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What is a Health Professional (HP) in EULAR terms?

For the purposes of involvement with EULAR activities a “Health Professional” will meet the following criteria:

• Is a professional involved in the care of people with musculoskeletal and related conditions

• Is not a registered medical practitioner

• Is eligible to be a member of the organization through which a country has become a EULAR HP member
The origins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Unofficial Standing Committee of Allied Health Professionals established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Standing Committee of HP officially ratified by General Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Scientific Subcommittee, first Annual Research Grant, first Course Organising Grant, first Educational Visit Bursaries</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>First EULAR Vice President of HP</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>HP meetings incorporated in Annual European Congress of Rheumatology</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>First membership of national HP organisations: Switzerland and UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>First Strategic HP Winter Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>HP Educational Subcommittee 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>School of Rheumatology, HP classroom</td>
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</table>
EULAR – Three Pillars

- People with RMDs
- Health Professionals
- Medical Doctors
  Scientists
Structure of HP within EULAR

EULAR Standing Committee of the Health Professionals
- 23 delegates from national member associations
- Educational Subcommittee
- Scientific Subcommittee
- Communications
EULAR HP today

Leadership

• Vice President: Prof. Christina Opava, Sweden
• Vice President Elect: Prof. Tanja Stamm, Austria
• Chair of Standing Committee: Dr. Annette de Thurah, Denmark
• Past chair of Standing Committee: Prof. Anthony Redmond, UK
Membership 2016: associations from 23 countries

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
France
Hungary
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Serbia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom
The HP Membership Directory
HP are part of the EULAR strategic plan 2017

Objective 1 – Research
Objective 2 – Education
Objective 3 – Congress
Objective 4 – Advocacy
Objective 5 – Standards of care
Objective 6 – Profile
Objective 7 – National relations
### HP strategic objectives for 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objective 1</th>
<th>Strategic objective 2</th>
<th>Strategic objective 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By 2017, EULAR will have increased the quantity and quality of HP-led research projects and strengthened patient participation.</td>
<td>By 2017, EULAR will have strengthened education for patients and health professionals by developing tailored materials and improving access.</td>
<td>By 2017, EULAR will have developed and implemented a communication and PR strategy to address the individual needs of patients, physicians/researchers, health professionals, and corporate members.</td>
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Specific HP strategic objectives for 2017

✓ Compile an online course for education of HP with a focus on nurses, physical and occupational therapists.

• Funding a minimum of 2 research projects aimed at the improvement of the quality/effectiveness of non-pharmacological care in RMDs

✓ Encourage local initiatives for establishing the foundation of 10 new national HP organizations in rheumatology and thus enabling them to become official members of EULAR

✓ Establish at least 2 sets of evidence-based recommendations for the non-pharmacological management of common rheumatologic conditions

• Strengthen the communication with HPs in rheumatology in all European member states, including reaching out to non-English speaking HPs
Annual HP Strategic Winter Meeting

- Joint annual meeting of the Educational and Scientific Subcommittees
- Held in December in a European city
- Discussion of strategic matters for HP research, education and communication
- Development of action plan for the next twelve months
- Participants:
  - HP leadership
  - Members of the two subcommittees
  - Selected Presidents of national member associations
HP Scientific Subcommittee

- Works towards EULAR goals
- Strategic work related to
  - Research grant
  - EULAR projects
  - Congress program
  - HP programs (e.g. mentorship)
Annual EULAR HP Research Grant

- EULAR funding up to a maximum of EUR 30,000

Recent grant topics:

- 2014: *Psychometric testing of the valued life activities scale and measure of activity performance in the hand in people with rheumatoid arthritis*
- 2015: *Physical activity and aerobic capacity assessment - a survey among patients and health professionals in Sweden, Ireland, Denmark and Belgium*
- 2016: *Toward standardized reporting of most commonly used patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) to enhance comparability*
Our currently on-going projects

- Development of core educational curriculum for HPs in rheumatology: the first steps
  *led by Professor Thea Vliet Vlieland, NL*

- The HPRs’ approach to pain management in inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis
  *led by Professor Rinie Geenen, NL - in liaison with ARHP*

- Development of recommendations/points to consider for physical activity in people with inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis *led by Professor Karin Niedermann, CH*
Annual European Congress of Rheumatology

• Scientific and practical sessions
  ▪ Specific HP sessions
  ▪ Joint sessions with patients (PARE)
  ▪ Joint sessions with rheumatologists/researchers

• Standing Committee meeting for member delegates

• Sub Committee meeting

• Study Group meetings

• Meeting with American ARHP leadership

• Networking with HPs, patients, researchers from around the world
EULAR Awards for HP

EULAR Abstract Award

• Three Abstract Awards to the first authors of HP abstracts submitted to the EULAR Annual European Congress

• Winners selected by HPs of EULAR Scientific Committee based on quality

EULAR Meritorious Service Award

• Award for outstanding lifetime achievements in rheumatology

• Originally for rheumatologists and researchers only

• Since 2016 also for HP
The subcommittee currently focuses on five areas:

- Identification of Health Professionals’ (HP) educational needs.
- Development of a comprehensive and evidence-based curriculum addressing the varying needs of HPs in EULAR.
- Development of a tiered competency framework that allows assessment and certification against agreed standards.
- Development of an implementation plan to maximize access to and uptake of educational resources provided by EULAR such as materials and activities included in the strategy.
- Evaluation of the uptake and impact of the strategy.
HP in the EULAR School of Rheumatology

The pre-eminent provider and facilitator of high-quality education for physicians, health professionals in rheumatology, and people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases

• EULAR Online Course for HP

• EULAR Teach the Teacher Course for HP
• (held 3 times)

• EULAR HP Recommendations for:
  ▪ The role of the nurse in inflammatory arthritis
  ▪ The core non-pharmacological management of hip and knee osteoarthritis
  ▪ Patient education for patients with inflammatory arthritis
  ▪ Points to consider for health professionals undertaking musculoskeletal ultrasound for RMDs
EULAR Online Course for the Health Professionals

• Aimed at nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists

• 8 modules:
  ▪ 4 disease-specific: RA; OA; fibromyalgia; regional musculoskeletal pain syndromes
  ▪ 4 generic: assessment and evaluation; interventions; psychosocial approaches; evidence-based practice

• Integration of multi-disciplinary perspective of the treatment of rheumatic diseases

• Course fee: EUR 100

• Course starts in September each year
HP Educational Visits Programme

- 10 bursaries per year for educational visits of HP working in rheumatology

- Objective
  - To improve the standard of research and care among HP in rheumatology
  - To foster collaboration across clinical institutions in Europe

- Amount of bursary varies between EUR 750 and 1,500

- Application deadlines are 31 March and 30 September each year
HP Study Groups (SG)

= groups of people committed to activities and scientific networking on a specific topic under EULAR endorsement

- Nurse Research and Strategy SG
- Clinical Nurse SG
- Physical Activity and Therapeutic Exercise Study Group
- Psychology SG
- Foot and Ankle SG
- SG on Patient Education
HP engagement in European public affairs

- Participation in EULAR Public Affairs Group defining and managing EULAR public affairs and lobbying activities on European level

- Participation in EULAR Annual Public Affairs Conference in Brussels dealing with a specific topic each year and attended by high-level EU politicians and leaders
  - 2014: Analysing how to reduce the Access Barriers to Health Care for People with Chronic Diseases in Europe. Challenges, good practices and policy options for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases
  - 2015: Towards more integrated health care in Europe. Strengthening patients` access to cross-border care and enhancing health professionals` mobility
  - 2016: Reducing the burden of chronic diseases in the workplace. New policies for better working conditions and the retention of ill people at work

- Participation in national public affairs events or activities organised by patient organisations in collaboration with EULAR PARE
World Arthritis Day, 12 October

• Global awareness raising and action day.

• EULAR takes a leading role in promoting international activities for and on that day.

• Each year WAD is intended to promote a different aspect of living with a rheumatic or musculoskeletal disease and encourage action.

• Topic 2016:
Our collaboration with the American ARHP

• **Goal**
  - Join efforts to improve the health of people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases through high quality health care science and clinical practice

• **Current activity**
  - Joint congress sessions
  - Collaboration in developmental project
  - Participation of HP in the ACR/EULAR exchange program
For more information on EULAR HP

EULAR website

EULAR on your favorite social media channels

www.eular.org
For more information on EULAR HP

Read the HP Newsletter
Thank you for your attention!

www.eular.org