Patient involvement in research projects improves the quality of study designs and leads to a more efficient implementation and evaluation of research findings. It increases the credibility of research projects and often to more cost-effective health care services. This all results in better health outcomes for patients as well as a higher quality of life for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

The network of EULAR patient research partner (PRPs) comprises 59 PRPs (January 2018). The network has established itself as a reliable source of trained and dedicated research partners. The number of projects in and outside of EULAR in which PRPs actively participate has expanded dramatically over recent years (Fig. 1). The EULAR Patient Research Partners network is coordinated by the EULAR Secretariat.

EULAR Recommendations: Lay versions

Since 2014, EULAR provides English lay summaries of its disease management recommendations. EULAR calls on all interested organisations to disseminate the lay summaries and encourages the translation into the respective, national language. For EULAR it is essential that the dissemination of the lay versions of the recommendations reach patient organisations, as well as healthcare professionals, in order to support patients and carers in managing their disease. The lay versions are reviewed by PRPs. View them at: https://www.eular.org/lay_recommendations.cfm