Biennial report

Study Groups

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

Study Group Leaders’ name: Dr Diane van der Woude & Prof Karim Raza

Date of annual report submission: 16.03.2017

Summary of last year’s activities

Meetings:

The study group has held two formal meetings over the last year at EULAR and the EWRR which have facilitated networking and collaboration.

The Agenda for the **EWRR study group meeting** (on 25.02.2016) included:

- The lung microbiome in early untreated RA: Anca Catrina (Sweden)
- Tracking traces of microbes in serum of patients and healthy individuals: Fina Kurreeman (The Netherlands)
- Stromal Cell Markers in the Synovial Tissue of Patients with Early Arthritis: Andrew Filer (UK)
- Validation of the RA prediction rules for disease development in patients with joint pain from West Sweden: Maria Bokarewa (Sweden)

The Agenda for the **EULAR study group meeting** (on 10.06.2016) included:

- An update on the PREVENT-RA-study: Ian Bruce (UK)
- Exploring clues to RA in a pre-RA general practice database, and an update on the Symptoms in Persons At Risk for RA questionnaire: Dirkjan van Schaardenburg (The Netherlands)
- A unique population-based study: the Lifelines cohort: Liesbeth Brouwer (The Netherlands)
- Before RA; the Vienna PRERA study: Stephan Blueml (Austria)

Examples of research activities stimulated via the study group:

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:


- Symptom measurement in persons at risk of rheumatoid arthritis (EULAR task force lead Dr D van Schaardenburg). The output from this is currently being written up for publication.

**Example of grant applications involving members of the study group:**

Members of the study group have also submitted a funding application (Rheuma Tolerance for Cure; RTCure) to the Innovative Medicines Initiative which is currently at the second stage of the two stage procedure.