

Application guideline for EULAR Centres of Excellence in Rheumatology for the period 2010-2015

To apply for designation as a EULAR Centre of Excellence in Rheumatology for the period of 2010-2015, research centres are invited to list their permanent staff members and all their original research papers related to rheumatology and areas closely linked to rheumatology which have been published in journals with an impact factor of >3. As guidance, at least **350 impact factor points over the last 5-year period (2005-2009)** is expected. Centres of Excellence recognized for the period 2005-2010 are invited to send a new application to maintain their position.

Specifically, the following rules apply:

1. A unit is a group of permanent staff dealing with rheumatology.
2. Centres of Excellence in Rheumatology are usually led by one individual responsible for one unit. However, joint applications by two individual units are possible, if there are joint appointments and mutual staff as documented by one budget or by mutual written collaboration contracts. These units should reside in close proximity, preferably on one campus. The tight interaction between these units must also be documented by a high number of significant publications with shared authorships from both units. The plaque will be awarded to the submitting institution.
3. A reference list consists of references emanating from the permanent staff and includes (see also point 5 about layout) original research papers related to rheumatology or areas closely linked to rheumatology published in 2005-2009 with **unit as main contributor** (first author or senior/corresponding author, **original papers only***), which should reach 350 impact factor points.
4. Permanent staff should be listed as, for example:
 - Head of Department
 - Professors
 - Tenured academics, e.g., Senior Lecturers, etc.
5. The layout of the application documents must follow the samples provided on the website. The published journal impact factor for 2008 should be used for the calculation of the total impact factor points. **Authors from the unit should be written in bold in the list of references.**

Applications may be sent by e-mail to the EULAR Secretariat at eular@eular.org no later than 28 February 2010.

* Excludes letters and editorials, review articles not including primary research, consensus documents, recommendations, case reports and other communications that are not primary reports of original research.