

# eular

fighting rheumatic & musculoskeletal  
diseases together



Health Professionals in Rheumatology  
Updated Sep 2019



## Contents

- The origins, milestones and today
- Structure and organization within EULAR
- Membership 2019
- Strategic objectives 2019
- Strategic work
- Scientific Sub Committee
- Educational Sub Committee
- Collaborations
- Learn more about EULAR HPR



## EULAR Health Professionals in Rheumatology (HPR)

For the purposes of involvement with EULAR activities a “Health Professional in Rheumatology” will meet the following criteria:

- Is a professional involved in the care of people with musculoskeletal and related conditions
- Is not a registered medical practitioner
- Is eligible to be a member of the organization through which a country has become a EULAR HPR member



## Milestones

<b>1987</b>	Unofficial Standing Committee of Allied Health Professionals established
<b>1989</b>	Standing Committee of HPR officially ratified by General Assembly
<b>1995</b>	Scientific Subcommittee, first Annual Research Grant, first Course Organising Grant, first Educational Visit Bursaries
<b>1997</b>	First EULAR Vice President of HPR
<b>2000</b>	HPR meetings incorporated in Annual European Congress of Rheumatology
<b>2006</b>	First membership of national HPR organisations: Switzerland and UK
<b>2013</b>	First Strategic HPR Winter Meeting
<b>2014</b>	HPR Educational Subcommittee
<b>2016</b>	School of Rheumatology, HPR classroom



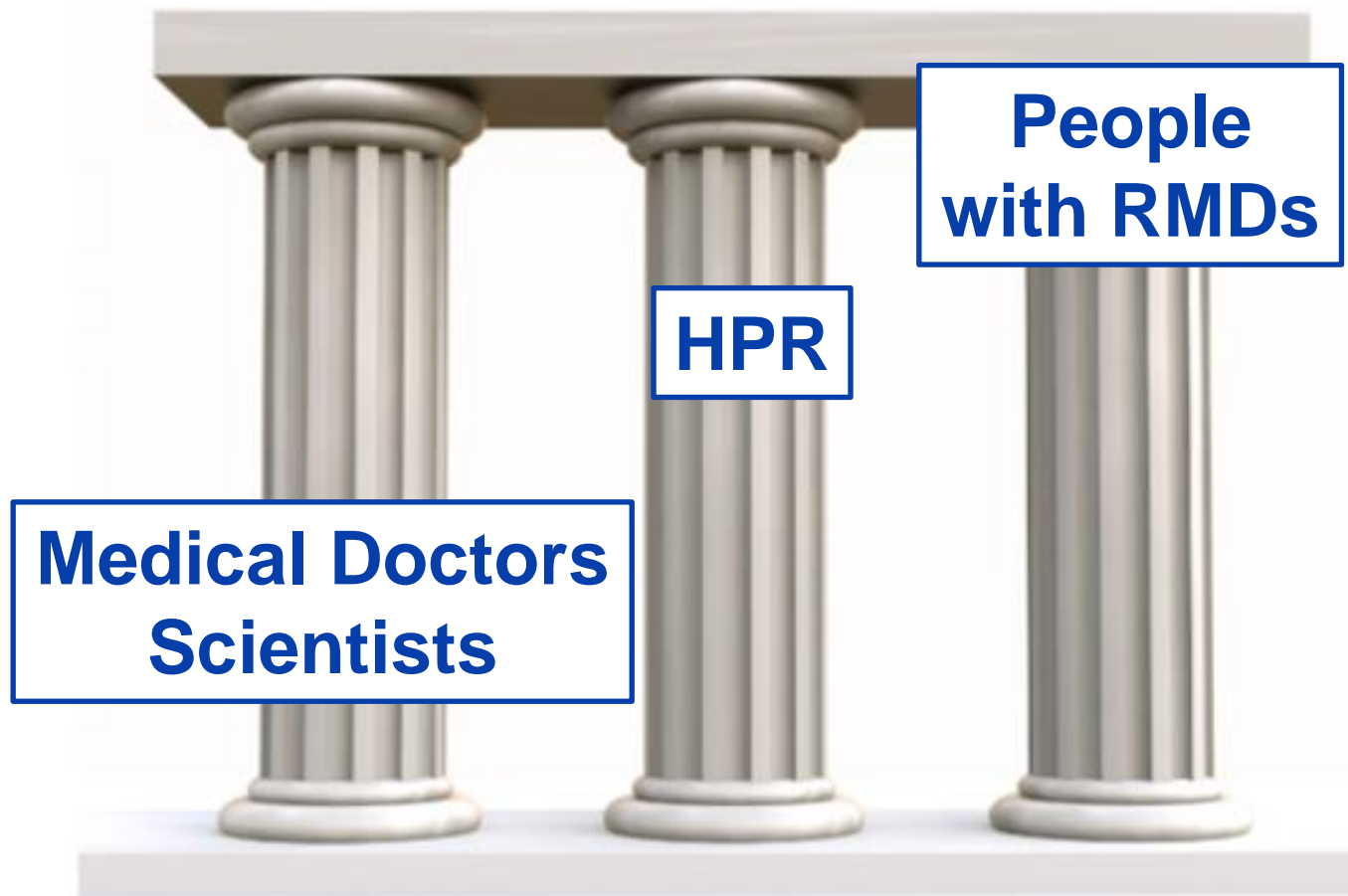
## EULAR HPR today

### Leadership

- Vice President: Prof. Tanja Stamm, Austria
- Chair of Standing Committee: Dr. Rikke Helene Moe, Norway
- Vice President elect: Prof Thea Vliet Vlieland, the Netherlands
- Chair elect of Standing Committee: Ricardo Ferreira, Portugal

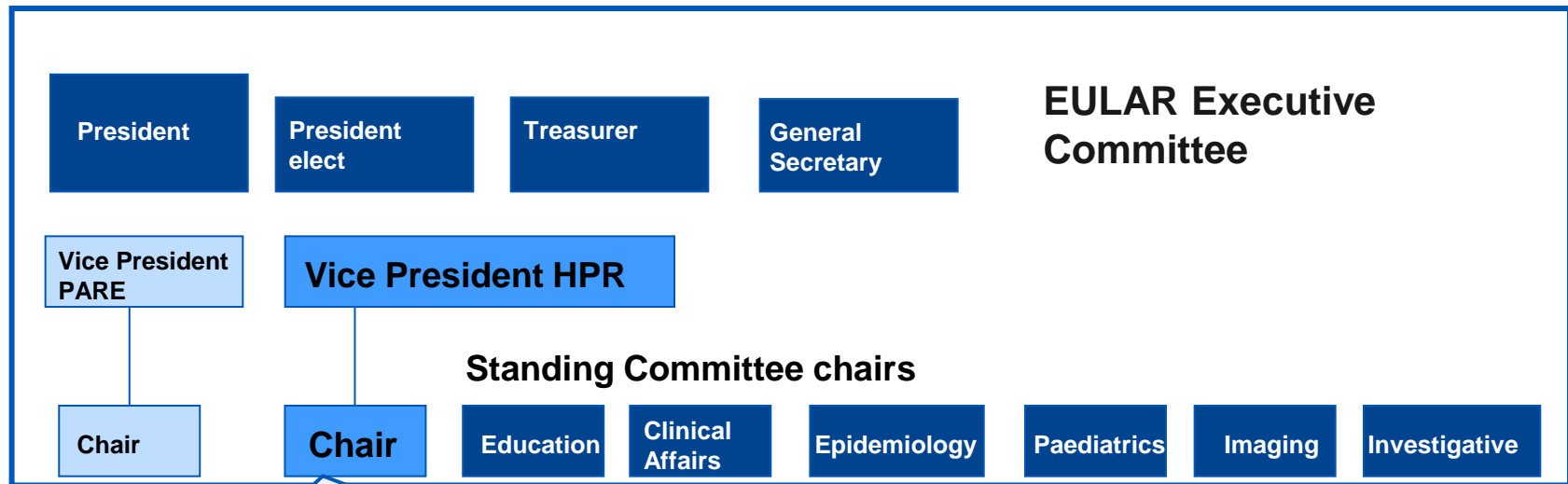


## EULAR – Three Pillars





## Structure of HPR within EULAR



**EULAR Standing Committee of HPR**

- 24 delegates from national member associations
- Educational Subcommittee
- Scientific Subcommittee
- Communications



## Membership 2019: associations from 24 countries



Austria



Belgium



Croatia



Cyprus



Czech  
Republic



Denmark



Finland



France



Germany



Hungary



Ireland



Slovenia



Italy



Malta



Netherlands



Norway



Poland



Portugal



Romania



Serbia



Spain



Sweden



Switzerland



United  
Kingdom



## Meet the national health professional delegates on EULAR's HPR Standing Committee

There are 25 formally ratified EULAR HPR organisations represented by their presidents or other nominated officials on the EULAR Standing Committee of Health Professionals in Rheumatology.

The national HPR delegates contribute to shaping health professional activities within EULAR.

The Committee, headed by Chair Rikke Helene Moe, Past Chair Annette de Thurah and EULAR Vice President representing health professionals in rheumatology Tanja Stamm, discusses ongoing projects and new proposals for the EULAR Executive Committee, initiates the health professional programme for the EULAR Annual European Congress of Rheumatology, and supports and reviews HPR membership applications.

Each year the Committee holds its annual meetings at the EULAR Congress. It has sub-committees and can also include other invited experts.

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Tanja Stamm: tanja.stamm@med.uni-wuerz.de

Annette de Thurah: annethur@rm.dk



For contact details of all the member organisations and nominated EULAR liaison personnel, please visit the EULAR website to find the most up-to-date information.  
[www.eular.org/health\\_professionals\\_membership.cfm](http://www.eular.org/health_professionals_membership.cfm)

### Editorial office

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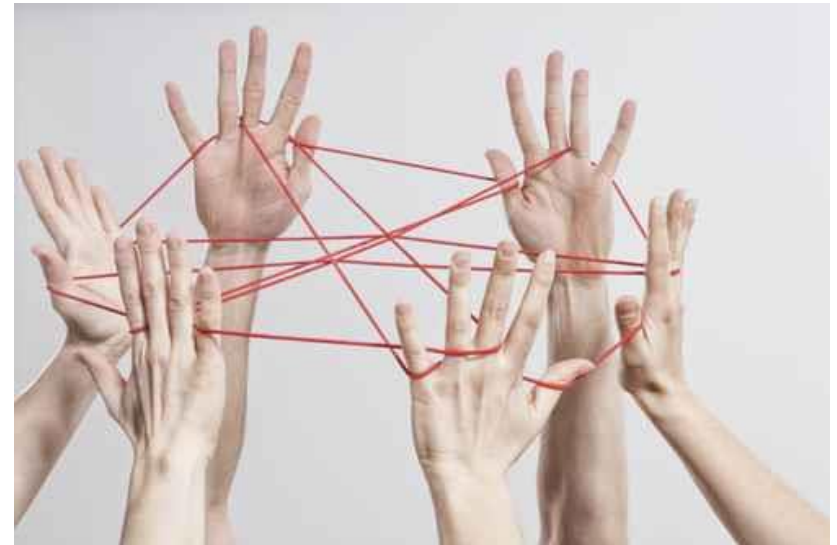
## HPR are part of the EULAR strategic plan 2018-23

1. ESOR: By 2023, EULAR will be the leading provider of education in rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs).
2. Congress: By 2023, EULAR will provide the foremost RMD congress experience, building on the heritage of our outstanding annual meeting.
3. QOC: By 2023, EULAR will deliver pre-eminent comprehensive quality of care (QOC) frameworks for the management of people with RMDs.
4. Research: By 2023, EULAR will have established a European centre for RMD research to advance high quality collaborative research.
5. Advocacy: By 2023, EULAR's activities and related advocacy will have increased participation in work by people with RMDs.
6. Governance, Infrastructure, Financials: By 2023, EULAR will have established governance, workflows and infrastructure to deliver the EULAR strategic objectives.



## HPR Scientific Subcommittee

- Works towards EULAR goals
- Strategic work related to
  - Research grant
  - EULAR projects
  - Congress
  - HPR programs (e.g. mentorship)





## Annual HPR Strategic Winter Meeting

- Joint annual meeting of the Educational and Scientific Subcommittees
- Held in December in a European city
- Discussion of strategic matters for HPR research, education and communication
- Development of action plan for the next twelve months
- Participants:
  - HPR leadership, and co-opted member
  - Members of the two subcommittees
  - Selected Presidents of national HPR member associations



## Annual EULAR HPR Research Grant

- EULAR funding up to a maximum of EUR 30,000
- Deadline ~ December 15

### Recent grant topics:

- *2017: Cross-cultural adaptation and psychometric testing of work patient reported outcome measures in people with rheumatoid arthritis in the UK, Sweden and the Czech Republic*
- *2018: Development and evaluation of a web-based interdisciplinary patient education programme on life style behaviour with a focus on promoting physical activity and exercise in patients with systemic sclerosis*
- *2019: Models of pain and fatigue in Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases*



## Our HPR EULAR projects just published

- HPR033: Development of EULAR recommendations for the Core Competencies of Health Professionals in Rheumatology, led by Thea Vliet Vlieland
- HPR036: Update of EULAR recommendations for the role of the nurse in the management of chronic inflammatory arthritis, led by Yvonne van Eijk Hustings



## Our currently on-going HPR EULAR projects

- HPR032: Update of EULAR points to consider/recommendations for the health professionals' prevention and management of osteoporotic fractures, Status: Manuscript preparation
- HPR037: EULAR points to consider/recommendations for the detection, assessment and management of non-adherence in people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. Led by: Loreto Carmona and Valentin Ritschel
- Status: Ongoing



## EULAR Strategy implementation projects I

- HPR039: Implementing Best practice for Hand Osteoarthritis - a communication project on hand osteoarthritis, led by Els vd Ende, Status: Preliminary Youtube version has been assessed, currently working on texting in different languages
- HPR040: Dissemination and assessing implementation of the EULAR recommendations for patient education for people with inflammatory arthritis across Europe, led by Mwidimi Ndosi and Heidi Zangi, Status: Ongoing
- HPR041: Empowered2work, in close collaboration with PARE/Public Affairs, led by Erika Mosor Status: champions are being educated





## EULAR Strategy implementation projects II

- HPR042: Implementation of EULAR Education for HPR in Eastern European countries, HEE4ALL, led by Thea Vliet Vlieland, Status: Under planning
- HPR043: EULAR HPR project, Implementation of Physical Activity into routine Clinical practice in Rheumatic Musculoskeletal Disease: The IMPACT-RMD study, led by George Metisos Staus: Ongoing
- HPR044: EULAR HPR Project Increasing work participation across Europe, led by Ross Wilkie Status: Ongoing



# Annual European Congress of Rheumatology

- Dedicated HPR Congress Program
  - Scientific and practical HPR sessions
    - Proposed full sessions
    - Abstract/poster sessions
  - Joint sessions with patients (PARE)
  - Joint sessions with rheumatologists/researchers
- Standing Committee meeting for member delegates
- Sub Committee meeting, Study group meetings, meeting with ARHP
- Networking with HPs, patients, researchers from around the world





## EULAR Travel bursaries

- For first/presenting author of oral or poster presentations
- Free registration (including one year free subscription to the ARD)
- Three nights hotel accommodation (single use), booked by EULAR
- Cash amount of 350 EUR for travel and living expenses
- Deadline March 31



## EULAR Awards for HPR

### **EULAR Abstract Award**

- Three Abstract Awards to the first authors of HPR abstracts submitted to the EULAR Annual European Congress
- Winners selected by HPR of EULAR Scientific Committee based on quality

### **EULAR Meritorious Service Award**

- Award for outstanding lifetime achievements in rheumatology
- Originally for rheumatologists and researchers only
- Since 2016 also for HPR



## HPR Educational Subcommittee

The subcommittee currently focuses on six areas:

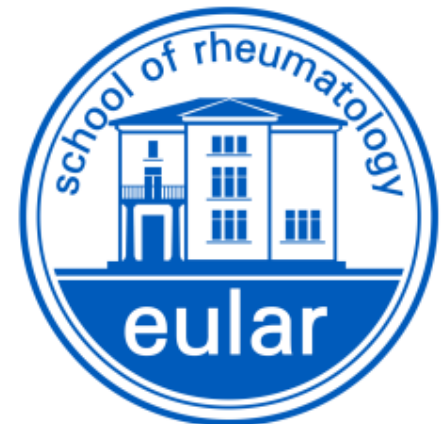
- Identification of HPR educational needs
- A comprehensive and evidence-based core curriculum which articulates with the wider EULAR strategy and maps on to the varying needs of HPR in EULAR
- A tiered competency framework to allow assessment and, as appropriate, certification against agreed standards
- A creative plan for maximizing access to and uptake of the resources provided by EULAR
- A formal implementation plan for the strategy and associated materials
- An evaluation of the uptake and impact of the strategy



## HPR in the EULAR School of Rheumatology

The pre-eminent provider and facilitator of high-quality education for physicians, health professionals in rheumatology, and people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases

- EULAR Online Course for HPR
- EULAR Teach the Teacher Course for HPR
- (held 3 times)
- EULAR HPR Recommendations for:
  - Core competencies for health professionals in rheumatology
  - The role of the nurse in inflammatory arthritis
  - The core non-pharmacological management of hip and knee osteoarthritis
  - Patient education for patients with inflammatory arthritis
  - Points to consider for health professionals undertaking musculoskeletal ultrasound for RMDs





## EULAR Online Course for the HPR

- Aimed at nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists
- 8 modules:
  - 4 disease-specific: RA; OA; fibromyalgia; regional musculoskeletal pain syndromes
  - 4 generic: assessment and evaluation; interventions; psychosocial approaches; evidence-based practice
- Integration of multi-disciplinary perspective of the treatment of rheumatic diseases
- Course fee: regular learner - 150EUR, EULAR School of Rheumatology member - 125 EUR. Course starts in September each year



## Current HPR Classroom projects

1. Update of the HPR online course. Convener: Thea Vliet Vlieland
2. Develop the HPR Pocket Primer from the online course with planned inclusion in the EULAR app in June 2020. Convener: Thea Vliet Vlieland
3. Plan in detail the HPR Postgraduate course in Madrid. Convener: Thea Vliet Vlieland
4. Develop the mentoring programme, with materials for mentees and mentors. Convener: Thea Vliet Vlieland





## HPR Educational Visits Programme

- 10 bursaries per year for educational visits of HPR
- Objective
  - To improve the standard of research and care among HPR
  - To foster collaboration across clinical institutions in Europe
- Amount of bursary varies between EUR 750 and 1,500
- Application deadlines are 31 March and 30 September each year



## HPR Study Groups (SG)

= groups of people committed to activities and scientific networking on a specific topic under EULAR endorsement

- The EULAR Physical Activity & Exercise Therapy Study Group
- The Nurse Research and Strategy Group (REST)
- The Foot and Ankle Study Group
- The Study Group on Patient Education (STOPE)
- EULAR study group for non-pharmacological treatment of autoimmune connective tissue diseases
- EULAR study group for Work Rehabilitation in People with RMDs



## World Arthritis Day, 12 October



- Global awareness raising and action day.
- EULAR takes a leading role in promoting international activities for and on that day.
- Each year WAD is intended to promote a different aspect of living with a rheumatic or musculoskeletal disease and encourage action.



## HPR engagement in European public affairs

Participation in EULAR Public Affairs Group defining and managing EULAR public affairs and lobbying activities on European level

Participation in EULAR Annual Public Affairs Conference in Brussels dealing with a specific topic each year and attended by high-level EU politicians and leaders

- 2014: Analysing how to reduce the Access Barriers to Health Care for People with Chronic Diseases in Europe. Challenges, good practices and policy options for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases
- 2015: Towards more integrated health care in Europe. Strengthening patients` access to cross-border care and enhancing health professionals` mobility
- 2016: Reducing the burden of chronic diseases in the workplace. New policies for better working conditions and the retention of ill people at work
- 2017: The future of health research and innovation after Horizon 2020
- 2018: Bringing chronic diseases to the forefront of health innovation
- 2019: “A sustainable and effective EU health policy for citizens: Focusing on chronic diseases and inclusion in social and economic life”

Participation in national public affairs events or activities organized by patient organizations in collaboration with EULAR PARE



## Collaboration with the American ARHP

- Goal
  - Join efforts to improve the health of people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases through high quality health care science and clinical practice
- Current activity
  - Joint congress sessions
  - Collaboration in developmental project
  - Participation of HP in the ACR/EULAR exchange program



## For more information on EULAR HPR

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website

EULAR on  
your favorite  
social media  
channels

**eular**  
fighting rheumatic & musculoskeletal diseases together

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Who we are | What we do | How we work | Education | Public affairs | Calendar | Intranet

EULAR aims to be a pre-eminent provider and facilitator of high-quality education offerings for physicians, health professionals in rheumatology, and people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

### EULAR News

- EULAR Brussels Conference 2016**  
Reducing the burden of chronic diseases in the workplace is the title of the next Brussels conference on 12 October. Follow live from Brussels on this website. #EULARBrussels2016  
[Check all details](#)
- Apply now for a EULAR HP research grant**  
Every year EULAR funds one health professional (HP) research project in the field of RMDs that is in line with the mission, objectives and goals of EULAR. Projects will be funded up to a maximum of EUR 30,000.  
[Apply here](#)
- Get ready for EULAR Congress 2017**  
Check out all information you need to attend our next congress 14-17 June in Madrid, Spain. #EULAR2017 registration and abstract submission start on 1 October.  
[Check the congress website](#)
- WHO recognises the importance of promoting musculoskeletal health**  
WHO Europe recognises the importance of promoting musculoskeletal health to prevent and treat the greatest cause of disability in Europe. Support the Call for Action and sign our e-petition.  
[Sign our e-petition](#)

Read the  
HPR  
Newsletter

## Shaping the future

Prof. Iain McInnes reveals his enthusiasm as he prepares to step into the EULAR President's role at the close of the annual congress in June

It is with great excitement – and perhaps a little trepidation – that I approach the presidency of EULAR commencing in June 2019. EULAR is a remarkable organisation comprising three pillars: namely patients (IPARE), health professionals in rheumatology (HPR) and rheumatologists. This is a rather unique structure for a medical society in Europe and offers extraordinary potential for us to recognise the major challenges that face people with rheumatic musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), and co-operatively address them as a consequence. Working together, EULAR has excelled in generating treatment recommendations, classification criteria for our major diseases and points to consider around a range of clinical problems and opportunities. HPRs have been closely engaged in each endeavour.

### Bringing new faces to the table

Having the patient voice at our core, and the inherent partnership of health professional, scientist and medical researchers, maximises the likelihood of success. It is something upon which we must now build further by increasing inclusion of, and energetic participation by, health professionals in our programmes. Especially, we seek to bring new faces to the table and, in this respect, it is essential that EULAR is outward looking and inclusive-going forward. Critically, we must expand the number of health professionals across Europe contributing to RMD care – their central role in delivering clinical excellence is now clear; our efforts to further improve this role is evidenced in several exciting ongoing initiatives of the EULAR HPR Standing Committee. Moreover, HPRs are increasingly innovating exciting and contemporary educational initiatives – both for the profession and for patients – within the EULAR School of Rheumatology.



European rheumatology has led in many areas of research globally – delivering impact at multiple levels for patients. Recently, health professionals contributed significantly, with other EULAR pillars, to the generation of the RheumaMap. This public document lays out the major challenges facing the RMD field and proposes research priorities to all stakeholders, including especially politicians and funders.

### Empowering the next generation

A society going forward is now to create a EULAR Europe-wide Research Centre – virtual in nature but with excellence at its heart. By this means, we will provide the necessary networks, capabilities, data science, training and capacity building to empower the next generation of investigators in RMD research. This will create outstanding possibilities for

health professionals from across Europe, to participate and lead projects and programmes dealing with the most important questions of our times. Please join this exciting initiative – bring your ideas and your skills to shape the future!

As a final thought, a new initiative that I hope will emerge in this next presidency is an increasing sense of the importance of the global picture – RMDs afflict people in all parts of the world. Especially in lower-middle income countries (LMIC), clinical care is limited and RMDs barely recognised amidst so many other health imperatives. Working in local partnerships, and with ambitious purpose, we plan to deliver educational and, eventually, clinical presence in LMICs, working especially with AFLAR. Given the necessity for multi-disciplinary care in these challenging environments, health professionals will enrich our efforts particularly as we seek to extend the spirit of EULAR to a wider community of people with RMDs.



● News .....	1
● The Big Interview .....	6
● Spotlight on .....	8
● EULAR Public Affairs .....	11
● News from the patient network .....	12
● HPR education .....	13
● Educational visits .....	16
● Congress 2019 .....	19





Thank you for your  
attention !

[www.eular.org](http://www.eular.org)

