1. What’s the study about?

REDe, the research capacity network, is an online digital platform hosted and coordinated by The Global Health Network at the University of Oxford that runs across the three EU-funded Zika consortia (ZIKAction, ZIKAlliance and ZikaPLAN). The aim of REDe is to develop a network of research sites and build strong partnerships between all the research sites running Zika studies in Latin America and the Caribbean so that they can work together and develop a sustainable platform for research that can respond effectively to future outbreaks.

This regionally led network needs to be equipped with the knowledge, methods, skills and capabilities to support a high-quality, rapid and coherent research response to the Zika outbreak in the short term. In addition, this network sets out to establish lasting capacity to conduct research in the event of other vector-borne and emerging infectious disease outbreaks in Latin America and the Caribbean in the long-term. To do so, REDe must first ascertain through a Knowledge Gap Analysis, the key gaps in clinical/health and laboratory research capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean, and then determine how best to fill these gaps through training and other capacity building activities.

Knowledge Gap Analysis and Consensus building exercise

The planned activities for the Knowledge Gap Analysis study includes five key components, one of which is the consensus building exercise. The consensus building exercise will be conducted as an online questionnaire to determine a set of core curricula for observational, laboratory studies and clinical trials. This participant information sheet focuses only on the consensus building exercise.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part as the consensus building exercise requires individuals who are directly involved in clinical, health or laboratory research studies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. What’s involved for me?

If you would like to be involved, we would ask you to review the consent form which accompany’s this Participant Information Sheet, and confirm your willingness to participate by completing the consent statements at the start of the online survey.
Online questionnaire
For this consensus building exercise, you would be required to complete an online questionnaire that we estimate will take you between 15 - 20 minutes to complete. The questionnaire will include questions on the studies that you are involved in, training undertaken and the need for further training courses.

4. What will happen to my data?

The main study data that is collected via the online questionnaire will be stored on a secure password protected web application called LimeSurvey that will be used to collect the data. All data collected via this method adheres to the Data Protection Act. Once all the study data has been collected via the online questionnaire, the data will be downloaded and stored securely on password protected secure University computers for analysis. All study data will be anonymised through the removal of any personal or identifying information e.g. name, organisation worked for etc. The general findings are likely to be presented on the REDe member site, The Global Health Network website and shared among the EU-funded Zika consortia. We also intend to present the findings at international conferences and submit academic papers to peer reviewed journals. If you agree, your data will be retained for future research studies.

5. Are there any risks in taking part?

We do not consider there to be any risks in taking part, because the nature of this study means that you will be discussing training, skills and research capacity in relation to clinical/health and laboratory research that you are involved in, and we do not consider these topics to be of a sensitive or personal nature. We are seeking your personal view on these areas. The only potential inconvenience may be the time involved to complete the online questionnaire that we estimate will take between 15-20 minutes to complete. You will have 21 days to complete the questionnaire. We will ensure that the results are presented at the group level, and that all data is anonymised and any information that could potentially identify participants in this study is removed during the analysis stage. The study team will be available to respond to any questions or queries that you may have.

6. What are the benefits of taking part?

The potential benefits of taking part in this study are that you are likely to become more aware of the skills, knowledge and research capacity needs and gaps for the research sites/organisations that you are working with, and through this we can help to guide you to the range of online resources that The Global Health Network has to offer. Through this study, we intend to develop and agree a set of core curricula for clinical, observational and laboratory studies and develop appropriate training and courses to address the knowledge, skills and research capacity gaps that this research has identified. This is likely to be of benefit to the research sites/organisations that you are working.
7. Do I have to take part?
- You can ask any questions that you have about the study before deciding whether to take part
- It is your choice whether or not to take part in this study
- If you agree to take part, you can withdraw from the study without penalty at any time and without explaining your reasons

8. Has the study been reviewed by an ethics committee?
This study has been reviewed and approved by the Oxford Tropical Research Ethics Committee, OxTREC. The reference number for this study is 543 – 17.

9. What if I have any questions or want to raise a concern?
If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact The Global Health Network (REDe@theglobalhealthnetwork.org), who is coordinating this study. If you have specific questions or concerns that you do not feel can be addressed by the study team, please contact the Principal Investigator, Professor Trudie Lang (Trudie.Lang@ndm.ox.ac.uk).

If you have any general concerns regarding this study that you would like to be addressed by a person independent to this study, please contact Dr Rebecca Bryant, Research Ethics Manager (OxTREC), Research Ethics and Integrity Team, Research Services, University of Oxford, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD (rebecca.bryant@admin.ox.ac.uk).

10. Data protection
The University of Oxford is responsible for ensuring the safe and proper use of any personal information you provide, solely for research purposes.