



LIRE-EULAR DAYS 2019

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Patients and healthcare professionals discuss the future and the approach to rheumatic diseases

- **Representatives of the Spanish Rheumatological League (LIRE), the Spanish Society of Rheumatology (SER), OpenReuma and EULAR (European League Against Rheumatism), will debate in Madrid on the importance of supra-national collaboration by European associations of patients with rheumatic diseases.**
- **Young LIRE, which includes all regional and local associations of children and young people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), will start the first working day of this two-day meeting.**
- **This conference will serve to draft a joint declaration between all participating entities in which priority will be given to actions to be followed until 2020.**

Madrid, 28 February 2019 - The present and future of rheumatic diseases from the point of view of the patient together with health professionals will be one of the central themes of the meeting organised by the Spanish Rheumatological League (LIRE) and Young LIRE - a chapter within LIRE dedicated to the youngest - with the support of EULAR (European League Against Rheumatism). Representatives of the Spanish Society of Rheumatology (SER) and OpenReuma also participate in this meeting.

This activity is part of the PARE Engagement Programme (People with Arthritis/Rheumatism in Europe), an initiative that is part of EULAR and which aims to support and effectively in their work the different associations of patients with RMDs (Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases) in each country within the European Union (EU), through the direct collaboration of their representatives or speakers.

Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMDs) include more than 200 conditions and affect more than 120 million people of all ages in the EU and more than 10 million in Spain. These diseases include low back pain, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, spondyloarthritis, osteoporosis, gout, osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia and rheumatic diseases in young people such as juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA).



Victoria Romero Pazos, President of LIRE, says, "With this meeting we seek to encourage patients, rheumatologists and other health professionals to create more and better opportunities to interact, relate to each other and, above all, work together for a better health system".

She adds, "We look to EULAR as a model of integration of the three fundamental pillars in the care of RMDs in Europe as, from the patient perspective, it is essential that these dynamics of collaborative work also happen in Spain".

A step forward

The annual congress of EULAR, the most important congress focused on rheumatology at European level, will be held this year in Madrid. This offers the possibility of enabling first hand knowledge contributed by the participating specialists.

According to Victoria Romero, "for LIRE it is very important that Spain has been chosen again this year as the venue for this important scientific event at European level and we want to take advantage of this moment to promote and lead the union of forces between all those involved in the sector; we continue to talk about the patient as a centre and we already have to move to the next level, which is the patient as a leader". Once again, the informed and involved patient, included in the treatment and follow-up of his or her illness, is paramount.

During these working days discussion will be on the possible paths to follow until 2020. In addition, there will be representation of each of the representatives of the three pillars of EULAR: doctors, patient organisations and other health professionals. Topics such as the benefit of integrating patients and other health professionals into EULAR, as well as contributions to health care in rheumatology, will also be addressed. Finally, a declaration will be drafted by all those present in which the actions to be followed until 2020 will be consolidated and prioritised.

About LIRE

Liga Reumatológica Española (LIRE) was founded in 1973 by a group of Spanish rheumatologists, aware of the need to carry out a social task with rheumatic patients. LIRE's main objective is the fight against Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases and their consequences. In 1979 it was declared a Public Utility Association and is registered in the National Register of Associations of the Ministry of the Interior. As of 2017, the association is directed and presided over by Victoria Romero, a woman and patient with osteoarthritis, radically changing the leadership paradigm existing in these organizations until then.

About EULAR

The European League against Rheumatism (EULAR) is the European umbrella organisation representing scientific societies, health professional associations and organisations for people with



eular

fighting rheumatic & musculoskeletal
diseases together

RMDs. EULAR aims to reduce the burden of RMDs on individuals and society and to improve the treatment, prevention and rehabilitation of RMDs. To this end, EULAR fosters excellence in education and research in the field of rheumatology. It promotes the translation of research advances into daily care and fights for the recognition of the needs of people with RMDs by the EU institutions through advocacy action.

To find out more about the activities of EULAR, visit: www.eular.org.

For more information:

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