



Economic
and Social
Research Council



***Socialising Ethics: The social and ethical implications of type 1 diabetes screening
in childhood***

ESRC DTP Joint Studentship

University of Warwick and University of Birmingham

The Midlands Graduate School is an accredited Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). One of 14 such partnerships in the UK, the Midlands Graduate School is a collaboration between the University of Warwick, Aston University, University of Birmingham, University of Leicester, Loughborough University and the University of Nottingham.

We are now inviting applications for an ESRC Doctoral Joint Studentship between [Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick](#) (where the student will be registered) and the [Institute of Applied Health Research, University of Birmingham](#) to commence in October 2022. The studentship will be supervised by [Prof Felicity Boardman](#) (Warwick), [Prof Sheila Greenfield](#) (Birmingham) and [Prof Parth Narendran](#) (Birmingham).

This project will outline the various ways that stakeholders perceive, and rank, the social and ethical issues surrounding ethically complex population screening programmes, using type 1 diabetes (T1D) screening in childhood as a case study.

T1D is an autoimmune condition rendering the body incapable of processing glucose, with a wide range of health impacts. Whilst most individuals are diagnosed with T1D following symptoms, there has recently been a shift towards the identification of asymptomatic children at-risk of future T1D (by detecting antibodies in blood). 'At-risk' children are then entered into clinical trials of therapies designed to delay/prevent T1D. However, there is currently no effective treatment for those 'at-risk', nor is it certain that they will develop T1D, leading to concerns around psychological harms and the creation of 'patients-in-waiting'.

To conduct this research, the successful student will join the [Medicine, Ethics and Society group](#) within Warwick Medical School, and collaborate with senior researchers working on two large studies on screening and testing for T1D ([ELSA, University of Birmingham](#) and [BOX, University of Bristol](#)).

Using secondary qualitative analysis of parent interviews (derived from ELSA), primary qualitative data collection with health care professionals and policy advisors, together with deliberative focus groups undertaken with those who accept, and those who decline, predictive testing for T1D testing (recruited through BOX and ELSA), this project will outline the various ways that different stakeholder groups perceive, and weight, ethical concerns surrounding screening for T1D in young children.

The findings will contribute to the evaluation of T1D screening by policy advisors (UK National Screening Committee), by providing much needed insight into 'social values' - the ethical principles prioritised by stakeholders. This project will also directly contribute to ethical and social theory, as well as the development of ethical guidance to inform the implementation of T1D screening in children.

Application Process

To be considered for this PhD, please complete the Joint Studentship application form [available online here](#). Please upload an anonymised CV and cover letter as part of the online application process. Shortlisted applicants will also be required to provide transcripts and two references.

Application deadline: Tuesday 22nd February 2022 (5pm)
Interviews will take place on: Wednesday 9th March 2022

Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP

Our ESRC studentships cover fees at the home rate, a maintenance stipend, and extensive support for research training, as well as research activity support grants. Support is available to both home and international applicants. For further details, visit: www.mgsdtp.ac.uk/studentships/eligibility/.

Informal enquiries about the research or Warwick Medical School prior to application can be directed to Prof Felicity Boardman (felicity.boardman@warwick.ac.uk).