

The ConnecteDNA Study at The University of Manchester: A call for under-represented groups to take part in a research interview

Dr Leah Gilman, Research Fellow, The University of Manchester,

Are you a parent through donor conception, a donor conceived person or a donor?

Have you also used, considered using or been impacted by DNA testing websites?

Are you part of one the under-represented groups listed below?

If so, researchers at The University of Manchester would love to hear your experiences

About the research project

The ConnecteDNA study is a research project, led by Dr Lucy Frith and based at the University of Manchester, in collaboration with four other UK universities. It began in March 2021 and explores how people involved in donor conception (parents, donors and donor conceived people) use, and are impacted by, direct-to-consumer genetic testing (DTCGT), e.g. AncestryDNA and 23andme.

Our findings will be used to improve support for people using online DNA testing and people involved in donor conception and to assess whether any changes to law and policy are needed in this area.

Which groups are currently under-represented in our study?

We have been interviewing people for around six months and would like to thank everyone who has taken part already. The support of DCN members has been hugely valuable. However, we have identified a number of groups who we think are under-represented in the study so far:

- Fathers through donor conception (egg, sperm or embryo donation)
- LGBTQ parents through donor conception
- Parents whose children have found out they were donor conceived after using DTCGT
- Parents or donor conceived people from minority ethnic backgrounds
- Donor conceived people with same-sex parents and/or a non-clinic donor
- Donor conceived people born following egg or embryo donation
- Sperm, egg or embryo donors from any background or circumstances

If you consider yourself part of one of these groups, are aged 18 or over and currently resident in the UK, please consider taking part in a one-off interview with our researcher (Leah Gilman). See our website and/or get in touch with Leah for more details:

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<https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/connecte-d-n-a/>