



PLOS User Panel

Participant Consent

Thank you for your interest in joining the PLOS User Panel and future participation in PLOS research and development projects.

PURPOSE

PLOS is creating a User Panel of a diverse group of researchers who are interested in participating in user research to help us understand the needs of the research community. We're planning to conduct a number of research projects in the future and are creating a panel of researchers willing to be contacted to participate in these future research projects and provide their subject matter expertise and feedback. Participation in any future projects is completely voluntary.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Time commitment: 6 minutes

Online survey on computer or mobile device

INFORMATION WE WILL COLLECT

In this survey, PLOS will collect the following information:

- Your field of research and areas of expertise
- IP address

If you are selected for the PLOS User Panel and agree to participate, then PLOS will also collect the following information from you:

- Name
- Email address
- Career stage
- Research field
- Institution
- Published research experience
- Committee history
- Device and technology use
- Assistive tool use
- Research data sharing experience
- Location of research
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Race

SENSITIVE DATA

You have the option to not disclose your gender, race and ethnicity. The purpose of collecting this data is for diversity, equity and inclusion purposes and for analytic purposes. PLOS is deeply committed to fostering a scientific community that supports and benefits from the talents of researchers from a wide range of backgrounds. Our goal is for the User Panel to be representative of the entire research community and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.

USE AND DISCLOSURE OF YOUR INFORMATION

We will use the information you provide in this survey to add you to our User Panel and to determine which projects to invite you to participate in based on your background. We will also share certain anonymized data publicly and with grant funders, but this shared data will not include

any identifying information. Other uses and disclosures of your information are set forth in PLOS' [Privacy Policy](#).

CROSS BORDER TRANSFERS

PLOS is headquartered in the United States, with an office in the United Kingdom and has service providers both in the United States and throughout the world. As such, your data will be stored, collected and accessed in the United States. In addition, PLOS and our service providers may transfer your personal information to, or access it in, jurisdictions that may not provide equivalent levels of data protection as your home jurisdiction. PLOS will take measures to protect the cross-border transfer of your information in accordance with applicable law.

SAFEGUARDS

PLOS uses reasonable and appropriate physical, technical, and administrative safeguards to protect your information from unauthorized use, access, loss, misuse, alteration, or destruction. We endeavor to protect the personal information we receive, gather and store, by such means as password protection, firewalls, access controls and other means. We also require that third party service providers acting on our behalf or with whom we share your information also provide appropriate security measures in accordance with industry standards. Although we make every effort to protect the personal data which you provide to us, the transmission of data over the internet is not completely secure.

PERIOD FOR WHICH THE PERSONAL DATA WILL BE STORED

The personal information you decide to provide in this survey will be retained for a period of 5 years unless you reach out to us and ask to be removed from the User Panel.

YOUR RIGHTS

Your rights as to deletion of personal information, access, update, and data portability are further detailed in our [Privacy Policy](#).

You also have the right to lodge a complaint before a supervisory data protection authority regarding our data processing. If you are in Europe, an up to date list of data protection authorities is available at https://edpb.europa.eu/about-edpb/board/members_en. If you are in the UK, the data protection authority is the UK Information Commissioner's Office available at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

YOUR CONSENT

- Your participation in this survey is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time.
- You may withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the **PLOS Research Team** (research@plos.org) or the PLOS Data Privacy Officer (privacy@plos.org).

By ticking the consent checkbox in the survey, you indicate that you:

1. consent to participate in this survey and
2. consent to PLOS collecting and using the data as described above.

If you want additional information or if you have any questions about this project you can contact **Beruria Novich** (bnovich@plos.org), or the **PLOS Research Team** (research@plos.org).

Please keep a copy of this document for your records.