

Augusta University

Dear Community Member,

You are being invited to participate in a focus group and complete a pre and post-survey to study barriers to research participation because you live in the local community. For the focus group we wish to explore your thoughts on research and discuss the recruitment of diverse populations, in research studies. The focus group, sessions will last approximately one hour and will be audio recorded.

The results of this project will benefit research participants and researchers. Through your participation I hope to understand concrete methods that will be discussed to increase participant recruitment thus leading to more diverse participants having access to innovative research. Researchers will benefit as more diverse populations will lead to more reliable and valid research results that can be generalized to the community. I hope that the results of the survey will be useful for other Institutional Review Boards, and I hope to share my results by publishing them in a scientific journal and presenting them at national conferences.

There are no known risks to you if you decide to participate in this focus group. There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. The alternative would be not participating in the study. I will not share any information that identifies you with anyone outside my research group which consists of me and three other investigators.

I will do my best to keep your information confidential. All data is stored in a password protected electronic format. To help protect your confidentiality, if you decide to participate in the focus group, responses will not be identified with you personally. The results of this study will be used for scholarly purposes only and may be shared with Augusta University representatives.

I hope you will take the time to participate in this focus group. However, if you agree to participate in the focus group, you may leave at any time. Your participation is voluntary and there is no penalty if you do not participate. If you have any questions or concerns about being in this study, or to receive a summary of my findings you may contact me at 706-446-5184 or tifcoleman@augusta.edu.

If you have any questions or concerns about the “rights of research subjects”, you may contact the Augusta University IRB Office at (706) 721-1483.

Sincerely,

Tiffany

Tiffany M. Coleman, MS, MPH, CIP
Director, IRB Office
706-446-5184