

## Examples of eligible topic areas and research questions

### Diagnosis

- Methods for earlier diagnosis of common RMDs
  - Identification of at-risk individuals, including tools for population screening
  - Demonstration of subclinical or minimally clinical disease activity
- Improved diagnostics of uncommon and rare RMDs.
  - Better serological markers
  - Refinements and innovation in imaging
- Methods to improved diagnosis of RMDs due to incorporation of highly sensitive diagnostic techniques such as ultrasonography or magnetic resonance imaging into routine care.

### Treatment and Therapies

- Methods for developing reliable biomarkers to enable personalized medicine.
- Methods to develop innovative, safer, and more efficacious therapies.
- Improvements in clinical trials methodologies
- Improvements in outcomes measures
- Improvements in safety monitoring of existing and novel therapies
- Refine existing research tools and better adapt them to overcome the obstacles created by the heterogeneity of RMD manifestations, particularly in systemic RMDs such as SLE and Sjögren Syndrome.

### Access to care

- Methods to improve prompt access to high-quality care, ideally in specialised centres for people with RMDs, thus, maximising long-term quality of life.

### Quality improvement

- Strategies for clinical routine and a better understanding of quality problems and practical tools to assure ongoing improvements of clinical outcomes, e.g., use of electronic clinical quality measures (eQMs) in RMDs.
- Methods to develop user-oriented functionality of EHRs to avoid cumbersome documentation, incorrect or repetitive data, and lack of interoperability between systems of different physicians and health care providers can lead to reduced data quality.

### Implementation science

- Methods to guide health decision-makers on how to improve the use, uptake, or adoption of evidence-based recommended practices for RMDs.
- Methods to better understand the low adoption of best practices in RMD care and need to develop methods for studying the best ways of implementing evidence-based guidelines in different care settings across Europe. E.g., Young adults with paediatric rheumatic diseases experience poor healthcare transition outcomes.

- Support and care programs for chronic RMD patients, especially those who belong to vulnerable population groups (uninsured, economically weak, people with disabilities and residents of geographical areas that are hard to reach).

### **Economics**

- Methods for more accurate determination of the cost-effectiveness of RMD-related drugs and therapies.

### **Patient involvement**

- Innovative methods for better engaging people with RMDs in research, as they are experts in living with their condition and should be involved in the design, delivery, and evaluation of related research and health services.

### **AI-based algorithms**

- To enable standardisations of interpretation of diagnostic imaging.