

Biennial report

Study Groups

Title of the study group: Foot and Ankle Study Group

Study Group Leader's name: Dr Lindsey Cherry

Date of annual report submission: 18th march 2020

Summary of last year's activities:

This year saw the group thank Dr Gabi Gijon for his leadership over the past years and welcoming of Dr Lindsey Cherry as new group lead. The foot and ankle study group has continued to expand its membership over the past year, welcoming six new members from four countries. The group now has over 46 members from 11 nations, representing patient partners and at least seven disciplines.

The primary group aim remains to provide a supportive and collegiate environment to enable communication within the EULAR family for those with an interest in foot and ankle care; with the group holding five virtual meetings in the last year and additional meetings held by project sub-teams as required. The group have successfully transitioned to the use of a new technology platform (Microsoft Teams), which is freely available to all members, to facilitate greater participation in virtual meetings, document sharing or between meeting discussion. The group also aims to encourage greater participation during the annual EULAR congress, and held a dedicated meeting for members during the 2019 Congress programme.

Across the year, the group members have individually and collectively been involved in a range of educational, clinical or research/ improvement projects focussed around foot health. In keeping with one of the groups' objectives a session proposal for Congress was submitted that reflected a key strand of this activity. Although unsuccessful on this occasion, the group are continuing to refine the proposal with a view to re-submitting in the coming year.

Another key activity highlight is the publication in *Musculoskeletal Care* of the groups research project 'An international survey about the provision of rheumatic foot health care'¹, led by Dr Begonya Alcacer-Pitarch. Having reached this milestone, the group is continuing to develop the next phase of the programme, which seeks to expand the survey to include health care professional and patient responses about rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease (RMD) foot health care. This research is related to the study group's objective to identify and reduce unjustifiable variation in foot and ankle care and aligns with EULAR's RheumaMap.

Simultaneously the group are developing a research proposal that focuses on international harmonisation of RMD clinical outcome measures for the foot and ankle, led by Dr Gabriel Gijon. Through this work, our group members have also collaborated with the international 'OMERACT foot and ankle' project, led by UK Podiatrist and group member Lara Chapman, to look at harmonisation of a core outcome set for foot and ankle disorders for people with RMD.

Looking to the future, the group aims to continue to act as a collaborative and supportive environment for those working in the field of rheumatic foot health across Europe. The collegial spirit of the group is helping its' members to plan a range of future education, improvement or research activities. The group also continues to arrange an annual face to face meeting, to be held at congress, as well as supporting its' members to develop session proposals or contribute to the study groups poster.

1. Alcacer-Pitarch B, Backhouse M R, Gijon-Nogeron G, et al. 2019. Provision of foot and ankle care services for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease across Europe. *Musculoskeletal Care*. 18 (1): 12-19.