

EULAR Study Group on OA (SGOA)

The purpose of the EULAR Study Group on OA (SGOA) is to encourage wider communication within EULAR for scientists and clinicians with a specific interest in the etiopathogenesis of OA and to build an international network to facilitate collaboration and to exchange knowledge within Europe. The group aims to promote fundamental and translational research, from molecule to population, on the etiopathogenesis of OA with the ultimate goal to develop effective therapies for OA to diminish the OA-related burden for man and society. This group provides an encouraging and open forum that enables scientists and clinicians to stimulate EU based collaborations. The group intends to assemble annually at the EULAR & EWRR meetings and communicates electronically in between meetings as required.

The specific aims of the study group on OA are:

1. To provide a forum for the OA research community across the EULAR member countries to share ideas and identify priorities
2. To foster exchange of knowledge and skills to study the pathophysiology of OA disease processes
3. To integrate different expertise and to standardize both in vitro and in vivo models used to study OA pathobiology
4. To develop intervention protocols based upon an understanding and targeting of validated OA disease mechanisms

The foundation members of the SGOA are:

Jo Sherwood, (Germany) – study group leader
Peter van der Kraan, PhD (Netherlands)
Rik Lories, MD, PhD (Belgium)
Francis Berenbaum, MD, PhD (France)
Tonia Vincent, MD, PhD (United Kingdom)
Ingrid Meulenbelt, PhD (Netherlands)
Aspasia Tsezou, PhD (Greece)
Cosimo de Bari (United Kingdom)
Francisco Blanco, MD, PhD (Spain)
Joyce van Meurs (Netherlands)
John Loughlin, PHD (United Kingdom)
Floris Lafeber, PhD (Netherlands)
Eeva Moilanen, PhD (Finland)

The study group is open for new members continually and looks forward to expanding the network via forthcoming EULAR meetings, encouraging wider representation from both junior and senior researchers from all EULAR member countries.

For further information please contact the convenor Dr. Jo Sherwood (sherwood@uni-muenster.de)