***Join a focus group to help improve cervical screening and the early diagnosis of cervical cancer***

**What are we doing?**

Cervical screening (CS) looks for the presence of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and identifies women who may be at risk of developing cervical cancer. But CS methods have not changed for many years, are invasive and many women therefore do not respond to invites or attend screening appointments.

We are designing a study which will assess whether a specialised diagnostic tampon is as effective as current screening methods for detecting HPV, making screening less invasive, more accessible, and reducing the stigma around HPV testing to improve screening uptake among women.

**How can you help?**

We would like to form a focus group of 4-6 public contributors to help provide a participant perspective on this study and guide trial design.

We are looking for:

* Participants of the HPV screening programme, especially those who may have experience of cultural considerations around taking part.
* People directly affected by cervical cancer, either as a current patient or a survivor, who can provide insight into the patient experience, challenges, and needs.
* Affected family members or caregivers who have supported loved ones through cervical cancer.

**What will this role involve?**

We will send you a plain English summary of the study background and trial proposal for you to read ahead of the meeting and to document any amendments or questions you may have. (Duration: approx. 30 mins)

You will be invited to attend an online meeting, held on Microsoft Teams, to hear a presentation on the proposed trial with the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions about the study. (Duration: 1hr)

We may also follow-up with you after the meeting if you have further comments to make or to give you feedback on how your input has helped shape the study.

**How will we support you?**

The trial team and Patient and Public Involvement Coordinator will support you throughout your role including provision of appropriate training resources as required. You will be offered £25 per hour for your time in accordance with the [SCTU PPI Payment Policy](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/~assets/doc/ctu/PPI/SCTU%20Payment%20Policy%20for%20PPI%20v1.0%2017.03.23.pdf) and NIHR guidelines.

**Interested?**

If you are interested in this role or have any questions, please email Victoria Goss, Head of Early Diagnosis and Translational Research – [V.M.Goss@soton.ac.uk](mailto:V.M.Goss@soton.ac.uk), outlining your relevant lived-experience in this area.

The deadline to register your interest is **Wednesday 8th May 2024**