Annual report

Study Groups

Title of the study group: Annual progress report EULAR Clinical Nurse Study Group

Study Group Leader’s name: Jenny de la Torre-Aboki

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Summary of last year’s activities

The EULAR Clinical Nurse Study Group promotes nursing collaboration on key clinical and developmental issues in nursing. This is achieved by providing an encouraging and open forum that enables nurses new to EULAR or the field to gain confidence in preparing and presenting audits, papers and presentations.

The main objectives for the EULAR Clinical Nurse Study Group are:
- To create a network of European nurses for sharing information, clinical experience and collaboration.
- To share and critically appraise nursing projects and best practices presented by the nurse involved.
- To provide a platform and a forum for nurses to discuss key nursing issues in a supportive and educational format.
- Act as a vital resource for nurses new to EULAR or to the speciality providing information on awards and bursaries, training courses, e-learning and network with nurses in other member countries

For achieving this objectives a first official meeting was held during the EULAR Congress in Madrid the Friday 14th of June 2013.
For organizing this meeting a general invitation was made for all nurses in Europe and the American College of Rheumatologist Health Professionals interested in sharing and discuss their projects with other colleagues.

Depending on the content of the presentations received and after achieving a consensus between each group leaders, the authors were invited to present their work in the Nurses Clinical Study Group or in the Nurse Research and Strategy Group (REST).

Eventually, the meeting agenda was the following:
08:00-08:05 Opening and welcome (Jenny de la Torre-Aboki)
08:05-08:20 Nurse-led tight control within patients with RA and high disease activity receiving person centred care compared to “care as usual” (Ulrika Bergsten)
08:20-08:35 EULAR recommendations for rheumatology nurses: making guidelines a Reality (Deborah Palmer and Dr. El-Miedany)
08:35-08:50 Developments and future developments of Portuguese rheumatology nurses (Andréa Marqués)
08:50-08:55 An Update on Rheumatology Nursing in the United States (Victoria Ruffing)
08:55 – 09:00 Discussion

The meeting was attended by approximately 55 nurses, most of them also attended the REST nurses study group meeting. The presentations were open for discussion and there were questions in between. The spirit during the meeting was enthusiastic and there was willingness to share knowledge and ideas, and to collaborate in future activities. All presentations were available for the participants so that they could have access to the references and slides. However, some attendees mentioned to us that the room was too small and the number of chairs and drinks was not sufficient. This fact might be taken into account for the next year meeting.

During this year other activities have been done:
- A networking list have been organized and is regularly updated
- A network group has created via linked in.
- New topics for next years meeting have been suggested and will be discussed.
- The study group is open for any new applicant at all times and we hope to expand the network and encourage wider representation from all European members where possible.