

19 January 2021

To the general practice community, friends and members,

**“We are monitoring the evolving COVID picture and will adjust processes as necessary”**

In 2020 COVID-safe changes in practice caused many research projects in general practice to pause. Thankfully these issues eased allowing important research to resume. Over the course of 2021 the work to vaccinate the nation against COVID-19 will involve general practice.

We would like to reassure you that our research teams and VicREN staff are monitoring the evolving picture and will work with you to support your participation in research projects, by ensuring minimal workflow disruption and maintaining COVID-safe practices; **if necessary due to COVID-related demands, research will pause again.**

We encourage you to consider being involved in research this year if a topic is important to you, and with the knowledge that we will support you and adjust processes as necessary. So little of the national research funding envelope is allocated to general practice research, yet most clinical care is provided in general practice. **It is vitally important to have robust research to allow general practice to lead reforms and achieve the best outcomes for the patients served.** Through research you can influence change.

Please feel free to send comments or suggestions for further ways VicREN can best support you and your colleagues in their participation in research initiatives.

With best wishes for this new year,



**Prof Lena Sancu Rachel Canaway**

Head, Department of General Practice

Chair, VicREN primary care practice-based Research and Education Network