**Lay Members required to shape ‘ECHOES’ cardiovascular research funding application**

The ECHOES team are seeking to recruit up to eight lay members to work with us to develop a major funding application to the British Heart Foundation ‘Big Beat’ Challenge.

ECHOES is an international team of doctors, researchers, scientists, and industrial partners aiming to make a giant leap in cardiovascular healthcare – and we need the essential input of patients and the public to shape and develop the funding application to best address the needs of individuals with all forms of heart disease.

The effects of heart disease are very apparent to patients in their daily life such as breathlessness, chest pain, an awareness of an abnormal heart beat, etc but doctors cannot currently observe these effects. The ECHOES team are developing technologies that gather and interpret the health information needed to understand each individual and their cardiovascular health during daily life. To help doctors to make sense of large amounts of health data, we want to create a ‘digital twin’ – a computer model built using data from millions of people. This ‘digital twin’ is then personalised using data from wearable technologies worn by individuals with different types of heart disease. Our goal is that this will support and enable patients and doctors to make the most informed decisions to predict, prevent, diagnose and treat cardiovascular diseases.

The ECHOES team has been shortlisted in the British Heart Foundation ‘Big Beat Challenge’, and we are now working to shape our full application. We are looking to recruit up to eight lay members to co-develop this with us.

**What will the lay members do?**

This role will give you the chance to review and contribute to a major project seeking to improve cardiovascular healthcare. Our technologies can only work if people find them acceptable to use, trustworthy, and are confident that they will improve healthcare. This can only be achieved if the public and patients have trust and confidence in the use of health data for research and innovation and it is important that we strike an appropriate and safe balance between recognising the benefits and the risks of this activity. We can only do this with your help to ensure the projects that are approved are in the best interests of people affected by heart disease.

**IN THIS ROLE, YOU’LL BE REQUIRED TO…**

* Devote up to 20 hours between April 30th -June 6th 2021 to this role
* Review the ECHOES draft project proposal via Google documents (training in this is available if required to set up a Google account) in a timely manner according to the deadlines of the project and competition
* Attend and actively participate in 2-3 Application steering group meetings.
* Actively participate in additional ad hoc meetings and/or correspondence and decision-making by email to ensure that decisions are made in a timely manner.
* Prepare for each meeting by reading any paperwork required
* Contribute in a constructive and thoughtful manner to give your opinion and advice as a patient, carer or member of the public on topics like:
  + The interests and values of patients and the public in health data use
  + Being open, transparent and accountable
  + The research aims and questions in ECHOES
* Provide an independent perspective on strategic areas of work
* Actively participate in training and other meetings and events as agreed in advance
* Respond to communications and request for input in a timely manner
* Respect the viewpoints of others
* Maintain confidentiality

We are looking to capture a range of opinions around the use of health data, to ensure both opportunities and concerns are appropriately addressed in the proposal. We would especially welcome applications from people with an experience of living with or caring for people living with heart disease and people from minority communities. We seek lay members of diverse backgrounds, ages, and professional and educational levels.

We offer compensation for the time and expertise you will provide. For meetings the honorarium is £25 per hour, while for reviewing documents of less than 50 pages it is £50. It is important you consider what effect this may have on your tax or benefits, and payments require you to complete a claim form may take some time to be processed.

**How to get involved**

*Please read the Role Profile and complete the application form.*

Email[t.j.chico@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:t.j.chico@sheffield.ac.uk) **by Friday April 23rd 2021** with a completed application form.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an informal interview, over videoconference, on **week commencing April 26th 2021**

More information about the project and the Big Beat Challenge can be found at: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/bigbeatchallenge/meet-the-shortlist>

A link to an article on ECHOES that features in The Economist can be found at <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2020/02/27/digital-twins-of-hearts-could-help-diagnose-and-treat-cardiac-disease>

If you require any additional information or support with your application, please contact [t.j.chico@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:t.j.chico@sheffield.ac.uk)