Title of the study group: Study Group for Risk Factors for Rheumatoid Arthritis

Study Group Leader’s name: Prof Karim Raza & Dr Danielle Gerlag
Date of annual report submission: 16.04.15

Summary of last year’s activities

The study group has held two formal meetings over the last year at EULAR and the EWRR.

The Agenda for the EWRR study group meeting (on 05.03.15) included:

- Introduction to the Aims of the Study Group
- What happens in the lungs in individuals at risk of RA (Dr Al Catrina)
- Risk Factors: where do we stand (Dr D Gerlag)

The Agenda for the EULAR study group meeting (on 13.06.14) included:

- Introduction to the Aims of the Study Group
- Predicting RA development in individuals in “at risk” (Dr J Nam)
- Clinically suspect arthralgia (Dr A van der Helm van Mil)
- Metabolomics and its applicability in “at risk” phases (Prof K Raza)
- The lymph node in “at risk” individuals (Dr L van Baarsen)


One of the key recommendations was that more attention be focussed on Phase D of the ‘at risk’ phase – the particular phase with symptoms but no signs of joint swelling. Over the course of the last year, two EULAR initiatives have been funded to take this area of work forward, involving members of the ESCIR Study Group for Risk Factors for RA:

- Using expert consensus to define clinically suspect arthralgia (EULAR task force lead Dr A van der Helm van Mil)
- Symptom measurement in persons at risk of rheumatoid arthritis (EULAR task force lead Dr D van Schaardenburg)

We have been working closely with Patient Research Partners within our study group and had representation from 2 patient research partners at our study group meeting at EULAR 2014. The activities of the study group were reported on in the PARE e-BREAKTHROUGH newsletter (issue 7 October 2014; see attached).