COVID-19 and the Pain Centre Versus Arthritis

Statement from the Director

I hope that you are all keeping well and safe.

Please may I express our deepest gratitude to all those who are contributing to Pain Centre Versus Arthritis’ research. You have already been an immense support helping us to achieve research objectives above and beyond what we could have hoped for. The current unprecedented pandemic poses new challenges and priorities. Many of our research team have important clinical skills and therefore have been called upon to support the NHS in this time of need. As for you all, we have also adapted our research activities to minimise risks of spread of the virus, entailing the temporary closure of laboratories and implementation of home working. Our face to face clinical research has had to be put on hold to ensure participant safety. Please don’t be misled to think that this signals an end to our fight against arthritis pain. Chronic pain remains a major problem and we now are actively analysing data, preparing publications and developing new projects that will increase our understanding of arthritis pain in order to better treat it. Your contributions to date form the bedrock of our current research activity, and we will re-start our clinical research as soon as it is safe to do so.

We endorse advice given by the Government and Department of Health with respect to hygiene, social distancing, shielding, isolation and quarantine and also encourage you to stay as active and healthy as possible. As the Government advises, please undertake exercise to the extent that you are able each day during this pandemic. Further advice is available through: https://www.versusarthritis.org/news/2020/march/coronavirus-covid-19-what-is-it-and-where-to-go-for-information/

Prof David Walsh

Director, Pain Centre Versus Arthritis