**A UK National Blood and Body fluid Exposure Annual Survey**

**We seek your support**

**Background**. There is need for a UK national database of blood and body fluid exposures (BBFE, sharps injuries & mucocutaneous exposures) in healthcare personnel (HCP). A ‘high-level’ annual report of BBFE incidence would be valued by healthcare facilities (HCF), and national bodies, in benchmarking the effectiveness of BBFE prevention strategies.

In May 2021, the [BBFE incidence report](https://www.rcn.org.uk/-/media/royal-college-of-nursing/documents/publications/2021/may/009-687.pdf?la=en) of The Royal College of Nursing showed a disturbingly high incidence, some 7-fold higher than pre-Covid incidences in four other nations. The authors could not draw conclusions on causes or UK trends because of the absence of UK data and recommended a national annual database be established.

Recently, a group of epidemiologists, infection preventionists and safety professionals agreed to pursue the establishment of such a database, with a first call for data planned for Mar, 2022.

**The challenge.** BBFE data is held by all NHS and private HCF and is commonly collected and held by each facility’s occupational health departments. The challenge is, how do we directly contact the OH managers (OHM) of 250 HCF? There is no “OHM list” nor a “UK Association of OH Professionals in Healthcare”. This is where we seek your support.

**The proposal**.

* A database be built of the contact details of OHM at all UK HCF.
* A 1-page, 14 question, Survey Monkey-based questionnaire be sent directly to all OHM.
* Strictly anonymous survey – no HCF name to be used or mentioned in any manner.
* Survey results to be published in a peer-reviewed open-access journal annually.

**Our request**. We seek your support both as an official supporter and in helping us build the database of OHM contact details via your members and newsletters. You name will confirm your commitment to reduce BBFE and will greatly add credibility and trust to the database.

**Supporters as at Feb 2022.**

* Safer Healthcare and Biosafety Network (SHBN)
* NHS England
* Institution of Occupational Health and Safety (IOSH)
* Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM)
* Infection Prevention Society (IPS)

We hope you will join us in this nationally-needed project. Further information may be obtained from Terry Grimmond terry@terrygrimmond.com or Dr Kevin Hambridge kevin.hambridge@plymouth.ac.uk