



**School of Community**

**Health Sciences**

Division of Primary Care  
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Ref:

June 2003

Dear practice manager,

**Re: QRESEARCH**

The University of Nottingham and EMIS would like to invite you to participate in a new research project.

The aim of the project is to set up a new general practice database for use in ethical medical research. Your contribution will help to improve patient care through good quality research on large volumes of data.

As an academic research team in the University of Nottingham, we have been conducting research on data from general practices using MIQUEST computer software. Whilst this approach has been successful, it is not suitable for larger scale studies in which searches are run centrally.

We have undertaken a successful pilot project with 38 practices in Trent and are now recruiting a national sample of 300-400 practices that use EMIS, to contribute to a national research database – QRESEARCH. QRESEARCH involves a secure triggered upload of the practice's clinical data for use in research. Security of patient data is of primary importance and the project conforms to professional guidelines on confidentiality. No patient identifiable information will be held in the database and information will be treated in accordance to the Data Protection Act 1998. We would also like to assure you that use of the data will be entirely ethical and the project has been fully approved by the Trent Multi-Centre Research Ethics Committee and the EMIS National User Group. Participation in the project will not require you to undertake any work.

Please read the enclosed practice information sheet for further information on how the research will be undertaken and the benefits to you of taking part.

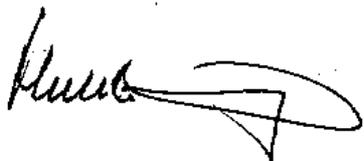
Your contribution to the project will be very valuable in helping to improve the overall quality of patient care. In addition, practices will be able to run searches on their own systems and compare their data with aggregated data obtained from all 300-400 QRESEARCH practices.

Email: [julia.hippisley-cox@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:julia.hippisley-cox@nottingham.ac.uk)

If you would like to become involved in QRESEARCH, please **complete the enclosed yellow consent form** and return it to us by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2003**. A second copy of the form is enclosed for your reference. We will then send you instructions to activate QRESEARCH on your system. Your practice will only be included in the project once this activation has been carried out.

Thank you for your time in considering the project.

Yours faithfully,



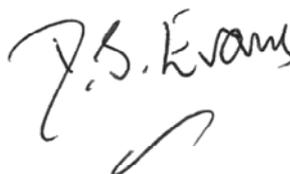
**Mike Pringle**  
**Professor in General Practice**



**David Stables**  
**Medical Director EMIS**



**Julia Hipsley-Cox**  
**Senior Lecturer in General Practice**



**Dai Evans**  
**Secretary EMIS User Group**