

Tobacco and Alcohol Research Group

July Newsletter 2021

COVID-19 Update:

Following Government guidance, University of Bristol staff are continuing to work from home unless it is essential to their role that they come to campus.

However, our studies are continuing to operate remotely or online. Please refer to individual study adverts below for more information.

Our priority is to ensure you stay safe and healthy, and thank you for bearing with us as we find ways to continue our research, without risking your health.

All Current Studies

We are always looking for more participants to volunteer to be part of our studies.

***NEW*:** [Perceptions of drug-focused harm reduction approaches](#)

***NEW*:** [Seeking opinions from current/former smokers who have cancer](#)

[Click here for all current studies](#)

Click the button above to find full details of each study on our website, including how to contact the relevant researcher for more information or to sign up as a new participant. Please be aware that unless otherwise stated, you must be aged 18 or over to take part.

You can also see a summary of our current studies below.

Financial reimbursement for your participation

All studies reimburse for your time, mostly at around £7-£12/hr. This does vary depending on the nature of each study, the time commitment required and the funding source so please ask the researcher for details when signing up.

Alcohol Studies



The following studies require participants who drink alcohol.

The impact of media on drink enjoyment

Who can participate? 18 to 40 years old, in good physical and psychiatric health, English as first language or equivalent level of fluency, drink at least one alcoholic drink a week and enjoy drinking lager. You would **NOT** be able to take part in the study if you: drink alcohol with 24 hours of the study sessions (confirmed by breath test), are pregnant or breastfeeding, or have a personal or family history of alcoholism.

Duration: One test session lasting approximately 40 minutes.

Contact: Laura Brocklebank (laura.brocklebank@bristol.ac.uk)

Find out more: Click [here](#) to go to the full information page.

Smoking and E-Cigarette Studies



The following studies require smokers and/or e-cigarette users to take part.

Would you like to assist with a study to help cancer patients who are trying to quit smoking?

Who can participate? A research team at the University of Bristol are making a smartwatch app designed to help cancer patients trying to quit smoking to stay smoke free. To do this they are keen to speak to people with a cancer diagnosis who are current or former smokers.

More information: The researchers would like to talk to these people individually and/or as group about their thoughts and ideas about this work. Their feedback will be really important in helping to design the app and how it is used.

If you might be interested in being involved, you can do so as a one-off, or on an ongoing basis throughout the study – either way it would not need to take up much of your time and you would receive reimbursement for this.

If you'd like to find out more, or to have an informal chat with one of the study team, please email Chris Stone at the University of Bristol:

Contact: Chris Stone (chris.stone@bristol.ac.uk)

Effects of acute smoking on health-related biomarkers

Who can participate? Non-dependent smokers (defined as smoking at least 5 cigarettes per month, but not every day) aged 18-50 who have English as first language or equivalent level of fluency, are in good physical and psychiatric health.

Duration: Two sessions, on days one week apart. At the first session, you will attend the lab for a 15 minute session between 12pm and 3pm. You will then leave the lab for 3 hours and smoke several cigarettes (we will let you know how many). You will then return to the lab for a 30-min session between 3pm and 6pm. At the second session, you will abstain from smoking or using nicotine for at least 12 hours prior to your session and attend the lab for a 30 minute session between 3pm and 6pm.

Contact: Jennifer Ferrar (jennifer.ferrar@bristol.ac.uk)

Find out more: Click [here](#) to go to the full information page.

Recreational Drugs Studies



The following studies require users of recreational drugs.

Perceptions of drug-focused harm reduction approaches

Who can participate? Undergraduate or postgraduate students in the UK who have used some form of illicit substance within the past 12 months and are aged 18 or over.

Duration: The study involves completion of a single anonymous online questionnaire. This will take around 20 minutes to complete. Those that complete the survey can choose to enter a prize draw for a £50 Amazon voucher.

Contact: Daniel Foster (xq20712@bristol.ac.uk)

Find out more: Click [here](#) to go to the full information page.

Drug education evaluation

Who can participate? We are recruiting University of Bristol students who have engaged with Bristol Drug Project's The Drop.

Duration: If you have redeemed a reagent testing kit as part of the scheme, we will ask you to complete a short questionnaire with each use of the kit. Regardless of whether you have used the reagent test kit, we will ask you to complete a one-month follow up questionnaire.

Contact: Daniel Foster (xq20712@bristol.ac.uk)

Find out more: Click [here](#) to go to the full information page.

TARG News

Recent news relating to members of TARG.



the british
psychological society

Aoife Maguire funded by the BPS Undergraduate
Research Assistantship Scheme



Research themes over the past five years



Validating digital tools for remote clinical research



Zoe Reed accepted by the Autistica Early Career
Researcher Training Programme

[More news](#)

TARG Publications

A selection of recent publications by members of TARG.

Investigating the effect of sexual behaviour on oropharyngeal cancer risk: a methodological assessment of Mendelian randomization

By Mark Gormley, Tom Dudding, Linda Kachuri, Kimberley Burrows, Amanda Chong, Richard Martin, Steven Thomas, Jessica Tyrrell, Andrew Ness, Paul Brennan, Marcus Munafò, Miranda Pring, Stefania Boccia, Andrew Olshan, Brenda Diergaarde, Rayjean Hung, Geoffrey Liu, Eloiza Tajara, Patricia Severino, Tatiana Toporcov, Martin Lacko, Tim Waterboer, Nicole Brenner, George Davey Smith, Emma Vincent and Rebecca Richmond.

[Full text available here](#)

Effects of increased body mass index on employment status: a Mendelian randomisation study

By Desmond Campbell, Michael Green, Neil Davies, Evangelia Demou, Joey Ward, Laura Howe, Sean Harrison, Keira Johnston, Rona Strawbridge, Frank Popham, Daniel Smith, Marcus Munafò and Srinivasa Vittal Katikireddi.

[Full text available here](#)

Developing Digital Tools for Remote Clinical Research: How to Evaluate the Validity and Practicality of Active Assessments in Field Settings

By Jennifer Ferrar, Gareth Griffith, Caroline Skirrow, Nathan Cashdollar, Nick Taptiklis, James Dobson, Fiona Cree, Francesca Cormack, Jennifer Barnett and Marcus Munafò.

[Full text available here](#)

Computerized Interpretation Bias Training for Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder: A Fast-Fail Study

By Simone Haller, Joel Stoddard, Christian Botz-Zapp, Michal Clayton, Caroline MacGillivray, Gretchen Perhamus, Kelsey Stiles, Katharina Kircanski, Ian Penton-Voak, Yair Bar-Haim, Marcus Munafò, Kenneth Towbin and Melissa Brotman.

[Full text available here](#)

Mendelian randomisation for psychiatry: how does it work, and what can it tell us?

By Robyn Wootton, Hannah Jones and Hannah Sallis.

[Full text available here](#)

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Smoking Cessation Interventions in the United Kingdom Accounting for Major Neuropsychiatric Adverse Events

By Edna Keeney, Nicky Welton, Matt Stevenson, Michael Dalili, José López-López, Deborah Caldwell, David Phillippo, Marcus Munafò and Kyla Thomas.

[Full text available here](#)

Prenatal smoking, alcohol and caffeine exposure and offspring externalising disorders: A systematic review and meta-analysis

By Elis Haan, Kirsten Westmoreland, Laura Schellhas, Hannah Sallis, Gemma Taylor, Luisa Zuccolo and Marcus Munafò.

[Full text available here](#)

[Search for more TARG publications](#)

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By following us on Facebook and Twitter, you can see the latest news more quickly and become part of the conversation by engaging with our researchers directly. A list of our [people](#) who are on Twitter is available [here](#).

Check out our YouTube page for educational videos and talks.



Thank you for reading, see you next month.
Yours, TARG.

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