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| Project Reference | T4/72 |
| Project Title | **Genomically Enhanced Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm: A qualitative study of Concepts, Methods and Communication** |
| Theme(s) | Theme 4: Ethical, legal and social implications of genomics and genomic epidemiology studies |
| Supervisors | **Prof Matt Bown (University of Leicester)** **mjb42@leicester.ac.uk**Dr Tracey Elliott (University of Leicester) |
| Department | Cardiovascular Sciences |
| Project Summary | All men in the UK are invited for an ultrasound scan to screen them for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) when they are 65. The numbers of men found to have AAA have been declining recently. Whilst nearly 1 in 100 men have an AAA, there is a risk that this may not be enough to justify screening all men if the numbers continue to fall. One way to improve AAA screening is to encourage those most likely to have disease to attend. AAA is a genetic disease. Recent improvements in knowledge of AAA genetics means that providing this information for every individual might be a way to improve the uptake of screening in those most at risk. The project aims to determine whether screening for AAA informed by genomic risk scores is an ethical, acceptable and practical alternative to the current whole population screening approach. The project comprises three distinct pieces of qualitative work, all informed by a literature review. Firstly, the acceptability of using genomics in AAA screening will be explored. This will be followed up by work focusing on the practical aspects of genomically enhanced screening, and finally, preferences for the communication of genomic risk will be established. This work will all be carried out in men around the age at which they are normally invited for AAA screening. By evaluating the feasibility of genomically enhanced AAA screening, this project seeks to address the challenges posed by the declining prevalence of AAA for AAA screening programmes. |