

# Have Your Say on the Future of Tissue Donation in Cancer Research.

Join a friendly group to share your views and opinions about how the public and laboratory researchers should work together to improve treatments for cancers that have spread throughout the body.

**You'll receive £50 for your time and input.**

**When?** 2-4 PM on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Food and refreshments will be available, as well as time before and after the session to chat with other group members, the research team and clinical support staff.

**Where?** Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS ([Find us](#) - this is a wheelchair accessible venue, and hearing loops are available)

## What's the session about?

In the UK, nearly 1 in 2 of cancers have spread to other parts of the body ("Metastasised") by the time they are diagnosed. The spread of cancer can often make treatments, like chemotherapy, less effective and in some cases leads to a person's cancer becoming incurable. However, little is known about what causes the cancer to spread and why this stops cancer treatments working as well.

Our research team at The Christie Hospital in Manchester are helping to understand more about the biology behind metastasis using cell-based experiments in the laboratory. We hope that these experiments will reveal the similarities and differences between the cancer cells in different locations of the body and help create new cancer treatments that could stop or lower the effects of metastasis.

These experiments are reliant on patients donating tissue samples. However, these samples, particularly from metastatic tumours, are rarely collected for a range of different reasons. Our research team are exploring new ways for people to donate their tissue samples, including through an organ donation program after they've passed away. We plan to design this with patients, families and caregivers and make sure their wellbeing and care is at centre of this program.

We hope that together this work will advance understanding of metastatic cancers and ultimately improve the treatment and care available for people in the future.

## Who are we looking for?

We are looking for up to 12 people:

- With experience of metastatic cancer, including patients, family members and caregivers
- Who are happy to share their views and opinions and listen to others

We are committed to ensuring that people from a wide range of social and ethnic background and with different experiences have a say in this research.

## Why do we need your help?

We'd like to hear your views and opinions on:

- What's important to patients and caregivers when considering giving samples (like blood, tissue biopsies or organs) for research?
- What factors might encourage or put people off giving a sample for research?
- What information and support should be available to people thinking about giving a sample for research?

## Will I be paid?

You'll be paid £50 as a thank you for your time and contributions.

We'll also cover reasonable expenses in line with national guidelines (for example, travel up to £20 and childcare up to £25).

Payment will be by an online bank transfer after the session. Please note this can take up to 6 weeks.

## How do I take part?

If you'd like to take part in the session, or have any questions, please contact Issy MacGregor ([issy.macgregor@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:issy.macgregor@mft.nhs.uk)) by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**.

On the day, it'd be great if you could arrive 5-10 minutes before the start of the session. When you arrive, just come with an openness to share your thoughts and a willingness to listen to others. There's nothing you need to prepare in advanced.

The topics being discussed can be emotive and sensitive. Your wellbeing is our priority and we want to make sure that everyone feels comfortable and supported. A designated staff member will be present to provide wellbeing support on the day. If there's anything that we can do to help you to take part, please let us know.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

**Thank you** for giving your time to support health research at The Christie and Manchester Biomedical Research Centre.