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## Musings from the Chair

Greetings to you all in this most unfamiliar world in which we find ourselves. I hope that everyone is coping as well as possible with Covid-19 lurking.

It is almost impossible to comprehend that only a few months ago many of us were worried about bushfires, with the resultant smoke, then damaging rain, in many parts of the country. We were very pleased to be able to go ahead with the very successful Public Patient Seminar in Canberra in early February, only a short while after the destructive storms there.

**PKD Australia (PKDA)** has been using the suddenly commonplace “working from home” model since inception in 2014, with only the one paid employee and the remainder of the leadership group pro bono. Although we cannot connect with the PKD community in person for now, we are still able to keep our focus on communication, through the newsletter and social media. As always, we also want to hear from you.

It is becoming increasingly clear that most people with PKD know that if they take better care of their body it can only benefit so we were very keen to support the joint Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District / University of Wollongong research project into diet for which we recently shared information about their survey. We look forward to the next stage.

We are excited that the 7 applications for the 2020 Grant Round are currently under review by our Scientific Advisory Board who have the unenviable task of ranking the applications on scientific merit after which the Board will sign off on which applications will be funded. With the unexpected massive Government expenditure due to Covid-19 we believe that there is a likelihood that there will be less public funding for medical research, at least in the short term, so we want **PKDA** to maintain or even increase the momentum of PKD research – the need has never been greater.

The more money we can raise, the more PKD research we can support. Please help us to help the PKD community by **donating now**. See [www.pkdaustralia.org](http://www.pkdaustralia.org) or email [info@pkdaustralia.org](mailto:info@pkdaustralia.org)

I was recently interviewed for the blog "Research for What" in which I was asked searching questions about research. <https://shows.acast.com/research-for-what/episodes/robert-gardos-chair-of-pkd-australia> I commend the podcast series to you.

The PKDA leadership group does not have the expertise to provide specific advice so we are very grateful to our friends at **Kidney Health Australia** (KHA) for regularly updating information on their website [www.kidney.org.au](http://www.kidney.org.au) specifically to help people with kidney disease deal with Covid-19. At this time, it is even more important than "normally" that we ensure that our general health is maintained so it is vital to raise any concerns with our primary health care provider and nephrologist.

We often take for granted the wonderful work that our GPs, renal specialists and nurses do and we would like to acknowledge the amazing effort that everyone involved in providing healthcare throughout our nation is making in these extraordinarily difficult times. To all of these unsung people, the teachers and everyone else who is keeping us as safe as possible, a big **Thank You**.

**Please stay well everyone.**

Robert Gardos - Chair