



EULAR On-line Course on Systemic Sclerosis

Start each September

(Completion and final exam in June, 2nd year extension possible)

- 6 months of educational training on Systemic Sclerosis entirely on line
- More than 80 faculty members mainly from Europe and US
- 10 Modules corresponding to roughly 50 hours of study
- Regular evaluation of knowledge, final examination on line and certificate given by EULAR if passed
- Course fee: 175€ (100 € for countries with a GDP per capita below 10,000\$)
- registration: <https://b-com.mci-group.com/Registration/EULARSSC12.aspx>
- Reduced price on EULAR Textbook on Rheumatic Diseases for participants

MODULE 1: Introduction Module

- Core material**
- a. Systemic sclerosis (diagnosis, differential diagnosis, evaluation of lab tests);
 - b. Localized scleroderma;
 - c. Epidemiology;
 - d. Activity;
 - e. Severity, damage
- In-depth discussion 1:** Role of autoantibodies in the differential diagnosis in SSc.
- In-depth discussion 2:** Differential diagnosis of scleroderma like disorders. Environmental provoking factors
- Interactive clinical case 1:** Typical severe diffuse SSc patient with multiple organ involvement. Follow up, regular evaluation of disease activity
- Interactive clinical case 2:** Late limited SSc with complications (ulcer, PAH, GI)
(Treatment excluded)

MODULE 2: Pathogenesis

- Core material**
- a. Synthesis: early and late pathological events in scleroderma
 - b. Endothelial - vascular changes;
 - c. Fibrosis;
 - d. Immunological changes
 - e. Autoantibodies, autoimmunity;
 - f. Genetics
- In-depth discussion 1:** Potential vascular and fibrosis targets for drug intervention
- In-depth discussion 2:** Potential immunological targets for drug intervention
- Interactive clinical case 1:** Typical early, severe diffuse SSc patient – skin biopsy findings and their relationship to pathogenesis
- Interactive clinical case 2:** Case history of a SSc patient underwent to ABMT

MODULE 3: Clinical manifestations: skin, peripheral vascular

- Core material**
- a. Skin involvement;
 - b. Raynaud phenomenon
 - c. Macro- and microvasculopathy, ulcers, gangrene
- In-depth discussion 1:** Assessment of skin involvement
- In-depth discussion 2:** Assessment tools of microvasculopathy
- Interactive clinical case 1:** SSc case with severe Raynaud's phenomenon and ulcers
- Interactive clinical case 2:** Case history of a patient with lower limb necrosis

MODULE 4: Heart involvement

- Core material** a. Clinical consequences of functional and pathologic changes;
b. Diastolic dysfunction, Arrhythmia, conduction abnormalities;
c. Ischemic disease, vasospasm; d. Pericarditis
- In-depth discussion 1:** Non-invasive and invasive assessment of heart involvement
- In-depth discussion 2:** Heart MRI
- Interactive clinical case 1:** SSc case with severe diastolic impairment
- Interactive clinical case 2:** Case history of a patient arrhythmia

MODULE 5: Pulmonary interstitial/vascular involvement

- Core material** a. ILD; b. PAH
- In-depth discussion 1:** Assessment of pulmonary interstitial involvement
- In-depth discussion 2:** Assessment of PAH
- Interactive clinical case 1:** SSc case with severe and progressive ILD and PH associated ILD
- Interactive clinical case 2:** Case history of a SSc-PAH patient with VOD

MODULE 6: Clinical manifestations: GI

- Core material** a. Oral, astro-esophageal;
b. Small Intestinal involvement;
c. Intestinal-colon, anal
- In-depth discussion 1:** Assessment of GI involvement
- In-depth discussion 2:** Cause and consequences of decreased motility
- Interactive clinical case 1:** SSc case with severe bacterial overgrowth
- Interactive clinical case 2:** Case history of a patient with pseudo obstruction

MODULE 7: Clinical manifestations: Kidney

- Core material:** a. Clinical characteristics and pathology of kidney involvement
- In-depth discussion 1:** Provoking factors, assessment of kidney involvement
- In-depth discussion 2:** Characteristics of normotensive scleroderma renal crisis
- Interactive clinical case 1:** SSc case with a sudden onset of scleroderma renal crisis
- Interactive clinical case 2:** Case report of a normotensive scleroderma renal crisis

MODULE 8: Clinical manifestations: Musculoskeletal, disability

- Core material** a. Joint involvement, synovitis;
b. Muscle involvement in SSc; Scleroderma- myositis overlap syndromes;
c. Hand function in SSc;
d. Pain, fatigue, Quality of life, disability
- In-depth discussion 1:** Instruments for the evaluation of disability, QUOL, hand function, muscle strength
- In-depth discussion 2:** Characteristics of the different forms of muscle involvement
- Interactive clinical case 1:** SSc case with synovitis and joint destruction
- Interactive clinical case 2:** Case history of a patient with scleroderma-myositis overlap

MODULE 9: Management

- Core material** a. Strategy in patient management;
b. Patient education and lifestyle advices;
c. Rehabilitation (including hands);
d. Potential DMARDS;



- e. Vasodilators;
- f. Immunosuppression and HSCT

In-depth discussion 1: Treatment options for PAH:

In-depth discussion 2: Cyclophosphamide treatment for interstitial lung involvement

Interactive clinical case 1: SSc patient with PAH

Interactive clinical case 2: A SSc patient treated with cyclophosphamide for interstitial lung involvement

MODULE 10: Special conditions

- Core material**
- a. Life threatening conditions, emergencies;
 - b. Pregnancy, gynecological problems;
 - c. Early scleroderma, prescleroderma:based assessment

In-depth discussion 1: Erectile dysfunction

In-depth discussion 2: Systemic sclerosis sine scleroderma

Interactive clinical case 1: Patient with a very early scleroderma

Interactive clinical case 2: A SSc patient suffering from severe erosive arthritis