

EULAR in 2017

A year of impact on rheumatology and on humanity

EULAR has set a new course in 2017 opening the door to an age of dynamic maturity for the world of rheumatology – with positive impact on societies, everywhere.

18th December, 2017, Kilchberg, Switzerland – The European League Against Rheumatism, EULAR, is reflecting upon a year of remarkable achievement in rheumatology in 2017. Celebrating its 70th year, EULAR reinforced its political voice through the launch of the EULAR RheumaMap, contributed to the education of rheumatologists throughout the world with the launch of the EULAR School of Rheumatology, and brought awareness and understanding of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) to society at large with the launch of the EULAR Campaign, Don't Delay, Connect Today.

In the political arena, EULAR launched the RheumaMap at the European Parliament in May. The RheumaMap was developed by EULAR as a key tool to promote change: It lays out the need to develop a long-term research strategy to effectively reduce the burden of RMDs, which still affect one in four European citizens, totaling approximately 120 million people.

To commemorate its 70th anniversary, EULAR launched the 'Don't Delay, Connect Today' campaign at the annual EULAR Congress in Madrid, Spain, in June, following a national-level pre-launch at the Portuguese parliament in February. RMDs often go undetected or mis-diagnosed. The campaign engages all three EULAR pillars – patient organisations (PARE), health professional associations and scientific communities – and aims to raise awareness of the importance of early diagnosis in preventing further damage for people with RMDs.

The EULAR Congress, which received a record-breaking number of abstract submissions (4,845) in 2017, hosted the launch of the EULAR School of Rheumatology. The EULAR App, a digital application designed for smart devices linked with a dedicated area on the EULAR website, was launched as part of the school, providing 24/7 access to a wealth of rheumatology information for rheumatologists, everywhere.

In October, EULAR and members of the European Parliament called on the European Commission to maintain the EU's position as a global leader in health research beyond the current research framework programme, Horizon 2020. EULAR encourages the EU to build on the successes forged during Horizon 2020 and increase investment in health-related research and innovation.

Looking to the future, Professor Hans Bijlsma, EULAR President, says, "I would like to extend my personal thanks to all those in the EULAR network and beyond who have contributed to this milestone year in rheumatology. Let us all unite and go forward into the future in fighting rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases – together, we can contribute to a healthier world."

About EULAR

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

Contact

Dr. Julia Rautenstrauch, EULAR Executive Director, julia.rautenstrauch@eular.org, Tel. +41 44 716 30 31

Notes to Editors

EULAR RheumaMap: https://www.eular.org/public_affairs_rheumamap.cfm

EULAR School of Rheumatology: https://www.eular.org/school_of_rheumatology.cfm

EULAR press releases: https://www.eular.org/press_releases.cfm

EULAR Timeline here: https://www.eular.org/eular_70th_anniversary_timeline.cfm

EULAR 70th Anniversary video archive: https://www.eular.org/anniversary_video_archive.cfm

Follow EULAR on Twitter @eular_org and Facebook @eular.org

+++ENDS+++