**Subject heading: Survival prediction study**

You have been invited to participate in a study that will investigate how you prognosticate.

This is the link to the study: <http://bit.ly/thesurprisestudy>

**What is the purpose of the study?**

Prognostication is a difficult clinical skill. The Surprise Question (“Would I be surprised if this patient died in the next 12 months?”) is a routine tool that is designed to help identify patients who might benefit from palliative care. Whilst the tool is used across Europe, we know very little about how it is being used. Research has already highlighted that the need for palliative care outweighs the number of people who receive palliative care. We are interested in this disparity. We want to understand how the use of the surprise question may contribute towards the decision about when to initiate palliative care. The aim of this study is to determine when clinicians would be “surprised” if a patient were to die within the next twelve months. We will compare this across several countries in Europe and with doctors at different levels of experience and seniority.

**Why have I been chosen?**

All registered General Practitioners who reside in one of the participating countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, or the UK) are eligible to participate in this study.

**How long will it take?**

It should take you no longer than 30 minutes to complete. The web-based survey will be open from March 2019 until March 2020. You have the option to log out of the survey and return at a later date, if required.

**What does it involve?**

On accessing the study website, you will be asked to give some information about yourself and your professional training to date. You will be asked to read a series of fictional patient summaries typical of patients you might meet in your routine practice (20 in total) and to respond to 4 questions about each summary.

Participation is completely voluntary and you are able to withdraw at any point. Your results will be analysed anonymously. You can read more about this in the Information Sheet attached.

If you would like further information about this study or wish to discuss the project further contact either:

UK: Dr Nicola White (n.g.white@ucl.ac.uk)

UK: Professor Patrick Stone (p.stone@ucl.ac.uk)

Alternatively, if you can contact your local study lead:

Belgium: Professor Johan Wens (johan.wens@uantwerpen.be)

Germany: Dr Christina Gerlach (christina.gerlach@unimedizin-mainz.de)

Italy: Professor Rabih Chattat (rabih.chattat@unibo.it)

The Netherlands: Professor Yvonne Engels (yvonne.engels@radboudumc.nl)

Switzerland: Professor Steffen Eychmüller (steffen.eychmueller@insel.ch)