

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS*Ethical Clearance Reference Number: MRA-24/25-48726***Title of study**

Shaping ICU nurses' future: How an ICU Nurse Envisions professional role in 2030 and beyond (**SHINE**): a Delphi-study.

Invitation Paragraph

I would like to invite you to participate in this research project which forms part of intensive care nurses research. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

What is the purpose of the study?

Planning and envisioning the future of the intensive care unit (ICU) is essential in addressing patient-centred care needs, integrating technological advances, and creating a more adaptable, intelligent, and human-centred environment. The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine's (ESICM) endorsed the conduction of the SHINE study—Shaping ICU Nurses Future—to explore ICU nurses' perspectives on the evolution of their professional role by 2030 and beyond. This study aims to provide a foundational understanding to guide workforce planning, policy development, and professional education within critical care nursing.

The objectives of the study are:

1. Critically analyse intensive care nurses' anticipated professional roles and responsibilities in the future.
2. Prioritise and reach consensus on identified perspectives.
3. Develop and validate a survey instrument to disseminate to a wider international population of intensive care nurses.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are invited to participate in this study because you work in an ICU. To ensure the study's representativeness and depth, purposive sampling will be used to recruit ICU nursing experts who meet clearly defined inclusion criteria. These criteria ensure both professional relevance and diversity within the panel.

Inclusion criteria are:

- (1) currently employed in any type of ICU setting
- (2) representation across different age groups
- (3) active registration with the relevant National Nursing Regulatory Bodies
- (4) gender balance to support diverse perspectives
- (5) varied roles within ICU settings to capture a comprehensive range of professional experiences and

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(6) diverse geographical representation, including both resource-rich and resource-limited settings.

What will happen if I take part?

The main procedure of the SHINE study is a 3-round survey method to achieve consensus. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete anonymous online surveys. You can access the questionnaire(s) by clicking the provided link. The first survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. The future surveys may take longer, you will be informed the time they may take in due course.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in anyway. If you choose to take part you will be asked to provide your consent. Before you can proceed with the survey(s), you will be asked to confirm your consent by responding to a consent question. To do this you will be asked to indicate that you have read and understand the information provided and that you consent to your anonymous data being used for the purposes explained.

You are free to withdraw at any point during completion of the survey, without having to give a reason *[if a software tool is used for completion, please note that exiting the survey will stop your participation but any responses entered up to that point may not be automatically deleted. If you wish to erase your responses before exiting, you may need to manually backtrack and delete them within the survey. Please check the survey instructions for specific details on how this can be done]*. Withdrawing from the study will not affect you in any way. Once you submit the survey, it will no longer be possible to withdraw from the study because the data will be fully anonymous. Please do not include any personal identifiable information in your responses.

Incentives

Eligible participants who complete all three rounds of the SHINE-Delphi study will be entered into a prize lottery. Twelve winners will receive free registration to ESICM's annual congress-LIVES 2026.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

You can choose to complete the questionnaire at a time and in a location of convenience to you. It is unlikely that completing the questionnaire will cause distress, but if you do feel upset or anxious at any stage, you can discontinue completing the questionnaire.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Any personal contact details you provide for this purpose will be stored securely and in line with UK General Data Protection Regulation. Your personal details will not be shared. Your personal details will be deleted once you have entered the prize draw. This ensures that your answers to the survey questions are truly anonymous.

Data handling and confidentiality

This research is anonymous. This means that nobody, including the researchers, will be aware of your identity, and that even if you provide your name for the prize nobody will be able to connect you to the answers you provide, even indirectly. Your answers will nevertheless be treated confidentially and the information you provide will not allow you to be identified in any research outputs/publications. Your anonymised data will be held securely in an encrypted online folder at King's College London for 10 years from study completion.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The summaries of the anonymous data will be reported at scientific conferences and in peer reviewed journals. Data sets will not be shared with any third parties or will be made publically available. They will be only be used for the purpose of the SHINE study.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact me using the following contact details:

Dr Katerina Iliopoulou, Past Chair N&AHPs, ESICM, katerina.iliopoulou@citystgeorge's.ac.uk
Lead of the **SHINE's** study team

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If this study has harmed you in any way, or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

Dr Andreas Xyrichis, Chair - Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience and Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care Research Ethics Panel, andreas.xyrichis@kcl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.