

EULAR Study Group Syndemics in Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Disease

Background & Aim:

The proposed EULAR Study Group (SG) **aims to bring together a group of experts from all around the world, to study syndemics in Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMDs)**. A syndemic approach allows the evaluation of the interaction of two or more biological diseases in different socio-cultural situations and in the context of different medical care standards. It considers potential interactions and how these may impact on the health of individuals, communities, and societies (1, 2). The syndemic relationship between RMDs, sociodemographic characteristics and comorbidities has been documented in vulnerable populations in Latin America (3). The study of syndemics in rheumatology using relevant analytical strategies is considered appropriate because of the complexity of RMDs (4).

The proposed SG is composed of experts in clinical rheumatology and epidemiology, medical sociology, medical anthropology, health economy, bioinformatics, ethics, policy making and global health, as well as patient research partners (PRPs). **The goal is to use a syndemic approach to the study of RMDs with a multidisciplinary team research focus to systematically examine disease interaction with comorbidities, sociodemographic characteristics, socioeconomic context, and geographical factors (4)**. We plan to embark on a number of projects under the umbrella of the SG and to present any activities at each EULAR Congress. **Work stemming out of this SG is envisaged to promote the implementation of contextually and culturally sensitive interventions, tailored to the community and individual needs, and ultimately advance health equity in RMDs around the world.**

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