

## Statement on Barts Health Research activity, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Researchers,

Our hospitals are extremely busy with more than 140 patients in critical care. We are at the highest level of the winter plan and the NHS is facing incredible pressures across London. We have met the 'exceptional circumstances' test set by NIHR for redeployment of CRN funded research staff and have been asked to support our acute services by re-deploying staff from all of our research and development programmes for up to the next four to six weeks whilst we manage this latest peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our hospitals need staff now to support critical care and general admission wards, both in a clinical capacity and in support roles. We now need the research workforce to support this effort in any way that we can.

We understand of course, the ongoing impact on our research programmes this year, all of which are important. Unfortunately, the current situation has forced us to make further difficult decisions to ensure we do all we can for our patients. We hope that we can work quickly with you to understand who is able to support these exceptional and immediate patient care needs.

For this, and patient safety reasons, recruitment to all clinical research studies must now stop for a minimum of four weeks starting immediately, with the exception of the Covid-19 RECOVERY trial, Covid-19 vaccine trials, and a very small number of interventional studies where suspension may place participants at risk of harm. No new studies will be approved during this period without authorisation from the clinical director of research and development.

You will need to identify staff available for re-deployment with your teams as soon as possible and you might be approached by senior JRMO managers to discuss individual circumstances. The hospitals are managing the re-deployment of staff through hospital 'hubs' and clinical colleagues who know which hospital site they would like to support are asked to contact them by emailing the following leads:

- Royal London Hospital: [katy.wells6@nhs.net](mailto:katy.wells6@nhs.net)
- Whipps Cross Hospital: [simon.steward@nhs.net](mailto:simon.steward@nhs.net) and [claire.burden@nhs.net](mailto:claire.burden@nhs.net)
- Newham Hospital: [tomkirby@nhs.net](mailto:tomkirby@nhs.net) and [nayna.manya@nhs.net](mailto:nayna.manya@nhs.net)
- St Bartholomew's Hospital: [nicole.porter-garthford1@nhs.net](mailto:nicole.porter-garthford1@nhs.net)

Please copy in Jo Morgan (associate director of research and development, [jo.morgan7@nhs.net](mailto:jo.morgan7@nhs.net)), or alternatively, contact Jo directly to complete a re-deployment availability form. If you have questions about training and the opportunities available please contact Martyn Clark, deputy director of the Education Academy [martyn.clark1@nhs.net](mailto:martyn.clark1@nhs.net)

We can assure you that we would not be taken this action unless it were absolutely necessary and will keep the situation under constant review and alert you when the situation eases and we can begin to stand-down re-deployed staff. If you would like to discuss your area with us please do not hesitate to email either Rupert or Gerry.

Aurea Jones, director of people strategy ([Aurea.Jones@nhs.net](mailto:Aurea.Jones@nhs.net)) would be happy to discuss any other questions about redeployment at Barts Health that you may have.

**Rupert Pearse, Clinical Director of Research**  
**Gerry Leonard, Director of Research Development**