

## **BLOOD WARS PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LEAFLET - DUBLIN**

### **1. Title of study: Blood Wars**

**Names of researchers:** Kathy High, Chief Investigator

### **2. Introduction:**

*Blood Wars* is an art project that looks at the biological reaction of human white blood cells, and also questions traits inherited through blood. *Blood Wars* will be set up as a competition in an ironic simulated tournament where different individual's white blood cells vie for dominance in the petri dish.

*Blood Wars* playfully engages with age-old debates about blood traits and also engages in discussions of the powerful histories of blood. *Blood Wars* will be set up as a series of play-offs. The cellular 'winner' of each round will go on to fight another participant.

By participating in *Blood Wars*, one will come to a better understanding of the processes of blood cell division, cell staining, immune cells and the immune system functioning, time-lapse microscopy and laboratory protocol.

*Blood Wars* will collect data and engage in blood duels over a period of one year. The Science Gallery, Dublin, VISCERAL: THE LIVING ART EXPERIMENT exhibition edition of *Blood Wars* will involve 4 participants and take place over one week's time. If one is declared the 'winner' of a match they will be asked to donate another vial of 5ml blood. The resulting data and histories about blood will be posted on the artist's website. We thank you for your participation in this project.

*Blood Wars* is a project researched and developed by Kathy High during a residency at SymbioticA- Centre of Excellence in Biological Arts in the School of Anatomy & Human Biology at The University of Western Australia. The project is funded by a Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

### **3. Procedures:**

A variety of participants will be selected for *Blood Wars*, representing a wide range of gender, ethnicity, and age.

Human participants will be solicited to engage in this competition by contributing blood samples. The blood samples will be drawn by a professional phlebotomist in a laboratory at the Science Gallery, Dublin. As with standard clinical procedures for drawing blood, there may be some minor pain experienced with this procedure, as a needle will be used under the skin into a vein to draw the blood. There may also be some minor bruising caused by the procedure.

- The blood sample will be stored for 24 hours while prepared for use in *Blood Wars*.

- Each participant's white blood cells will be separated out from their other blood cells.
- Each person's cells will be stained for identification.
- The white blood cells from two different participants will be combined together in a petri dish for a "duel."
- The ensuing 'battle' will be photographed under a microscopic lens using time lapse to witness the cellular changes over time.

### **The Questionnaire**

A questionnaire will be filled out by each participant. The participant may choose to answer any question, or not, as they see fit. The questionnaire asks questions about the identity of the participant. This information will be gathered to create the fictional character of their 'blood type'. We will not collect participants' names, or any other identifying information and will include a privacy disclosure. A privacy disclosure will also be included with a place for a signature, where the participant will agree to submit their blood sample for the *Blood Wars* project.

### **The Website**

*Blood Wars* will collect data from various locations and engage in blood matches over a period of one year. The resulting data and histories about blood will be posted on the artist's website.

The information from the questionnaire will be gathered and participants' numbered profile will be listed on a website. There will be a sports-like accounting of each competition on the website designed for the project. This narration will be posted along with the filmed cellular 'battle' on the website. Using biological terminology to describe the immunological processes taking place, the tension for the tournament will be built through this reporting of the project, thus educating the public about biological blood functions, and the rich history of the symbolic use of blood.

### **4. Benefits:**

By participating in *Blood Wars*, one will come to a better understanding of the processes of blood cell division, cell staining, immune cells and the immune system functioning, time-lapse microscopy and laboratory protocol.

### **5. Risks:**

Slight discomfort may be felt from blood being drawn and the donor might feel faint/or faint at sight of blood. Donor will be observed to insure they are stable prior to completing blood sample. Sweets/Candy will be available for participants to increase glucose level.

### **6. Exclusion from participation**

You cannot participate in this study if any of the following are true:

If you are a minor/under age and/or needing a guardian's permission to participate.

### **7. Confidentiality:**

Your identity will remain confidential. Your name will not be published and will not be disclosed to anyone outside the study group.

To protect the identity and rights of participants, each blood sample will be given a number. A matching number will be given to the participant's questionnaire.

**8. Compensation:**

No compensation

**9. Voluntary Participation:**

If you decide to volunteer to participate in this study, you may withdraw at any time. If you decide not to participate, or if you withdraw, you will not be penalised and will not give up any benefits that you had before entering the study.

**10. Stopping the study:**

You understand that the investigators may withdraw your participation in the study at any time without your consent.

**11. Permission:** The *Blood Wars* has received Research Ethics Committee approval from the following institutions: University of Western Australia, Perth, WA, AU; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, USA; Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland (*to come*).

**12. Further information:**

You can get more information or answers to your questions about the study, your participation in the study, and your rights, from Kathy High who can be telephoned at +(518) 209-6209, or emailed at [high@rpi.edu](mailto:high@rpi.edu). If the study team learns of important new information that might affect your desire to remain in the study, you will be informed at once.