

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

We would first like to say thank you to all of you who have loyally participated in the BRASS registry for almost seventeen years! BRASS has become one of the most comprehensive RA cohorts in the country because of your devotion to the study.

These past several months have proved to be trying times for us all. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to changes in many aspects of our lives and we as a research study at Brigham and Women's Hospital have needed to adapt to a new normal. Your health and well-being continue to be a priority, even more so now during these unprecedented times.

Due to the uncertainty in the many months ahead, we wanted to take a moment and explain how we have temporarily changed our study visit procedures to ensure that your risk to exposure remains as minimal as possible. Our research staff may call you a few days before you have your scheduled virtual or in-person appointment with your rheumatologist to remind you of your upcoming BRASS study visit. You will now have the option of answering all of our questionnaires over the phone to decrease multiple in-person interactions. We are currently putting on hold obtaining a blood sample from you if you come into the clinic for your rheumatology appointment.

Once again, we want to say how appreciative we are of your dedication to the BRASS registry. We look forward to working with you. Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Shadick, MD, MPH; Principal Investigator

Michael Weinblatt, MD; Principal Investigator