

# Exploring the Ethical Aspects of Stem Cell Donation

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## INTRODUCTION

- Applied ethicist
- Organ Donation Committee
- Research in donation
- Research ethics committees & training
- AN donor project & AN IRB

## TODAY

- Share findings from focus groups
- Reflect and learn
- Interactive
- Recorded
- 60 mins

# Donating to Multiple Recipients

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- Participants were asked about donating cells to help one recipient and multiple recipients, and the benefits and losses from might arise from donating to multiple recipients.
- What do you think are the ethical considerations to donations being used for multiple rather than single recipients?
- What might be lost or gained through donors making a single donation to be used for multiple recipients?

# Donating to Multiple Recipients: Benefits

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- No additional inconvenience or cost to donors.
- Equate to “saving a nation”, and a reprioritisation of the donation within the donor’s commitments.
- Encourage more donors, and act as a “pull factor”.
- In line with other forms of donation and continuing to donate despite not receiving feedback on individual recipients.
- Prioritises the needs of recipients over any needs of donors.

# Donating to Multiple Recipients: Losses?

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- Learning of the donation outcome.
- Numbers (shouldn't) matter.
  - Helping multiple recipients as an “added bonus”.
  - Helping one person is and should be sufficient = one person's life is deserving of a donation.
- Impact upon recruitment.
  - Unique connection between two people.
  - Success stories.
  - Dependent on you or others?
- (Psychological) reward for donors.

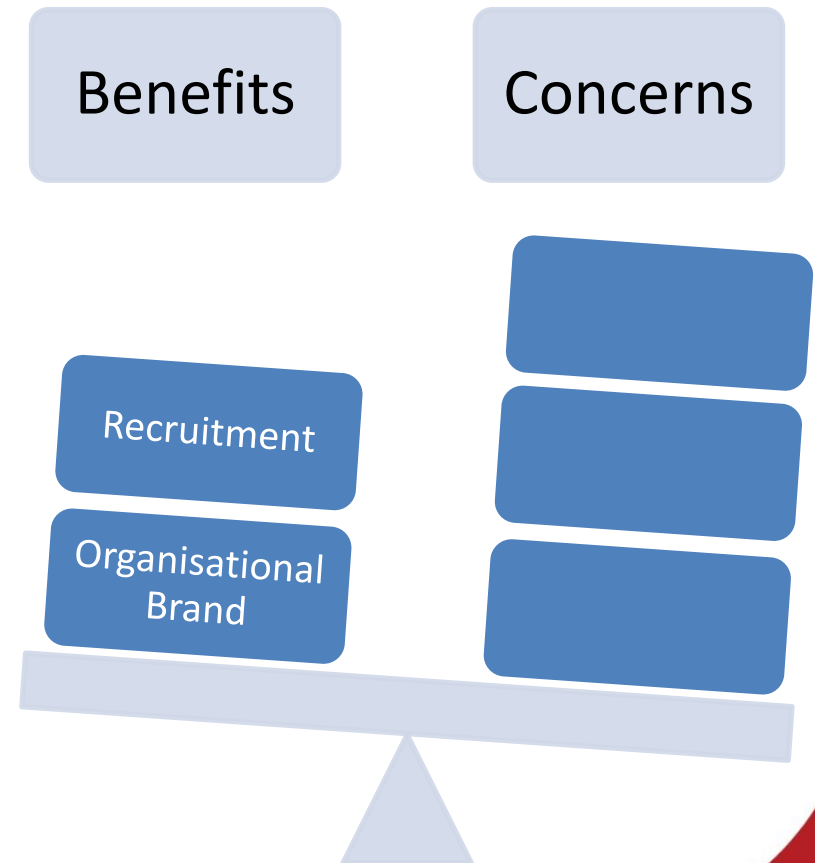
# Donating for Quality of Life Conditions

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- Participants were asked whether they would be willing to donate stem cells to help patients with diseases that impact on the *quality* of their lives, rather than saving someone's life.
- Can we expect the same level of commitment from donors if the donation is to help people with quality of life conditions?
- Is it fair to put donors through the donation process for quality of life conditions?

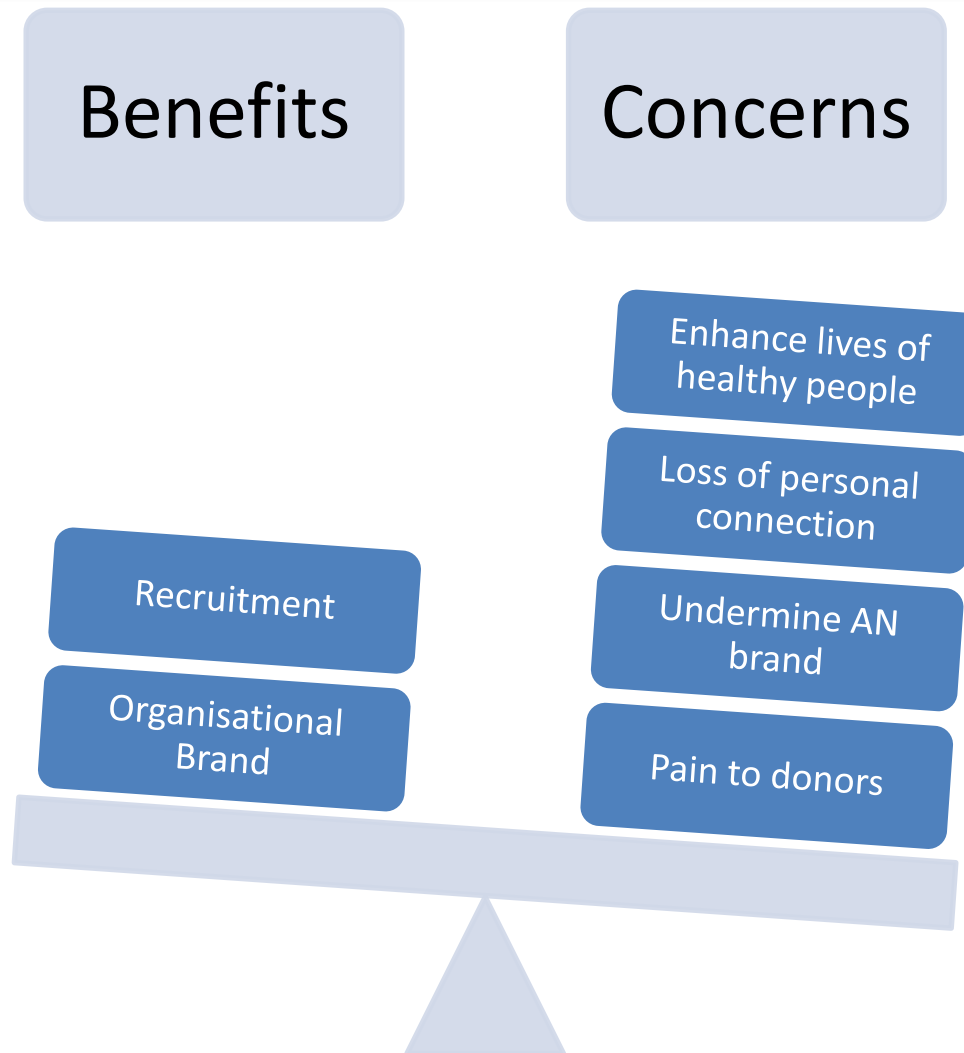
# Donating for Quality of Life Conditions: Benefits

- Enhance recruitment
  - Increase number of donors
  - Personal connection
- Benefit to Anthony Nolan
  - Increase awareness
  - Fundraise



# Donating for Quality of Life

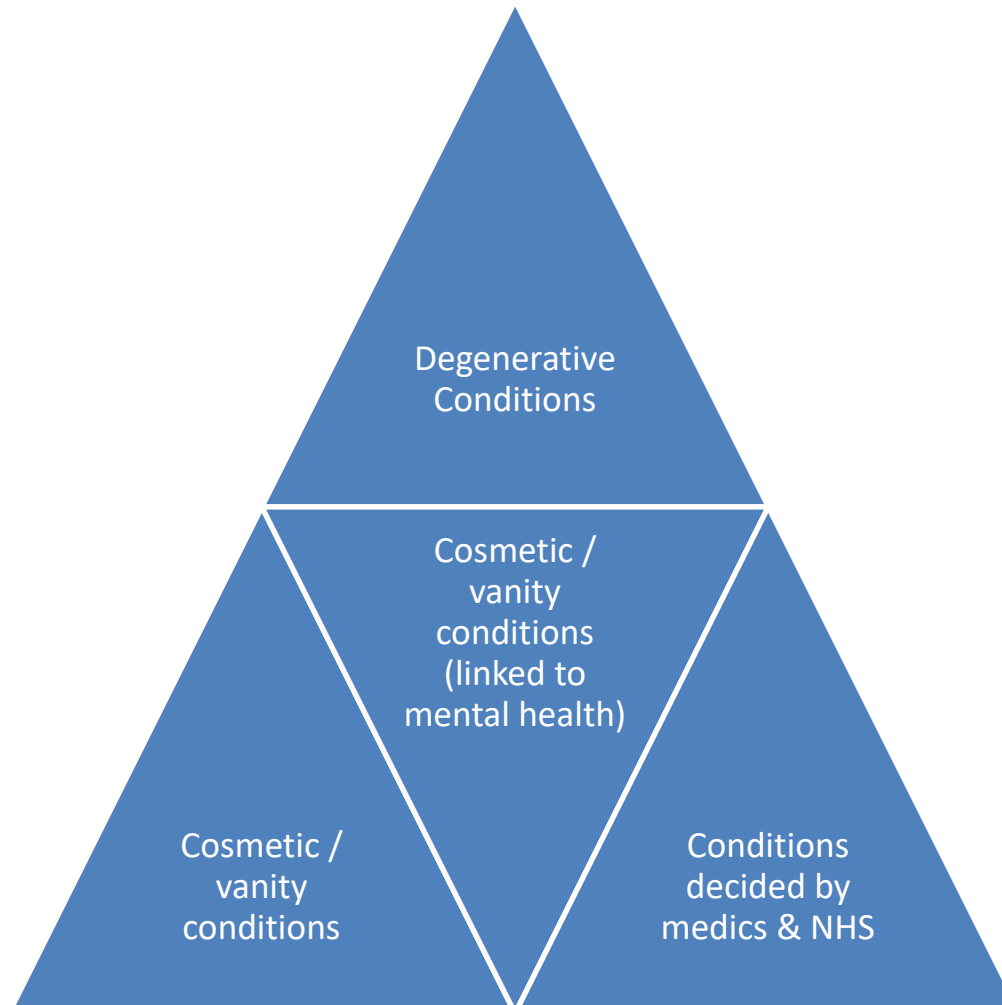
## Conditions: Concerns





# Donating for Quality of Life Conditions: Hierarchies

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# Donating for Stem Cell Research Purposes

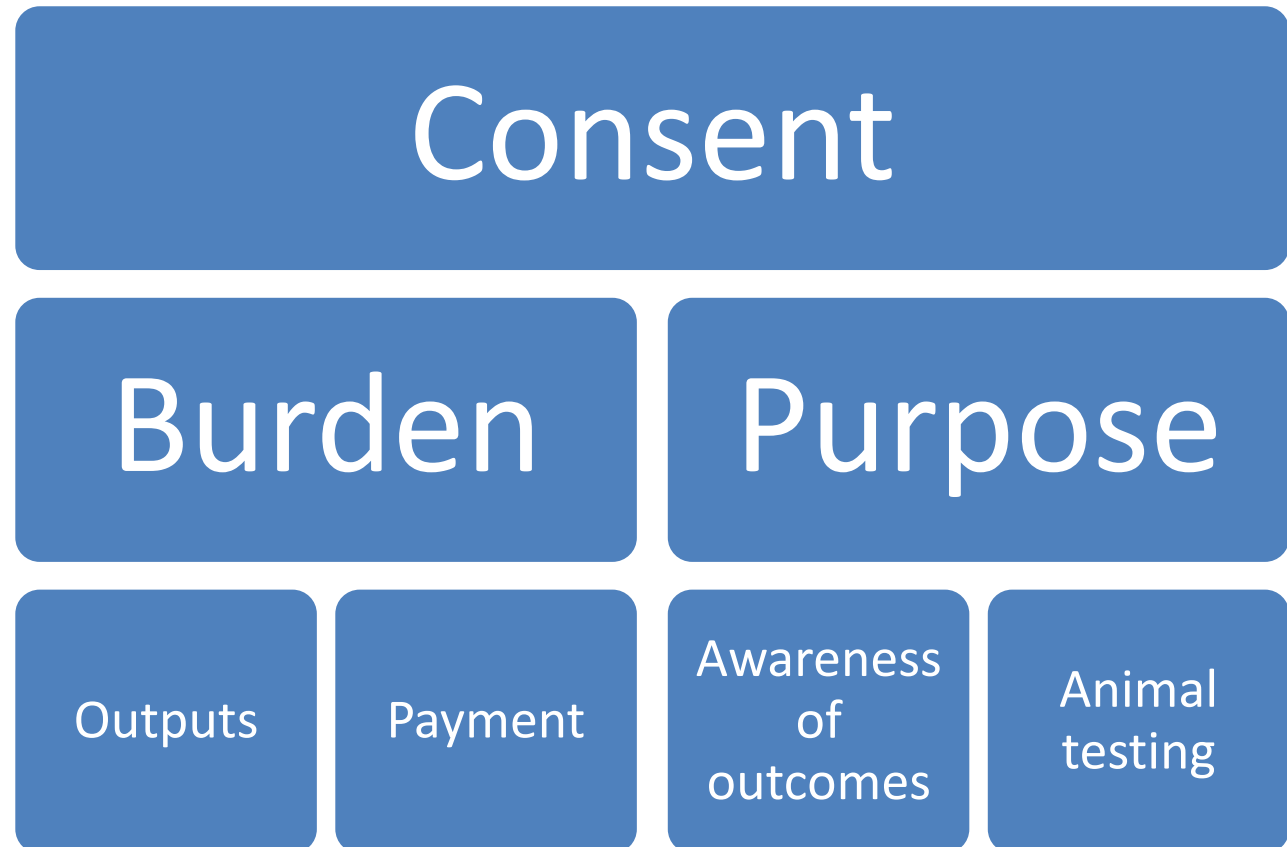
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- Participants were asked whether it was appropriate to ask people to donate their stem cells solely for research.
  - Generating a positive feeling
  - Loss of ‘halo effect’
  - No instant pay-off = more altruistic?
  - Benefiting current or future patients

# Donating for Stem Cell Research Purposes

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- What matters to donors when contemplating donating to research?



# Final Thoughts

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- What have you found surprising about the findings today?
- What have you learned today that you didn't know already?
- What have you enjoyed about today?
- Have your perspectives or opinions shifted on any of the topics discussed?