



Information sheet



Participant Information Sheet

Data Information Sheet Produced Date: 01 June 2025

Project Title

Knowledge and attitudes of the General Public and
Healthcare Professionals towards the usage of

mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) for medical treatment in New Zealand.

Kia ora,

You are invited to participate in a research study on “Knowledge and Attitudes of the General Public and Healthcare Professionals towards the usage of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) for medical treatment in New Zealand”. This study is being conducted by Yuka Iha from the Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. Other research team members include Associate Professor Nick Garrett and senior lecturer Amira Hassouna, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. The study is being carried out as a requirement for a Doctor of Philosophy.

What is the purpose of this research?

The study wants to gather opinions from the public and healthcare workers, including various communities and interested groups, through an online survey. It will look into what people know and think about using stem cells for treatment. The results aim to add to existing knowledge and could help shape healthcare policies and rules, while

also improving how experts talk to the public. The research findings may also be used in academic papers and presentations.

How was I identified, and why am I being invited to participate in this research?

This survey is entirely voluntary. When participants scan the QR code or click the online survey link, this information sheet will be displayed before the study begins. The link to the online survey will be promoted on social media platforms, including Facebook, Trade Me and LinkedIn.

We are recruiting members of **the general public** who are:

- living in New Zealand
- able to speak English
- 18 years of age or older

We are also seeking **healthcare professionals** who meet the above criteria, those in any healthcare field, individuals studying health-related subjects, or qualified healthcare professionals.

For healthcare professionals, the eligibility criteria are as follows:

- individuals residing in New Zealand

- those who speak English
- 18 years of age or older
- healthcare background

How do I agree to participate in this research?

This is an anonymous survey, and the survey submission implies consent. Your participation in this research is voluntary (it is your choice), and whether you choose to participate will not have an advantage or disadvantage for you. You are free to withdraw at any time. To do this, simply close your browser window or the application (App) where the survey is presented. As this is an anonymous survey, it will not be possible to withdraw your information after you have completed the survey.

What will happen in this research?

The study will apply an online survey. All participants simply need to answer questions. The questionnaire is asking about knowledge and attitudes regarding biotechnology and stem cells. The knowledge questions simply asking about the understanding of biotechnology or stem cell treatments, while the attitudes section includes multiple questions. Some questions, for instance,

ask about cultural, spiritual, and religious aspects, which may not seem relevant; however, this is intended to foster mutual respect and understanding of diverse cultures and ethnicities in New Zealand. The survey will be conducted on Qualtrics (<https://www.qualtrics.com>). Participants will receive a link or QR code to access the online survey. The survey will consist of an information sheet and questionnaire.

What are the benefits?

Participants: By participating in this study, participants gain insights into stem cell treatments, particularly MSCs in New Zealand, and emerging therapies.

Researcher: Researchers will expand their knowledge by publishing and presenting findings, laying groundwork for future projects and improving professional development.

Wider community: Survey findings on emerging biotechnologies, particularly MSCs in New Zealand, will deepen understanding in this area. They will reflect community perspectives, including those of minority groups, regarding awareness and attitudes toward these technologies. The results will clarify how the public and healthcare professionals view stem cells, providing policymakers with valuable insights into opinions that can

assist in developing regulatory frameworks for the use of mesenchymal stem cells. Furthermore, this study aims to enhance public awareness by addressing knowledge gaps and identifying the interests of both the community and healthcare professionals.

How long will it take to complete the survey?

The survey should take up to 15 minutes to complete.

Prize Draw

After completing the survey, you can choose to enter a random prize draw for one of the \$200 grocery vouchers. To participate, click the link at the end of the survey, which will direct you to another survey section to register for the prize draw with your contact details. These details are not linked to your responses to this survey.

Will the results of the study be published?

The results of this research will be published in a Doctoral thesis. This thesis will be available to the general public through the AUT library. Results may be published in peer-reviewed academic journals. Results will also be

presented during conferences or seminars to wider professional and academic communities. You will not be identifiable in any publication.

What are the discomforts and risks?

Most participants should not feel discomfort or embarrassment by answering the survey questions.

What will happen to information about me?

- The personal data is non-identifiable (anonymous). When the participants voluntarily take part in a random draw and provide their personal information, we can see their details. The personal information included the name and email address. The data is only used for a random draw and does not link to the answers to the questions.
- Data will be managed and analysed in Microsoft Excel (<https://office.microsoft.com/excel>) and statistics software, such as SPSS (<https://www.ibm.com/products/spss-statistics>). The data will be stored on Microsoft OneDrive (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/onedrive/online-cloud-storage>) during analysis and when archived.

- The primary researcher will retain all acquired data for six years, and all archived electrical data will be disposed of by formatting.

What opportunity do I have to consider this invitation?

The survey will be open for participants for 1-2 months.

Will I receive feedback on the results of this research?

If you would like to know the results of the research, we can send you a summary via email. If you wish to have the summary, click the link at the end of the survey to be directed to another unlinked survey section. Entry into the draw is not linked to your responses to this survey. You can enter your contact information on a separate page.

What do I do if I have concerns about this research?

Any concerns regarding the nature of this project should be notified in the first instance to the Project Supervisor,

Associate Professor Nick Garrett, nick.garrett@aut.ac.nz,
(09) 921 9999 x7773.

Concerns regarding the conduct of the research should be notified to the Executive Secretary of AUTC,
ethics@aut.ac.nz, (+649) 921 9999 ext 6038.

Whom do I contact for further information about this research?

You are able to contact the research team as follows:

Researcher Contact Details: Yuka Iha,
bnn7415@autuni.ac.nz

Project Supervisor Contact Details: Associate Professor
Nick Garrett, nick.garrett@aut.ac.nz

***Approved by the Auckland University of Technology
Ethics Committee on 25 June 2025 AUTC Reference
number 25/178***