

Dear LiiRA participants,

Hope you are all enjoying the spring weather. We are excited to share that our first official LiiRA paper will be published soon in the Journal of the American Heart Association. In this study, we found that while most of your stress tests were normal, we are seeing evidence that inflammation may be affecting the function of the small blood vessels in the heart of individuals with RA more so than individuals without RA.

Since there are limited data on the long term impact of inflammation in these small vessels, we are conducting a smaller LiiRA extension study. In this study, we will be inviting some of you back for a repeat stress test and another test that allows us to take a closer look at the amount of cholesterol plaques in your coronary arteries. Both tests are routine clinical tests at BWH used to screen patients for heart disease.

Please feel free to reach out to Thany if you would like to participate and have not received a call from us.

Thanks as always for being part of LiiRA!

All the best,



Kat Liao

P.S. If you would like a copy of our LiiRA *JAHA* paper, let us know and we can send you a copy when it is published.



We would also like to let you know about another study from our group-

People-Powered Medicine (PPM): RANT

Are you a 'non-responder' to your rheumatoid arthritis therapy?

If you participated in LiiRA, you've all tried certolizumab which belongs to a group of drugs called biologics. Have you gone on to try other RA therapies that ultimately did not work for you? If yes, you may be eligible for a new study, People-Powered Medicine (PPM): Rheumatoid Arthritis Non-responders to Treatments (RANT).

RANT is a study that you can join online, on your time. We are doing this study in collaboration with the Harvard Medical School Department of Biomedical Informatics.

RANT Eligibility Criteria

- 18 years of age or older to participate.
- Tried 3 RA biologic or targeted synthetic therapies, e.g. certolizumab, etanercept, tofacitinib

To find out more about this study please visit our website at:

<https://peoplepoweredmedicine.org/rant>



Team Spotlight



Dana is a Research Scientist at Brigham & Women's Hospital where she works on LiiRA and other RA studies. Dana is responsible for making sense of all the data that was collected as part of the LiiRA study. Prior to joining BWH she was a Research Assistant at the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University where she primarily helped design and analyze randomized control trials aimed at improving PK-12 student attendance. Outside of work Dana enjoys reading, yoga, and cooking.

Meet the rest of the team here:

<http://www.liira.org/the-team.html>

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

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