16.01.2016

Dear Sprint SARI Investigator

Thanks again for participating in SPRINT-SARI, the response has been tremendous. I am sure at this stage your network and individual sites are preparing to get all the appovals necessary to participate in SPRINT-SARI for the upcoming flu season.

As you are aware the approval process and timelines for participating in studies like this vary greatly around the world and even within countries. As part of our preparation for future epidemics we are collecting information on the ethical and other approval processes in SPRINT-SARI. This is part of a large study that aims to more clearly define the ethical, administrative, regulatory and logistic (EARL) barriers to conducting research globally and particularly during an outbreak. This work has been approved by the ethics board of University College Dublin.

We would greatly appreciate your participation in the SPRINT-SARI-EARL study (ethical, administrative, regulatory and logistic barriers).

What do you need to do?

Please forward this email to the person / persons in your network who are responsible for the ethics and regulatory (if applicable) applications for SPRINT-SARI. This may be one person or many people depending on whether the approvals for your network are obtained centrally, regionally or at a site level. Ideally we would like to have the involvement of the individual responsible for each ethics/regulatory application submitted.

These identified EARL individuals should then follow the web-site link below, where they will find further explanation of the project and a very short questionnaire to complete.

<http://prepare.ucd.ie/surveys/index.php/985735>

Once they have completed the brief questionnaire we will then email:

i) An individual link to a tracking form so that they can track the SPRINT-SARI approval process as they navigate it.

ii) A link to our information platform where there is a very short questionnaire where they can help us to map the EARL barriers globally and also to map our capacities and capabilities. This work is being carried out by ISARIC working group 4.

We will contact a subset of the respondents to collect more detailed information on the process in their country. This will take the form of a 30-45 minute telephone interview.

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me (Alistair.nichol@uce.ie) or Prasanth (prasanth.sukamar@ucd.ie).



Alistair Nichol