

**Information about the Research Study**  
United Kingdom Association of Physician Assistants  
Annual Census and Workforce Assessment

You are invited to participate in a research study under the direction of Tamara Ritsema, MPH, MMSc, PA-C of the Department of Health Care Sciences, Physician Assistant Program at George Washington University (GWU) and commissioned by the United Kingdom Association of Physician Assistants (UKAPA). Taking part in this research is entirely voluntary. Choosing to participate or not to participate will never affect your status within the UKAPA. There is no financial compensation for participating in this study.

The purpose of this study is to enable UKAPA members to understand more about the scope of the profession within the United Kingdom (UK), and enable UKAPA to better advocate for the profession with the NHS and medical regulatory bodies. The investigator of this study will analyse the data collected and work with UKAPA leaders to publish research studies which document the development of the PA role within the UK.

If you choose to take part in this study, you will complete 1- 3 surveys per year (depending on if you are currently clinically practicing or not). The total amount of time you will spend in connection with this study is less than 30 – 40 minutes per year. You may refuse to answer any of the questions and you may stop your participation in this study at any time. The surveys ask about a broad range of topics including your past medical experience, Physician Assistant training, current work environment and responsibilities, pay and benefits, and continuing professional development.

Possible risks or discomforts you could experience during this study include: loss of confidentiality or psychological distress from answering questions. Participating in this study poses no risks that are not ordinarily encountered in daily life.

You will not benefit directly from your participation in the study. The benefits to science and humankind that might result from this study are: documenting the number of PAs currently practising in the UK, understanding what PAs do clinically in a variety of medical settings, and allowing the UKAPA to have data which can be used for advocacy for the PA profession within the NHS and with regulatory bodies in the UK. This research will also help us understand the PA profession in the UK relative to the PA professions in the United States, Canada, Australia and other countries where the PA profession is being established

Every effort will be made to keep your information confidential, however, this can not be guaranteed. You will use a UKAPA Census Unique ID which you generate to identify your participation in the survey across the years. The study investigator will not know any respondent's UKAPA Census Unique ID. The data will be stored in a password protected file, on a password protected computer, in a locked office. If results of this

research study are reported in journals or at scientific meetings, the people who participated in this study will not be named or identified.

The Office of Human Research of George Washington University, at telephone number +001 – 202 - 994-2715, can provide further information about your rights as a research participant. Further information regarding this study may be obtained by contacting Tamara Ritsema PA-C, principle investigator, at +001-202-994-6690 or Helen Serbousek, the UKAPA board member who represents the UKAPA on the study at 07963-740-676 (daytime) or 01384-296-182 (evening).

To ensure anonymity, your signature is not required in this document unless you prefer to sign it. Your willingness to participate in this research study is implied if you proceed with completing the survey/interview.

\*Please keep a copy of this document in case you want to read it again.