

Subject: Research Opportunity

Dear Prospective Research Participant:

You are invited to participate in the study ***“Healthcare Perceptions of African Americans with Traumatic Brain Injuries”*** conducted by Dr. Jerry Hoepner in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, Warren Brown, in the Department of Communication Disorders at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and Dr. Louise Keegan, in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences at Moravian University. The primary purpose of this research is to get the perspectives of African American individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and learn about their healthcare experiences.

We received your email contact from a colleague after a request to recruit African American adults who have experienced a traumatic brain injury. The institutional review board (IRB), which protects the rights of potential participants is allowing this referral approach to support its research mission. All of the content of this email message has been approved by the IRB. To participate, you need to be an African American of 18 years or older, legally able to provide consent, with a self-reported TBI. You must be younger than 65 years old with no other medical diagnoses that would interfere with perceptions specific to TBI.

The project involves two tasks, first you will complete a survey on your healthcare experiences related to your TBI and complete the Sydney Psychosocial Reintegration Scale (SPRS-2) and secondly, you will participate in a focus group interview about your experiences, along with 709 other African American adults with TBI. Participation is expected to take approximately 90-120 minutes.

Your decision to participate in this study is completely voluntary. You are not required to participate and declining to participate in no way jeopardizes your access to healthcare services outside of this study. We will assign a participant number to protect your privacy and confidentiality.

In this project, there are no known economic, legal, physical, psychological, or social risks to participants in either immediate or long-range outcomes. If you agree to participate, you may choose not to answer any given questions, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue your participation at any time.

You will receive an informed consent form when you arrive to participate in the Zoom interview. If you have any questions about your participation in this research, please ask them before you begin.

If you have any questions or concerns about the nature of this study, please contact Dr. Jerry Hoepner, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004, (715) 836-3980. If you have any questions about your treatment as a human subject in this study, you may contact Dr. Michael Axelrod, Chair, Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, Schofield 17, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004, (715) 836-2373. Thank you for considering participating in this research.

If interested in participating, please email any of the investigators below or call Dr. Jerry Hoepner at 715-836-3980.

Sincerely,

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