

BBTS Annual  
Conference 2016

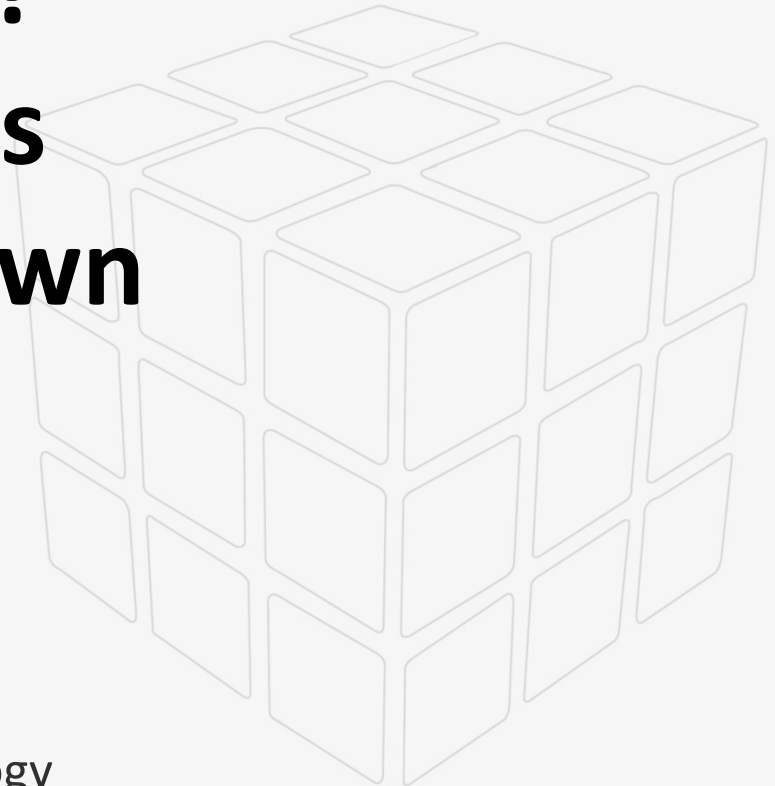
# Extending the Gift? – Donor Perspectives on Laboratory Grown Red Blood Cells

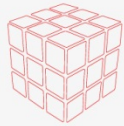
**Rachel Hale**

Research Associate – Social Science

**Julie Kent**

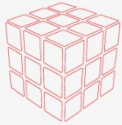
Professor of Sociology of Health Technology





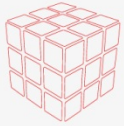
# Introduction

- BTRU objective - to engage with patients (and publics) to determine acceptability and attitude towards cellular therapies as an alternative to donor derived red cells
- Aim: How do blood donors think about blood donation, the existing arrangements for collection and distribution of blood and cRBCs?



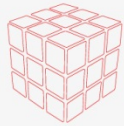
# Methods

- Qualitative study - focus group discussions & key stakeholder interviews
- 7 Focus Groups -Blood donors, people with blood disorders, mothers of young children, publics
- 7 interviews with key stakeholders (+ 1 patient)
- Recruitment issues
- Donor characteristics



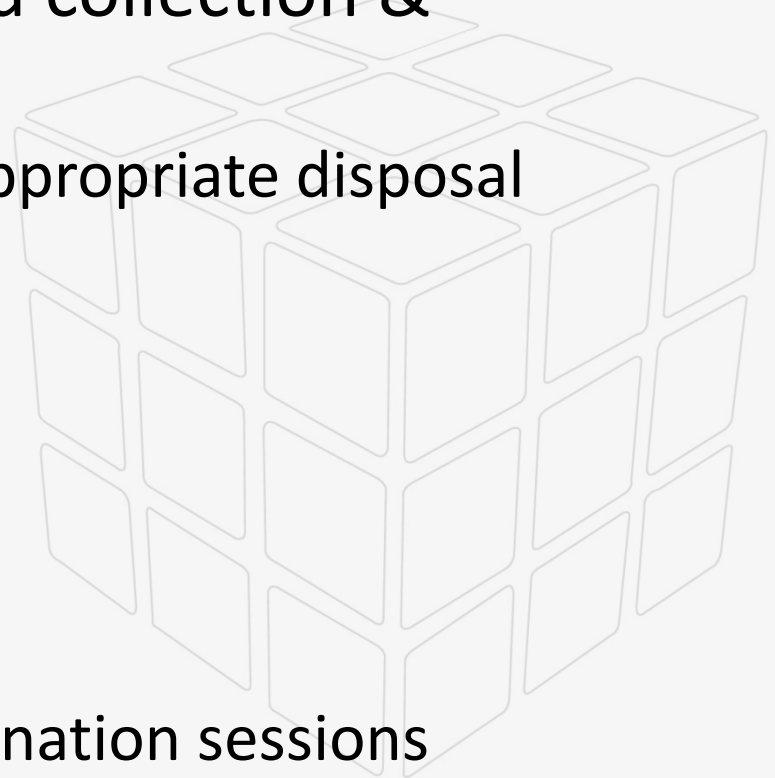
# Views on Blood Donation

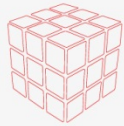
- Blood donation an 'essential' for the NHS
- Recruitment issues, particularly some groups
- Paying donors for blood
- Duty to donate & the wrong kind of donor
- Reasons for donating – altruistic & non-altruistic



# Views on Blood Services

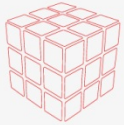
- Trust in existing NHS blood collection & distribution services
  - Wastage minimisation & appropriate disposal
  - The 'red market'
  - Safe collection
  - Screening
  - Cross-matching
- Areas for improvement
  - Advertisement of blood donation sessions
  - Running of sessions





# Views on cRBCs

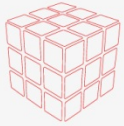
- Good idea for people with blood disorders and rare blood groups
- Filling the gap in general blood supplies
- Concerns:
  - Cost
  - quality control/replication mistakes/ scaling up of production/contamination/security
  - becoming reliant on this source



# Conceptualising cRBCs (1)

- cRBCs as different to non-cultured RBCs:
  - ‘More sterile’
  - ‘Kosher’
  - Genetically modified to have desirable additional elements
  - Lacking elements of non-cultured blood
  - Unknown undesirable additional components
  - Not from a person (could be positive or negative)



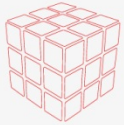


# Conceptualising cRBCs (2)

- Visualising cRBCs as different to non-cultured RBCs:
  - “So I’ve got this bowl of bright red cherries and then over here I’ve got these sort of darker ones” (FG1, P2)
- Visualising cRBCs as plants:
  - “I’ve got this picture of these sort of like ferns and things” (FG1, P2)
  - “Like crystal trees coming out” (FG1, P1)

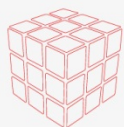






# Conclusions

- Trust in NHS and not in commercial or non-UK
- Awareness of stem cell technology but less about cRBCs
- cRBCs concerns
- Extending the gift?
- Immortalising some blood donors (but not others)
- Consequences to donor identity, recruitment & retention, availability of collected blood, social relations between publics/donors & blood services, & cRBCs

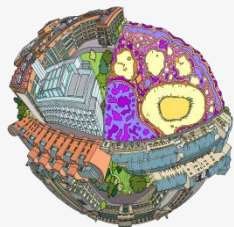


BBTS Annual  
Conference 2016

# Thank You



University of the  
West of England



## BrisSynBio

biomolecules to biosystems  
from understanding to design



*National Institute for  
Health Research*



## BBSRC

bioscience for the future



**BBTS Annual Conference 2016**  
21st - 23rd September