

## **EULAR Study Group on OA (SGOA)**

The purpose of the EULAR Study Group on OA (SGOA) is to encourage wider communication within the EULAR for scientists and clinicians with a specific interest in the etiopathogenesis of OA and to build an international network to facilitate collaboration and to exchange knowledge within Europe. The group aims to promote fundamental and translational research, from molecule to population, on the etiopathogenesis of OA with the ultimate goal to develop effective therapies for OA to diminish the OA-related burden for man and society. The group provides an encouraging and open forum that enables scientist and clinicians to stimulate EU collaborations. The group intends to assemble annually at the EULAR & EWRR meetings and communicates electronically in between meetings as required.

### **The specific aims of the study group on OA are:**

1. To integrate different know-how and skills to study the pathophysiology of the OA disease process
2. To exchange knowledge and to standardize both in vitro and in vivo models used to study OA pathobiology
3. To develop intervention protocols based upon an understanding of and targeting of validated OA disease mechanisms
4. To provide a forum for the OA research community across the EULAR member countries to share ideas and identify priorities

The foundation members of the SGOA were:

Peter van der Kraan, PhD (Netherlands) – study group leader  
Rik Lories, MD, PhD (Belgium)  
Francis Berenbaum, MD, PhD (France)  
Tonia Vincent, MD, PhD (United Kingdom)  
Ingrid Meulenbelt, PhD (Netherlands)  
Aspasia Tsezou, PhD (Greece)  
Cosimo de Bari (United Kingdom)  
Francisco Blanco, MD, PhD (Spain)  
Joyce van Meurs (Netherlands)  
John Loughlin, PHD (United Kingdom)  
Floris Lafeber, PhD (Netherlands)  
Eeva Moilanen, PhD (Finland)

The study group is open for new members continually and we hope to expand the network and encourage wider representation from more EULAR member countries as far as possible.

For further information please contact the convenor Dr. Peter van der Kraan  
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