A third year University of Sydney Medical Program student named ........................................... ........................................... ........................................... has given you this information sheet. The student is inviting you to be part of Integrated Population Medicine (IPM), which is a formal Sydney Medical Program learning activity.

**WHAT IS IPM ABOUT?**

IPM is designed to help medical students understand what it’s like for people like you living with a chronic health condition. We want them to understand the impact the condition has on you, your family and friends, and what it’s like for you managing your condition at home, in your community and in the health system.

To do this, they have been asked to find a person living with a chronic health condition and to work with them for 12 months. During this time they will complete a variety of tasks to show us what they are learning.

A chronic health condition is one that lasts for about six months or longer. Some examples are asthma, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, stroke or a physical or intellectual disability.

**WHAT IS POPULATION MEDICINE?**

Population medicine encourages students to consider the experience of illness outside the hospital or clinic. It also asks them to reflect on the causes and prevention of health problems, how health problems are dealt with and what could be done better. As part of this process students have to consider the scientific evidence, as well as the personal and social impact of a disease within the health system.

**WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO FOR IPM?**

We ask you to allow the student to contact you a minimum of four times between April 2015 and April 2016 to talk to you about your experiences with your chronic health condition.

If you agree, these contacts could include:

- Meeting in person. This could be at your home, a clinic or another convenient public place (the student might come to some of these meetings with a colleague or a health worker).
- Meeting with your family or your carers.
- Being present as an observer at one of your health care appointments.
- Contacting you by phone, email or other means if face-to-face meetings are impractical.
- Recording contacts either electronically or in writing.
- Taking photographs (only with your permission)

**HOW MUCH TIME WILL IPM TAKE?**

Between April 2015 and April 2016 your student may contact you about four times. The times are negotiable between you and the student. None of these contacts should take more than an hour, so we are asking you to allocate about four hours over a twelve-month period. If your student has not contacted you for more than two months without an explanation please contact us.

In Population Medicine we teach our future doctors to understand people’s health within the broader community. We want them to learn that many social factors affect people’s health and access to care, not just their chronic condition.
WHAT WILL I HAVE TO TALK ABOUT?
You do not have to talk about anything you don’t want to. Some areas the student might be interested in include:

- How your condition started and if there were factors that made it worse or better.
- Where you live and what aspects of your home or local community make it easier or harder for you to deal with your condition.
- How you juggle the demands of your condition with your personal, family and work commitments.
- How you manage the various costs of your health care and whether that affects the care you receive.
- Who is involved in providing your health care and how that works for you.
- The kinds of information you hear about your condition from doctors, organisations and the media and what you think about them.
- If you think your cultural background or beliefs are affecting your health care.

WHO WILL KNOW ABOUT MY INFORMATION?
The information you share with the student and the University of Sydney is confidential. You will not be identified in any reports or assessments submitted.

Only your student and the Program Administrator at the Sydney Medical School will know who you are. The Program Administrator needs your contact details so we can send you essential information about the program. Your details will not be given to anyone else or used for any other purpose.

We ask you to provide us with the name of a contact person in the unlikely event of an emergency whilst you are with the student. This could be a partner, friend, neighbour or health practitioner.

CAN I TELL OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT IPM?
Yes! We would like you to talk about the program with your family, friends and carers before you decide to participate. Some of your friends might like to be part of IPM too. We always have students looking for a suitable person to work with, so please ask them to contact us.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
You will be showing a medical student what it’s really like living with a chronic health condition. Most medical education is done in hospitals, but most illness is experienced at home. We hope having firsthand experience of the impact of chronic ill-health on people’s lives will make students better doctors, and advocates for improvements in health services.

There will be no other material benefits to you apart from this. The student is not able to comment or advise on your condition or the services you receive from your current health care providers. Their role is as an observer only. We hope both you and the student will enjoy the time you spend together.

WHAT IF I HAVE ANY CONCERNS?
Please contact Ms Luise Kazda, Program Administrator on 02 9036 5360 or email: luise.kazda@sydney.edu.au. If necessary, your complaint will be referred to the Office of Medical Education in the Sydney Medical Program for further action.

WHAT IF I WANT MORE INFORMATION?
When you have read this information, you can talk to your student who will try to answer any questions you have. If you want to know more now, or at any stage, please contact Ms Luise Kazda, the Program Administrator on 02 9036 5360 or email: luise.kazda@sydney.edu.au

WHAT'S NEXT?
If you would like to be part of IPM, please read and sign the attached consent form and return it to your student as soon as possible. The student will return it to us.

CAN I WITHDRAW FROM THE PROGRAM?
Being part of IPM is completely voluntary. You do not have to agree to work with this student. If you do agree now, you can still change your mind at any time without affecting your relationship with your health care providers, the University of Sydney, or any related health organisations or services.