement that anonymised records of this research may be made available for review by monitors from the University of Edinburgh.

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

As a collaborative author on the study, you will receive a summary of the results in September 2021 with the option to compare your own data to the rest of the UK. The results will be submitted to JAMA Surgery in Autumn 2021 and we hope to repeat the study in 3-5 years to assess any change in training as a result of this

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project. We will keep the raw anonymised data for 5 years after the study ends to allow us to do this.

### Where do I go for further information?

You can visit the study website at [www.GOAST.co.uk](http://www.GOAST.co.uk) or contact any of the study steering committee (see last page).

Thank you for your help and please consider joining this study as part of the **British Orthopaedic Research Collaborative (BORCo)**.

Yours sincerely,

The British Orthopaedic Research Collaborative (BORCo) Steering Committee

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