Conference:
Towards more integrated health care in Europe: Strengthening patients’ access to cross-border care and enhancing health professionals’ mobility.

Experiences, challenges and policy developments in the rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease field

Thon Hotel EU, 13 October 2015 (9:30 – 17:30)

Biographies of Speakers

Birgit Beger
Secretary General of the Standing Committee of European Doctors

Birgit Beger is the Secretary General of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME). Ms Beger is a registered lawyer in Berlin and Brussels and holds law and political science degrees from the Freie Universität Berlin. In Brussels she has been working for over ten years in public affairs and law, inter alia with the European Parliament, a law firm and a European umbrella organisation in the area of human rights and social policy. Before her post as CPME Secretary General, she was Senior Legal Advisor at the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) responsible inter alia for Information Technology Law and European Contract Law. The CPME aims to promote the highest standards of medical training and medical practice in order to achieve the highest quality of health care for all patients in Europe. It represents the National Medical Associations of 28 countries in Europe and works closely with the National Medical Associations of countries that have applied for EU membership as well as specialized European medical associations.

Dr Roberto Bertollini
Chief Scientist and WHO Representative to the European Union

Dr Bertollini holds a degree in medicine and a postgraduate degree in paediatrics, as well as a master’s degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins University, USA. From 2007 to 2010, he was coordinator of evidence and policy for the environment and health at WHO headquarters, from 2000 to 2007 he was a technical director at WHO/Europe, and from 1993 to 2000, he was the founding director of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in Rome, Italy. Since September 2011, he has been Chief Scientist and WHO Representative to the EU. His main professional interests concern the environmental influences on health, with special reference to the effects of emerging threats such as...
climate change as well, as the use of epidemiology for public health policy development and the evaluation of public health programmes and practices.

Prof Gerd R. Burmester
*EULAR President*

Prof Gerd R. Burmester is currently Professor of Medicine in the Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology at the Charité University Hospital, Free University and Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. Prof Burmester was President of the German Society of Rheumatology from 2001-2002. He was Chair of the EULAR Standing Committee of Investigative Rheumatology 2003-2006 and Chairman of the Scientific Programme Committee of the EULAR Congress in Berlin in 2004. He became EULAR Treasurer in 2011 and was chosen as President Elect in 2013. He started his term of office as EULAR President in June 2015.

Prof Loreto Carmona
*Instituto de Salud Musculoesquelética & EULAR*

Prof Carmona was trained both as a rheumatologist (Hospital de la Princesa, Madrid) and then as a clinical epidemiologist (UCSF, San Francisco). She earned her PhD in Epidemiology with a national survey on rheumatic diseases. From 2001-2010 she worked at the Spanish Medicines Agency, as NHS researcher, as full-time rheumatologist (Hospital Clinico San Carlos), and directed the Research Unit of the Spanish Foundation of Rheumatology. At present, she teaches at several universities, and directs the Institute for Musculoskeletal Health. She has over 130 publications and participates in many Spanish and European projects, among which is the eumusc.net.

Dr Peter Carter
*European Federation of Nurses*

Dr Peter Carter was Chief Executive of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) in the UK from January 2007 until August 2015 and Member of the Board of the European Federation of Nurses (EFN). Before assuming the post at the RCN, Dr Carter spent almost twelve years as the Chief Executive of the Central and North West London NHS Trust (CNWL). Dr Carter commenced his career by training as a psychiatric nurse at Hill End Hospital in St Albans for three years. He moved on to work at the then regional adolescent unit at Hill End Hospital, where he undertook further training in family therapy and crisis intervention. He is also a general nurse and trained at St Albans City Hospital and the Institute of Urology in London. In addition, he has held a number of clinical and managerial posts in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and London.
Dr Carter is a graduate and a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. He has a Master’s Degree in Business Administration and a PhD, both from the University of Birmingham.

Takis Hadjigeorgiou

*Member of the European Parliament*

Takis Hadjigeorgiou is a Cypriot Member of the European Parliament (AKEL Party) and Vice Chair of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Delegation. Moreover, he takes part in the Committees of Foreign Affairs and Petition. Takis Hadjigeorgiou was born in Cyprus in 1956. After having finished his studies in law and journalism in Athens he moved back to Cyprus where he worked successfully as a journalist, focusing mainly on controversial issues related to the history of Cyprus. In 1996 he was elected Member of the House of Representatives. He was re-elected at the parliamentary elections of May 2001 and May 2006. He was elected Member of the European Parliament in 2009 and re-elected in 2014. Apart from his political career, Mr Hadjigeorgiou works as a philosopher and writer. Within the last few years he has published two poetry collections and a book related to his journalism career.

David Hubert

*Healthcare Professional Crossing Borders & EU Policy Consultant*

David Hubert is an EU policy consultant with extensive experience of the EU Qualifications Directive. Mr Hubert lobbied on behalf of healthcare regulators to include more patient safety provisions in the review of the Directive which was modernised in 2013. In this context he has built and managed the EU networks of nursing and midwifery competent authorities, and as such has contributed to creating common positions amongst EU regulators. Since then he has advised on the implementation of the Qualifications Directive into national rules in the UK, France and Ireland. In addition to this Mr Hubert has recently been selected as an expert for an EU Commission TAIEX mission on the regulation of nurses and midwives in Serbia. As an independent adviser and expert, Mr Hubert is very aware of the difficulties some organisations may find in interpreting and implementing EU legislation. In order to remedy this he has launched a startup called EU Monitr, a policy monitoring tool focused exclusively on EU health policy. Its aim is to make EU health policy more accessible and to encourage stakeholders to take part in the debates. Mr Hubert holds a degree in Political Sciences from the Université Catholique de Louvain and an LLM in Commercial Law from the University of Edinburgh.
Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous
Senior Policy Adviser at the European Patients’ Forum
Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous (MA) is Senior Policy Adviser at the European Patients’ Forum (EPF), having joined the organisation in 2010. She has a Master’s degree in International Relations (UK and Finland). She is responsible for the overall lead of EPF’s policy and advocacy work at EU level, including policy analysis; liaising with the EU institutions and stakeholders; and developing EPF’s policy positions in consultation with the membership. Specific areas of responsibility include patient empowerment and patient-centred chronic disease care; quality and safety of healthcare; health literacy; clinical trials; pharmaceuticals regulation; and cross-border healthcare. She is a member of the European Commission’s Expert Group on Patient Safety and Quality of Care, the European Medicines Agency’s Working Party with Patients and Consumers, and the PISCE Platform of Experts on Self-Care. Before joining EPF she worked in EU health policy, advocacy and external communications roles in both the private and NGO sectors.

Karin Kadenbach
Member of the European Parliament
Karin Kadenbach is an Austrian social democratic politician. She has been a member of the European Parliament since 2009. Within the Parliament, she is a member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development as well as the Committee on Budgetary Control. Additionally, Ms Kadenbach became Vice-President of the Animal Welfare Intergroup in July 2015. Prior to joining the European Parliament in 2009, she served for sixteen years as a municipal councilor in her municipality Großmugl and was a member of the Lower Austrian Regional Assembly for seven years. From 2007 to 2008, she was a regional minister holding the portfolio "health and nature protection" in the Lower Austrian Regional Assembly. After graduating in Advertising and Marketing at Vienna University of Economics and Business, she worked at J. W. Thompson advertising agency. Ms Kadenbach lives in Großmugl and Brussels and is a mother of five children.

Marios Kouloumas
EULAR Vice-President representing People with Arthritis/Rheumatism in Europe (PARE)
Mr Kouloumas was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 10. He has been working in the Public Sector since 1983, and from 1993 has been working at the Nicosia General Hospital. For the past 12 years he has been actively involved as a volunteer in the movement of people with RMDs, both at national and European level. He is President of the Cyprus League against Rheumatism and also EULAR Vice-President representing PARE. As of 2010 he has been appointed to the position of Executive
Director of Cyplar. He also participates in other organizations of chronic diseases and disabled patients. He participated in many conferences and workshops both in Cyprus and internationally.

Marc Lange  
**Secretary General at European Health Telematics Association**
Marc Lange has a Master degree in Law, Option Business and European Law. Mr Lange has been observing the progress of eHealth in Europe since 2003, from discovery to adoption and now to deployment. Thanks to his position as Secretary General of EHTEL, he is facilitating and contributing to exchange of good practice workshops and conferences involving eHealth experts from everywhere in Europe and beyond. He is also participating in EU-funded or co-funded projects. His current priorities are method and tools that enable assessing the impact of eHealth services and help to successfully deploy them in routine care. As Secretary General of EHTEL since 2005, Mr Lange is in charge of managing the daily operations of the association (including in their legal, financial and staffing aspects) and developing new business opportunities to reinforce the sustainability of the association. He reports directly to the Board of Directors. This position also includes the analysis of strategic opportunities for the association, their discussion with the Board and the execution of Board decisions. He is furthermore contributes as expert in various European Projects the association is engaged in.

Dr Lasse Lehtonen  
**University of Helsinki**
Dr Lasse Lehtonen works as the administrative chief physician of the Helsinki University Central Hospital. He is also a professor of health law in the Medical faculty of University of Helsinki. After graduating from medical school in 1986 Dr Lehtonen obtained his PhD in transplantation immunology in the University of Turku and specialized for clinical pharmacology. In addition to medical training he holds a doctorate in law from the University of Helsinki. Dr Lehtonen has authored or co-authored over 200 publications in immunology, clinical pharmacology or medical law with special interest on data protection and privacy issues in health care. He is well experienced in the issues of patient’s rights, patient safety and evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of health care methods and processes. Since 2013 he is a member in the Expert Panel on Effective ways of Investing in Health (EXPH) of European Commission and was chairing the working group of the Expert Panel on issues in cross-border cooperation.
Geoff Meade  
*Journalist*

Geoff Meade, of Meade Davis Communications, was Europe Editor of the Press Association, the UK national news agency, reporting on the EU for 35 years. He is also a well-known columnist who has featured in The Bulletin, European Voice, E!Sharp and Together magazine. He is also a European Correspondent for Deutsche Welle World Television, and a regular speaker and moderator at conferences and seminars on EU affairs.

Annika Nowak  
*Member of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety*

Annika Nowak became Member of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety in November 2014. Ms Nowak joined the European Commission in 2004, being the DG SANCO coordinator for relations to the European Parliament. Afterwards, she worked as a team leader in charge of the implementation of the cross-border healthcare Directive. Previously she worked as a parliamentary assistant to a Member of the European Parliament, specialising in food safety, public health and environment policy. Ms Nowak obtained a law degree at the Humboldt-University in Berlin.

Dr Terje Peetso  
*Programme Officer at DG Connect in the European Commission*

Dr Terje Peetso joined the Unit Health and Wellbeing in DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology in 2011. Her main responsibilities are related to the coordination of the implementation of the eHealth Action Plan 2012 -2020 as well as the overall coordination of the policy group in the Unit. In 2014 she was EU Fellow in the University of Southern California, USA, where her research focus was on the obstacles which hinder the introduction eHealth in healthcare systems. Dr Peetso has been working in the European Commission since 2003, starting as a Scientific Secretary in the Risk Assessment Unit in DG Health and Consumers. In 2006 she became a policy officer in the area of tobacco control in the same DG. Dr Peetso holds a diploma in medicine from the University of Tartu, Estonia.
Prof Anthony Redmond
Chair of Standing Committee on Health Professionals in Rheumatology at EULAR

Professor Anthony Redmond is Chair of EULAR Standing Committee for Health Professionals in Rheumatology. Prof Redmond qualified as a podiatrist in the UK in 1988 and after completing a PhD in neuromuscular medicine at the University of Sydney he returned to England and now contributes to a broader portfolio of research in rheumatology, orthopaedics and musculoskeletal medicine. He is Professor and Head of the Section of Clinical Biomechanics and Physical Medicine at the Leeds University Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, one of Europe’s largest and more productive rheumatology research institutes. In the UK he has been chair of ARMA, the UK’s umbrella body for organizations in the musculoskeletal community and has contributed to government and professional guidelines for NICE, the Royal College of GPs and the British Society for Rheumatology. In June 2015 he took over as chair of EULAR’s standing committee for health professionals, articulating an agenda based on effective advocacy for HPs across Europe, promotion of education to minimize unwarranted variations in care and developing a research agenda capitalizing on a welcome Europe-wide engagement with long term conditions.

Dr Michela Tinelli
Research Fellow at London School of Economics and Political Science

Dr Michela Tinelli is working as Research Associate/Fellow at the London School of Economics, where she is coordinating a series of evaluations of treatment experience, burden and unmet needs in chronic diseases under the direction of Dr Kanavos, Deputy Director of LSE Health. Current work includes the estimation of a paradigm shift in the management of multiple sclerosis in Europe and overseas. Previously she was involved in the EU funded ECAB project, looking into various issues relating to cross-border care in Europe. In particular, she led a series of research streams looking at: patient choice about their care, and public reporting on quality of care; assessment of scale of cross border care; and cross-border care policy implications. Before her appointments at LSE she was based at the University of Aberdeen, where she developed an interdisciplinary programme of research in Health Economics and Primary Care to investigate patient centred decision making in health care policy development.
Laura Valli

*Counsellor at Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU*

Laura Valli is counsellor for public health and pharmaceuticals at the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU. She is the current chair of the Public Health working party in the Council and highly involved in the planning and carrying out of the Luxembourg Presidency of the EU Council in the field of health. She previously worked in the Ministry of Health in Luxembourg and has professional experience in various areas of journalism, including radio, online and print. She has a Master’s degree in political science from the University of Cologne, with a focus on international relations and EU affairs.

Prof Thea Vliet Vlieland

*Leiden University Medical Center & EULAR*

Thea Vliet Vlieland is Professor at the Department of Orthopaedics of the Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands. Her area of research concerns the development, evaluation and implementation of interventions to improve the quality of care for patients with rheumatic and musculoskeletal conditions. Her work is particularly aimed at the optimization of non-pharmacological and non-surgical interventions, including enhancement of education for health professionals. She works in close collaboration with patients as research partners. From 2011-2013 she was chair of the Standing Committee of Health Professionals in Rheumatology of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR).

Dieter Wiek

*Chair of EULAR Standing Committee of PARE*

Dieter Wiek developed serious rheumatoid arthritis symptoms at the age of 17 which had a great impact on his schooling and adolescence. He was diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis six years later when the rheumatic disease manifested itself. Mr Wiek worked as a grammar school teacher for almost 40 years and retired in 2012. About 30 years ago he founded a local patient organisation with others affected by RA and AS and has since then worked as a volunteer for Deutsche Rheuma-Liga. He was a board member and President of Deutsche Rheuma-Liga NRW, a state organisation with 46,000 members, and he is still a board member of the national organisation. After the EULAR Congress in Rome in 2015 he became the Chairman of the EULAR Standing Committee of PARE.
Dr Matthias Wismar
Senior Health Policy Analyst at European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
Dr Matthias Wismar holds a doctorate in political sciences. He is a Health Policy Analyst at the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. He has been technical consultant, and member of scientific advisory boards on the supranational, national and regional level. Currently, his research focuses on health impact assessment and on good governance and stewardship in terms of health policy formulation and implementation. His research interests cover a wide range of topics including European integration, mental health, health care policy and health promotion and prevention. Before joining the Observatory he was the head of the health policy unit at the public health department of Medical School Hannover.

Prof Anthony Woolf
EULAR & University of Exeter and Plymouth
Prof Woolf is Professor of Rheumatology, University of Exeter Medical School; and Consultant Rheumatologist, Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro, UK. He is Chair of the Bone and Joint Decade 2010-2020, the global alliance for musculoskeletal health that is working to raise priority for musculoskeletal conditions. He co-leads the Musculoskeletal Expert Group that has recently revised the Global Burden of Disease Study; co-chairs the WHO Musculoskeletal Topic Advisory Group revising ICD 10 and leads the European Musculoskeletal Surveillance and Information Network (eumusc.net), an initiative supported by the European Community to promote a comprehensive strategy for musculoskeletal conditions across Europe.