

# EULAR Code of Ethics

*The Code of Ethics of the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) applies to all officers in connection with their relationship to EULAR. Officers are acting, nominee, elect or past members of any EULAR Body (General Assembly, Board, Council, Committee, Sub-Committee, etc.) and applicants of EULAR-funded projects. The code is enforceable solely by EULAR.*

*The primary purpose of this Code of Ethics is to support EULAR's mission and maintain its reputation in the scientific and medical communities and with the general public as a credible, objective and unbiased force whose statements, activities and relationships are beyond reproach. It is the purpose of this code to provide guidelines which will ensure this reputation be maintained. EULAR has not attempted in this Code to set forth a position regarding all ethical issues which its officers may face in their day-to-day professional activities.*

- 1 Officers must avoid illegal, immoral and unethical behaviour.
- 2 Officers must comply with the statutes, bylaws, or policies and may not use EULAR's name in any unauthorized way.
- 3 Officers shall act in the best interests of EULAR in carrying out responsibilities in good faith, with care, honesty, and due diligence.
- 4 Officers shall give allegiance to EULAR when making decisions affecting EULAR.
- 5 Officers shall not use their position within EULAR for individual advantage or advantage of another person or entity to which they are related or obligated.
- 6 Officers shall maintain the confidences of EULAR, discharge their responsibilities with fidelity and make decisions that are in the best interests of EULAR.
- 7 Officers shall disclose any and all relationships that pose or could be construed to pose potential conflict of interest.
- 8 Officers must avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest in any action or activity related to EULAR.
- 9 Officers may only accept minor and socially customary gifts and other benefits. Generally speaking, minor benefits are gifts in kind whose market value does not exceed EUR 50. In cases of doubt, the officers must clarify with the Board the admissibility of accepting the benefit.
- 10 Candidates for election into a position of a EULAR Body (General Assembly, Board, Council, Committee, Sub-Committee, etc.) shall exercise special care when campaigning for office and avoid any action that may be considered as inappropriately influencing voting persons.

## **Disciplinary sanctions**

Officers may be sanctioned for breaches of the provisions of this Code of Ethics.

Any charges alleging a breach of the provisions of this Code of Ethics shall be in writing (including email) and directed to the EULAR for investigations.

The Strategic and Ethical Advisory Group shall consist of the three immediate past presidents who are not members of the EULAR Board. In case of conflict of interest of one or two of the members of the Strategic and Ethical Advisory Group the remaining member(s) of the Strategic and Ethical Advisory Group shall nominate the other member(s) that is/are not conflicted.

At the end of its investigations, the Strategic and Ethical Advisory Group shall draft a report containing the relevant facts and evidence and address the report to the EULAR body competent to decide upon the disciplinary sanction.

The General Assembly shall have the authority to decide upon a disciplinary sanction against a member of the Board; the Board shall have the authority to decide upon disciplinary sanctions against any other Officer. Before deciding, the competent body must hear the person that might be sanctioned. The decision is final.

The disciplinary sanctions of Officers can be an official warning, reprimand, suspension, exclusion and/or return of award.

Breaches of the provisions of this Code of Ethics may no longer be prosecuted under this Code of Ethics after a lapse of five years.

*Decided by the  
EULAR Board  
September 2021*