



Address

Date

Dear,

**Empowering People through Informed Choice in Rheumatoid Arthritis
(EPIC-RA)**

Developing a better understanding of people with Rheumatoid Arthritis' views on taking their RA medicines and about how they might feel about having novel test in the future that may predict whether those medicines will work before they start taking them.

We are writing to invite you to take part in a study that we are carrying out with the help of people with Rheumatoid arthritis (RA). This study is being conducted by researchers at the University of Manchester and is part of a larger programme of work investigating predictors of response to RA treatments.

The aim of this study is to see if we can develop a better understanding of people with RAs' views of taking their arthritis medicines and also how they feel about having tests in the future that may predict whether those medicines will work before they start the treatment.

If you agree to take part in the study you will be invited for a group discussion with a researcher, Dr Kanta Kumar (and an assistant), who are interested in finding out about the experiences of people with RA taking medicines and their thoughts on having different tests done to help get a treatment that may be more suited to them.

The discussion will last up to 2 hours. During the discussion you will be asked questions by the researcher about the medicines that you take for RA and how you feel about different tests to try and predict response to treatments. You will also be shown a scenario of how the tests might be used and asked to put yourself in that position and comment on how you would think and feel should you be asked these types of questions or to undergo these types of test.

The discussion group will include approximately 4-6 other people with RA. **Please note:** you will not be undergoing any of these tests, this research only involves finding out peoples' views on the testing procedures.

We are interested in your views because you have been diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis and are having treatment for this.

If you do not want to take part in this study *you do not have to*; this will have absolutely no effect on the medical treatment you receive from the hospital or from your GP. However, if you are interested in taking part, we would be grateful if you could look at the enclosed information sheet which explains about the study in a little more detail.

One of the research team will contact you by email to ask if you are interested to take part in the study. If you are not interested in taking part then simply let us know. If you would like to take part then we will arrange a convenient time for the study. Any travel expenses that you incur as part of the study will be reimbursed to you.

If you know anyone else with RA who may also be interested in taking part in this research, please feel free to pass on our details and information about the study to them.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Anne Barton
Consultant Rheumatologist