

Dear LiiRA participants,

I hope that you all had a peaceful start to the New Year. I'd like to begin by thanking all of you for being part of LiiRA. At the end of December, we completed a major milestone, closing enrollment of new patients at 74 subjects, just one person shy of our goal of 75.

We consider this a success given the circumstances, with the ongoing pandemic, a state-wide lock-down in the spring, not to mention, dramatic changes in all of our lives. I am so grateful for you, the LiiRA team, and your rheumatologists.

For those of you with upcoming follow-up study visits, please do your best to complete your appointments. We are depending on you to finish so that we will have enough data from enough people to know what to do next about RA and heart disease!

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have concerns or need some flexibility in scheduling.

All the best,



Kat Liao

FYI- COVID-19 vaccine

I encourage all of you to get vaccinated when it is available to you. For the latest information on the vaccine and who is eligible:

<https://www.massgeneralbrigham.org/COVID19/vaccine>

Note that autoimmune conditions such as RA are not at this time considered a high risk comorbidity. The vaccine is very effective, and you will likely get symptoms such as fever, chills, muscle aches, after your shot. It means your immune system is making antibodies against COVID-19 and it is working!

Want more information? Visit us at <http://www.liira.org>



Team Spotlight



Congratulations to Charlotte, who has been accepted to the Master of Arts in Linguistics - Forensic Linguistics Program at Hofstra University in Long Island, New York. She began her classes remotely in the Fall of 2020 and will be moving to start in-person classes. While she is sad to be leaving the clinical research position at BWH, she is excited for what is to come in her new career as a linguist.

Would you like to see something in our next newsletter? Contact us!

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Enrollment Numbers

Enrolled: 74
Completed: 61
Target: 75 patients over 3 years



My name is Jon Hacker, and it's a pleasure to be the newest member of the LiiRA team! I recently graduated from Hamilton College with a degree in neuroscience and moved to Boston to pursue a career in the BWH medical community. I am currently researching treatment opportunities for those with Aspirin Exacerbated Respiratory Disease (AERD) and chronic rhinosinusitis. In my free time I enjoy biking, cooking, and spending time with friends.

Meet the rest of the team here:
<http://www.liira.org/the-team.html>

