

EULAR  
04.06.22  
1.05PM CEST  
Kilchberg,  
Switzerland

## 10 YEARS OF INITIATIVE: ANALYSIS OF THE EMEUNET MENTORING PROGRAMME

### Analysis of the EULAR mentoring programme

—  
**In 2012, the Emerging EULAR – the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology – Network (EMEUNET) started a mentoring programme in collaboration with the editorial board of top-leading journals in rheumatology, with the aim of improving peer reviewing skills of young researchers. Survey data presented at the 2022 EULAR Congress in Copenhagen show that after 5 editions over 10 years, the Mentoring Programme continues to be a valuable opportunity, with skill benefits for both mentees and mentors.**

In collaboration with the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* (ARD) and *RMD Open*, EMEUNET allowed senior reviewers to critically discuss submitted manuscripts with mentees. At the end of the programme, senior reviewers certified the capability of mentees to independently conduct a good quality review.

The programme is organised by members of the EMEUNET Peer Mentoring Subcommittee. Several strategies, such as face-to-face meetings and videoconferences, were implemented recently, following the outcome of a previous survey among mentees.

To further assess the benefits and challenges of the programme, a survey was sent out. Almost all respondents said their overall experience with the programme was positive, that the objectives were met, and that they would recommend the programme to others.

Mentors indicated an initial average peer-review skill level of 5.2 for content and 4.2 for form, which improved by 2.7 and 3.2 points, respectively. Interestingly, mentee improvement scores paralleled those of mentors. Overall, 90% of mentors said the programme had helped improve their own skills in peer-reviewing, mentoring, and teaching.

The number of peer reviews after completion of the program varied significantly between mentees. For most, the number of peer-reviews stayed the same or increased, and almost half reported they had been invited as an independent reviewer for *ARD* and/or *RMD Open* after completion of the programme.

Challenges reported by mentors were communication with mentees, stringent deadlines, and the programme being time-consuming; challenges for mentees were communication with their mentor, deadlines, and insufficient clarity of the process. Areas for improvement will be addressed in future editions of the programme.

#### Source

Verhoef LM, et al. The Emerging EULAR Network (EMEUNET) Peer-Review Mentoring Programme: Ten years of Initiative. Presented at EULAR 2022; abstract OP0305.

**About EULAR**

EULAR – the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology – is the European umbrella organisation representing scientific societies, health professional associations and organisations for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (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.

**About the EULAR European Congress of Rheumatology**

Since its introduction in 2000, the annual EULAR European Congress of Rheumatology has become the primary platform for exchange of scientific and clinical information in Europe. It is also a renowned forum for interaction between medical doctors, scientists, people with arthritis/rheumatism, health professionals and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry worldwide. The EULAR congress is usually held in June in one of the major cities in Europe.

The scientific programme covers a wide range of topics on clinical innovations, clinical, translational and basic science. Meetings set up by associations of people with arthritis/rheumatism, health professionals and the health care industry complement the programme. The poster sessions, offering lively interaction between presenters and participants, are regarded by many as the heart of the congress.

Over the years, the EULAR Congress has gained a reputation of being a most innovative platform for the practicing physician particularly with respect to the acquisition of information on novel clinical research. The congress attracts more than 18,000 delegates from more than 130 countries.

The aim of the EULAR European Congress of Rheumatology is to provide a forum of the highest standard for scientific, both clinical and basic, educational, and social exchange between professionals involved in rheumatology, liaising with patient organisations, in order to achieve progress in the clinical care of people with rheumatic diseases.

**Contact**

EULAR Communications, [communications@eular.org](mailto:communications@eular.org), Tel. +41 44 716 30 30

**Notes to Editors**

[EULAR Recommendations](#)

[EULAR Strategy](#)

[EULAR School of Rheumatology](#)

[EULAR Press Releases](#)

[EULAR COVID-19 Registry](#)