EDITORIAL

Dear young rheumatologists and researchers in rheumatology, once again the EMEUNET team would like to welcome you to the official EMEUNET newsletter. The topic of the current newsletter is this year’s ACR meeting which will take place in Washington. The selection of the possibly most interesting contributions in each topic was performed by EMEUNET members. Our Network for young European rheumatologists is growing further, aiming to foster communication, education opportunities, and widening collaborations with and within EULAR. Beyond the topics of the ACR meeting, we will continue to report and promote EMEUNET activities, such as the EMEUNET guided tour in Washington, the successful Epidemiology course which took place in Berlin in July 2012, under the auspices of EMEUNET and EULAR or the newly designed EMEUNET website. We would be happy if you, as EMEUNET members, disseminate the existence of and aims of EMEUNET to anybody who is interested. We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Best wishes and have a great Congress!

Cécile Gaujoux-Viala (France) and Francisca Sivera (Spain)
on behalf of the Newsletter Subgroup

Newsletter Topic: ACR 2012 Do not miss!

In this edition of EMEUNES, we would like to draw your attention to what we believe could be the most interesting presentations at this year’s ACR

BASIC RESEARCH I (genetics, cartilage/synovium, osteoimmunology, animal models)

Serena Bugatti, MD PhD is Lecturer and Consultant Rheumatologist at the University of Pavia School of Medicine, Italy. Her main research interests focus on the pathobiology of inflamed tissues in rheumatoid arthritis (synovium, subchondral bone, lymph node) and on tissue and serum biomarkers in RA.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Monday 12.11.2012 2:30 – 4:00
Session: Rheumatoid arthritis – Animal models (Room 207 A)
Zhang, X et al (Japan)
Abstract number 1534 - Delivering mesenchymal stem cells to arthritic joints with nano-fiber scaffold resulted in inhibition of arthritis and joint damage in arthritis models

Monday 12.11.2012 2:30 – 4:00
Session: Genetics and genomics of rheumatic diseases (Room 145 A)
Boyle, DL et al (United States)
Abstract number 1610 - The DNA methylation signature in fibroblast-like synoviocytes (FLS) defines critical pathogenic pathways in rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

Tuesday 13.11.2012 4:30-6:00
Session: Biology and pathology of bone and joint: regulation of bone cells (Room 201)
Mediri, A et al (United States)
Abstract number 2516 - Adenosine receptors stimulate bone regeneration by targeting osteoclasts

Wednesday 14.11.2012 11:00 – 12:30
Session: Rheumatoid arthritis - Human etiology and pathogenesis II: cellular effectors of rheumatoid arthritis and novel rheumatoid arthritis genome-wide association studies (Room 146 C)
Medenu, N et al (United States)
Abstract number 2666 – A link between B cells and bone erosion in RA: RANKL production by memory B cells

POSTERS:

Sunday 11.11.2012
Sonomoto, K et al (Japan)
Abstract number 3 - Mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into osteoblasts in response to inflammation

Sunday 11.11.2012
Catrina, AI et al (Sweden)
Abstract number 31- Anti-citullinated protein antibodies from synovial fluid of rheumatoid arthritis patients enhance osteoclastogenesis
**BASIC RESEARCH II (immunity, immunology)**

Sander Tas, MD,PhD, is an Internist-Rheumatologist at the Academic Medical Center/University of Amsterdam. He is also the EMEUNET Country Liaison for the Netherlands. Main research interests: rheumatoid arthritis, NF-kappaB signaling, dendritic cells, angiogenesis, gene therapy.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Sunday 11.11.2012 15:00
Session: Cytokines, Mediators, and Gene Regulation I (Room 147 A) Yoshida, K et al. (United States)
Abstract number 737 – Citrullination of ENA-78/CXCL5 Results in Conversion From a Non-Monocyte Recruiting to a Monocyte Recruiting Chemokine

Monday 12.11.2012; 17:00
Session: Rheumatoid Arthritis - Human Etiology and Pathogenesis I: Early Pathogenesis of Rheumatoid Arthritis (Room 146 C) Sokolove, J et al. (United States)
Abstract Number 1690 - Citrullination within the Atherosclerotic Plaque: A New Potential Target for Anti-Citrullinated Protein Antibodies

Tuesday 13.11.2012 17:30
Session: Innate Immunity and Rheumatic Disease (Room 143 A) Silverman, GJ et al. (United States)
Abstract Number 2577 - Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase Inhibition Suppresses Inflammatory Cytokine Production and Affects Gene Expression in Human Macrophages and RA Synovial Tissue Explants

Wednesday 14.11.2012; 9:30
Session: B-cell Biology and Targets in Autoimmune Disease (Room 147 A) Silverman, GJ et al. (United States)
Abstract Number 2577 - Characterization of Circulating Human B Cells That Bind Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antigens in Clinically Active Rheumatoid Arthritis

**POSTERS:**

Sunday 11.11.2012
Schafer, P et al. (United States)
Abstract Number 51 - Phosphodiesterase 4 Expression in Rheumatoid Arthritis Synovium and Anti-Inflammatory Effects of Apremilast On Synovial Fibroblasts

Monday 12.11.2012
Noort, A.R. et al. (The Netherlands)
Abstract Number 1066 - Extrathymic Autoimmune Regulator (AIRE) Expression in Rheumatoid Arthritis

**RA I (epidemiology, clinics and non biologics)**

Elena Myasoedova, MD, PhD is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Ivanovo State Medical Academy, Russia. She is currently doing post-doctoral research on cardiovascular disease in rheumatoid arthritis at the Division of Rheumatology at Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN, USA).

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Sunday 11.11.2012 17:45
Session: Rheumatoid Arthritis - Clinical Aspects II: Long-term Outcome of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Observational Studies (Renaissance Washington - Grand Ballroom North) Combe, B et al (France)
Abstract number 830 - Five-Year Favourable Outcome of Patients with Early Rheumatoid Arthritis in the 2000s: Data From the ESPOIR Cohort

Monday 12.11.2012 16:30
Session: Rheumatoid arthritis - Clinical Aspects III: Rheumatoid arthritis and Cardiovascular Disease (Ballroom A) Arts, E et al (The Netherlands)
Abstract number 1682 - Sustained Clinical Remission (Disease Activity Score 28 < 2.6) Protects for Cardiovascular Disease in RA Patients

Tuesday 13.11.2012 15:00
Session: Rheumatoid Arthritis - Clinical Aspects IV: Non-biologic Drugs for Rheumatoid Arthritis: New Insights on Comorbidities and Adverse Events (Ballroom B) Makol, A et al (United States)

Wednesday 14.11.2012 10:15
Session: Rheumatoid Arthritis - Clinical Aspects VI: Remission and Flare in Rheumatoid Arthritis (Ballroom A) Kuriya, B et al (Canada)
Abstract number 2610 - Predictors of Sustained Clinical Remission in Early RA - Results From the Canadian Early Arthritis Cohort

**POSTERS:**

Sunday 11.11.2012
Escalante, A et al (United States)
Abstract number 87 - Prediction of Mortality in Rheumatoid Arthritis Using a Serum Cytokine Profile

Tuesday 13.11.2012
Solomon, D et al. (United States)
Abstract number 1843 - Predictors of Starting and Stopping Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs for Rheumatoid Arthritis: A 23 Year Longitudinal Cohort
RA II (Biologics: anti-TNF, B-cell therapies, anti-IL6)

Hans Ulrich Scherer is an MD and research fellow at the Department of Rheumatology at Leiden University, The Netherlands. He is working on the etiology and pathogenic function of ACPA in RA and on the glycosylation of autoantibodies.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Sunday 11.11.2012 14:30 – 16:00
Session: Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment - Small Molecules, Biologics and Gene Therapy: Comparative Efficacy and Novel Treatment Strategies in Rheumatoid Arthritis (Renaisance Washington - Grand Ballroom North)
Kavanaugh, A et al (United States)
Abstract number 772 - Tocilizumab Monotherapy Compared with Adalimumab Monotherapy in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis: Results of a 24-Week Study

Sunday 11.11.2012 16:30 – 18:00
Session: Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment - Small Molecules, Biologics and Gene Therapy: Efficacy and Safety of Novel Entities (Ballroom A)
O’Reilly, A et al (United States)
Abstract number 835 - Sustained Depletion of Circulating B-Cells in Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients

Monday 12.11.2012 14:30 – 16:00
Session: Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment - Small Molecules, Biologics and Gene Therapy: Safety I (Hall E)
Lacaillé, D et al (Canada)
Abstract number 1642 - Biologics and Mortality Risk in Rheumatoid Arthritis - Results of a Population Based Study

POSTERS:

Sunday 11.11.2012
Rubbert-Roth, A et al (Germany)
Abstract number 467 - Seropositive Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients with an Inadequate Response to Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitors Achieve Improved Clinical Effectiveness After Switching to Rituximab Versus Switching to an Alternative Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor

Monday 12.11.2012
Sato, M et al (Japan)
Abstract number 1336 - Changes in the Levels of Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Protein Antibody and Immunoglobulins in Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients After Administration of Tocilizumab

RA III (Other biologics and other drugs beyond biologics)

Katerina Chatzidionysiou, MD, is a Rheumatology Fellow at Karolinska University Hospital (Stockholm) and currently a PhD candidate. Her research focus is on biologic treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Sunday 11.11.2011, 16:45
Abstract session: Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment – Small Molecules, Biologics and Gene Therapy: Efficacy and Safety of Novel Entities (Ballroom A)
Ormseth, M et al (USA)
Abstract number 832 - Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma agonist treatment for rheumatoid arthritis: a proof-of-concept randomised controlled trial.

Tuesday 13.11.2011, 14:30
Abstract session: Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment – Small Molecules, Biologics and Gene Therapy: Safety & Efficacy of Janus Activated-Kinase (JAK) Inhibitors (Ballroom C)
Cohen, S et al (USA)
Abstract number 2485 - Tofacitinib, an oral janus kinase inhibitor: analysis of efficacy and safety of 10 versus 5mg twice daily in a pooled phase 3 and long-term extension rheumatoid arthritis population.

Tuesday 13.11.2011, 14:30
Abstract session: Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment – Small Molecules, Biologics and Gene Therapy: Safety & Efficacy of Janus Activated-Kinase (JAK) Inhibitors (Ballroom C)
Genovese, M et al (USA)
Abstract number 2487 - 24-week results of a blinded phase 2b dose-ranging study of baricitinib, an oral janus kinase 1/ janus kinase 2 inhibitor, in combination with traditional disease modifying antirheumatic drugs in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

POSTERS:

Monday 12.11.2012
Igatenenko, S et al (Germany)
Abstract number 1279 - First in human study with recombinant anti-IL21 monoclonal antibody in healthy subjects and patients with rheumatoid arthritis

Monday 12.11.2012
Ogata, A et al (Japan)
Abstract number 1295 - Effectiveness and tolerability of subcutaneous tocilizumab in rheumatoid arthritis patients switched from intravenous tocilizumab: results from the extension period of the MUSHAHSI study
PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

Helga Radner currently works as rheumatology fellow at the Medical University Vienna. Her special research focus is on outcomes in chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases, mainly rheumatoid arthritis, and on comorbidities and their influence on important outcomes. Currently she is the EMEUNET Website Subgroup leader.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Sunday 11.11.2012 16:30
Session: Update on Psoriatic Arthritis and the Spondyloarthropathies (Hall E)
Mease, P et al (Sweden)
Current State of the Art and Future Directions in the Assessment and Management of Psoriatic Arthritis

Tuesday 13.11.2012 16:30
Session: Spondylarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis - Clinical Aspects and Treatment: Psoriatic Arthritis (Ballroom C)
Ritchlin, CT et al (USA)
Ustekinumab in Active Psoriatic Psoriatic Arthritis Including Patients Previously Treated with Anti-TNF Agents: Results of a Phase 3, Multicenter, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study

Tuesday 13.11.2012 17:15
Session: Spondylarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis - Clinical Aspects and Treatment: Psoriatic Arthritis (Ballroom C)
Fagerli, KM et al (Norway)
Response and Drug Survival of 1st TNF-Inhibitor in 440 Patients with Psoriatic Arthritis - What Is the Role of Co-Medication with Methotrexate?

Wednesday 14.11.2012 10:15
Session: Spondylarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis - Clinical Aspects and Treatment: Psoriatic Arthritis (Ballroom C)
Chiu, Y et al (USA)
The Transition From Psoriasis (Ps) to Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) Is Associated with Elevated Circulating Osteoclast Precursors (OCP) and Increased Expression of DC-STAMP

POSTERS:

Monday 12.11.2012
Coates, LC et al (UK)
Comparison of Three Screening Tools in Psoriatic Arthritis: The Contest Stud

Monday 12.11.2012
Ciancio, G et al (Italy)
Microrna Expression Profiles in Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells of Early Onset Psoriatic Arthritis

AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

Denis Poddubnyy is a physician and researcher in the department of rheumatology of the Charité hospital (Berlin, Germany). Member of the Assessment of Spondyloarthritis International Society (ASAS).

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Sunday 11.11.2012 14:30 - 16:00
Session: Spondylarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis - Clinical Aspects and Treatment: Spondyloarthritis I (Ballroom B)
Haroon, N et al (Canada)
Abstract number 782 – Anti-TNF Therapy Slows Radiographic Progression of Ankylosing Spondylitis

Sunday 11.11.2012 14:30 - 16:00
Session: Spondylarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis - Clinical Aspects and Treatment: Spondyloarthritis I (Ballroom B)
Sieper, J et al. (Germany)
Abstract number 779 – Changes in Active Inflammatory Lesions Assessed by Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Results of the Infliximab As First Line Therapy in Patients with Early Active Axial Spondyloarthritis Trial

Monday 12.11.2012 16:30 - 18:00
Session: Spondylarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis - Clinical Aspects and Treatment: Spondyloarthritis II (Room 145A)
Gobbo, M et al (Spain)
Abstract number 1701 – Validation of the New ASAS Criteria for Classification of Early Spondyloarthritis in the Esperanza Cohort

Wednesday 14.11.2012 09:00 - 10:30
Session: Spondylarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis - Clinical Aspects and Treatment: Psoriatic Arthritis and Spondyloarthropathies (Ballroom C)
Bay-Jensen, AC et al (Denmark)
Abstract number 2615 – Circulating Levels of Citrullinated Vimentin Fragments Are Diagnostic and Prognostic in Ankylosing Spondylitis; Evidence for Disease-Related Citrullination

POSTERS:

Sunday 11.11.2012
Ramiro, S et al. (The Netherlands)
Abstract number 572 – Radiographic Damage in Ankylosing Spondylitis Over 12 Years of Follow-up: A Longitudinal Analysis

Sunday 11.11.2012
Baraliakos, X et al. (Germany)
Abstract number 586 – High Prevalence of Anti-CD-74 Antibodies with Specificity for the Class II-Associated Invariant Chain Peptide in Patients with Axial Spondyloarthritis but Not in Controls
SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Estíbaliz Loza, MD is a researcher and currently works in the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health. Her main area of interest is public health and quality, in particular the development of standards of care and quality indicators.

OTHER CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES, VASCULITIS

Cristina Pamfil, MD, is a rheumatology research fellow, currently completing a PhD at the University of Crete Heraklion, under the supervision of Professor Dimitrios Boumpas. Her major research interest is systemic lupus erythematosus.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Sunday 11.11.2012 16:30 - 18:00
Session: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus – Clinical Aspects and Treatment I: Renal (Room Ballroom A)
Zahi, T et al (Canada)
Abstract number 842 – Partial and Complete Recovery From Proteinuria in Lupus Nephritis Patients Receiving Standard of Care Treatment.

Monday 12.11.2012 14:30 - 16:00
Session: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus – Clinical Aspects and Treatment II: Clinical Aspects/Pregnancy (Room Ballroom B)
Izmirly, P et al (US, France, UK, Argenina)
Abstract number 1647 – Critical Management Decisions in Cardiac Neonatal Lupus: The Role of Fluorinated Steroids.

Tuesday 13.11.2012 14:30 - 16:00
Session Antiphospholipid Syndrome (Room 147 A)
Arnaud, L et al (France, Italy, Greece, Spain)

Wednesday 14.11.2012 9:00 - 10:30
Session: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus - Clinical Aspects and Treatment IV: Therapeutics (Hall E)
Zimmer, R (France)
Abstract number 2620 Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Studies of P140 Peptide in Mannitol (Lupuzor) and Trehalose (Forigerimod) in Patients with SLE.

POSTERS:

Monday 12.11.2012
Drenkar, C et al (United States)
Abstract number 935 - Primary Care Preventive Services in Patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Compared to Others in Their Community.

Tuesday 13.11.2012
Vinet, E et al (Canada)
Abstract number 1887 - Facebook Support Groups in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Content Analysis.
IMAGING

Xenophon Barlialiaks, MD, is a consultant in the Rheumatology Center Herne, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany and already trained as an orthopaedic surgeon. His research focus is the diagnosis, imaging and treatment of spondyloarthritis.

OSTEOARTHRITIS & FIBROMYALGIA

I.H. Tamer, M.D. is attending rheumatologist at the Department of Rheumatology, Clinical Immunology, Osteology and Physical Medicine of the Kerckhoff-Klinik in Bad Nauheim, Germany, affiliated with the University of Gießen. His primary interests are rheumatoid arthritis, systemic sclerosis, fibromyalgia syndrome, and innovative imaging.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Sunday 11.11.2012 14:30 – 16:00
Session: Spondylarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis - Clinical Aspects and Treatment: Spondyloarthritis I (Ballroom B)
Weber U et al (Switzerland)
Abstract number 778 - Spinal MRI has little incremental diagnostic value compared with MRI of the sacroiliac joints alone in early spondyloarthritis

Sunday 11.11.2012 14:30 – 16:00
Session: Spondylarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis - Clinical Aspects and Treatment: Spondyloarthritis I (Ballroom B)
Harron N et al (Canada)
Abstract number 782 – Anti-TNF therapy slows radiographic progression of ankylosing spondylitis

Sunday 11.11.2012 16:30 – 18:00
Session: Imaging of Rheumatic Diseases I: Ultrasound and X-ray (Salon B)
Luz K et al (Brazil)
Abstract number 808 – Power Doppler is predictive of treatment failure in early rheumatoid arthritis patients: a one year follow-up study

Wednesday 14.11.2012 11:00 – 12:30
Session: Rheumatoid Arthritis - Clinical Aspects VII: Prediction of Outcome in Rheumatoid Arthritis (Ballroom A)
Dale J et al (UK)
Abstract number 2662 – Tightening up: musculoskeletal ultrasound could further individualise treatment decisions in early rheumatoid arthritis patients treated by a step-up DMARD escalation regimen

POSTERS:

Sunday 11.11.2012
Gärtner M et al (Austria)
Abstract number 2390 – Does joint sonography really add clinically important information beyond clinical examination?

Monday 12.11.2012
Agnawal V et al (India)
Abstract number 1017 – Bye bye biopsy: diffusion tensor and dynamic contrast enhance magnetic resonance imaging parameters reflect molecular events of inflammation in the synovium

Tuesday 13.11.2012 11:15
Session: Plenary Session III: Discovery 2012
Wang H et al. (USA)
Abstract number 2450 - Evoked pain brain response is associated with reduced µ-opioid receptor binding in fibromyalgia.

Wednesday 14.11.2012, 11:45
Session: Fibromyalgia and Soft Tissue Disorders II
Kairys AE et al. (USA)
Abstract number 2644 - Functional magnetic resonance imaging of working memory in fibromyalgia: Support for a “competing demands” theory of cognitive function in chronic pain.

Sunday 11.11.2012, 15:30
Session: Biology and Pathology of Bone and Joint: Osteoarthritis
Miller RE et al. (USA)
Abstract number 734 - Chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 2 signaling mediates persistent pain in experimental osteoarthritis.

Tuesday 13.11.2012 15:30
Session: Osteoarthritis - Clinical Aspects II
Runhaar J et al. (The Netherlands)
Abstract number 2471 - Oral glucosamine sulphate for the prevention of knee osteoarthritis in overweight females: The first ever preventive randomized controlled trial.

POSTERS:

Tuesday 13.11.2012
Pang WK et al. (USA)
Abstract number 1870 - Financial conflicts of interest and industry sponsorship are associated with positive outcomes in fibromyalgia randomized controlled trials.

Sunday 11.11.2012
Kim HA et al. (South Korea)
METABOLIC & CRYSTAL ARTHROPATHIES

Francisca Sivera MD, is a rheumatologist working at the Hospital de Elda (Spain) and has an honorary appointment at the Dpt of Medicine at Universidad Miguel Hernandez (Elche). Her research interests include crystal arthritis and synovial fluid analysis.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Sunday 11.11.2012, 11:45
Session: ACR PLENARY SESSION I – DISCOVERY 2012 (Hall D)
Roland Chapurlat (France)
Abstract number 727 - Effects of Odanacatib On BMD and Overall Safety in the Treatment of Osteoporosis in Postmenopausal Women Previously Treated with Alendronate

Sunday 11.11.2012, 5:30
Session: Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disease (150 B)
Karine Briot (France)
Abstract number 823 - Positive Effects of Tocilizumab On Bone Remodeling in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Sunday 11.11.2012, 5:45
Session: Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disease (150 B)
Ken Poole (UK)
Abstract number 824 - Progressive Improvements in Cortical Mass and Thickness throughout the Hip Were Observed with Denosumab Treatment in the Freedom Trial

Sunday 11.11.2012, 4:30
Session: Rheumatoid Arthritis - Clinical Aspects II: Long-term Outcome of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Observational Studies (Renaissance Washington - Grand Ballroom North)
Ausaf Mohammad (Ireland)
Abstract number 825 - Osteoporosis and Vertebral Fractures Are Important Determinants of Cardiovascular Disease in Rheumatoid Arthritis

POSTERS:

Sunday 11.11.2012
Crittenden, DB et al (United States)
Abstract number 559 - Utility of Dual-Energy X-Ray absorptiometry Scanning and Risk of Osteoporosis in Ankylosing Spondylitis; A Prospective Study.

Amy H. Warriner (USA)
Abstract number 1978 - A Web-Based Intervention Aimed to Improve Bone Health in Individuals On Chronic Glucocorticoids.
The first EULAR epidemiology course

The first EULAR epidemiology course took place successfully on 6/7 July 2012 in Berlin, Germany, organized by EMEUNET (Laure Gossec, Pedro Machado), in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Epidemiology and Health Services Research (Loreto Carmona, Angela Zink). We are proud to report that all of the participants expressed a high (21%) or very high (79%) overall level of satisfaction with the course in their evaluation form. We are even prouder for having received glowing endorsements from the faculty and course participants. Here is a participant’s view of the course:

“The first EULAR epidemiology course was recently held in Berlin, in 6-7th of July where I had the opportunity to participate. The course brought 43 young rheumatologists working as research fellows or trainees from 23 countries together, all of whom had one thing in common: a desire to do clinical research, with the aim of reaching to a high level of science. Clearly the organizers of the course paid particular attention when selecting the participants as all of us had some experience in doing research and some knowledge on epidemiology, but still had a lot of questions in order to move one step ahead. This “hungry” group of people had a chance to communicate with a prestigious faculty, who are all well-known scientists in their field. The faculty were equally (if not more) excited and motivated as the participants. Combining their willingness to teach with their experience made the course very fruitful. The talks were clearly prepared to answer the needs of the group and the faculty were very keen on replying to all the questions.

The topics were delicately chosen in order to focus on facing some major difficulties in research, including handling missing data, planning and conduct of observational cohort studies, measurements of association and risk, problems of non-randomized trials, confounding by indication and longitudinal data analysis. On top of it, there were break out sessions- to me this was the best part of the course- which allowed a one-to-one discussion by giving an opportunity to interact as 15 participants with 2 faculty for 1.5 hours on specific questions (eg longitudinal data analysis, defining a study question and finding the proper data, reliability and agreement).

What major points have I got from the course? I filled some gaps, resolved some specific questions; saw some potential pitfalls that I should avoid; realised to what extent I can do and when I shall be asking for help. On top of these, interaction with the faculty as well as the participants might potentially be the initial steps for future collaborations.

Finally I believe that this course made big contributions to rheumatology, as giving some key messages and increasing awareness in epidemiology to a group of people who are likely to increasingly do research in the next years. I would encourage all young rheumatologists who are planning to do clinical research as a part of their career to attend the next course and I am already looking forward to it.”

Sibel Zehra Aydin, MD
Consultant Rheumatologist
Medeniyet University, Istanbul/Turkey

EMEUNET tour

As at last year’s EULAR meeting in Berlin, also at the ACR meeting in Washington EMEUNET organises a guided tour for its members. On Tuesday, 13th of November, Michael Bonelli will walk with us around the National Mall and explain the most prominent sites of Washington. The evening will end in a bar close by, where we can enjoy ourselves while watching stressed politicians and congressmen. Since the tour is limited to 25 people unfortunately not everybody who applied could join. For the unlucky ones that were too late to register, just meet up in the bar later on!

First EULAR epidemiology course

The course participants at the German Rheumatism Research Center, Berlin (photo courtesy of Olga Ovsyannikova, MD, from Russia)

Do not forget: EULAR bursaries and awards

The EULAR 2013 abstract submission system is now open and EULAR travel bursaries and awards can be assigned to qualifying first authors of accepted abstracts. All awards consist of a free registration to the EULAR 2013 Congress and EUR 1’000 prize money awarded to the first author of the abstract.

A. EULAR travel bursaries: the age limit for application is 40 years and applications must be submitted via the electronic submission system.

B. EULAR awards: EULAR offers three types of awards for the EULAR 2013 Congress:

B1. EULAR abstract award for undergraduate medical students: this award will be given to the 3 highest scored abstracts submitted by an undergraduate medical student as the first author. The first author must be a university medical student prior to obtaining medical degree or starting specialist training/residency. PhD students do not qualify.

B2. EULAR abstract award: awarded to the first authors of the 6 highest scored abstracts in basic science topics and of the 6 highest scored abstracts in clinical topics. No special application is required.

B3. Health Professionals abstract award: awarded to the 3 highest scored abstracts submitted in the Health Professionals in Rheumatology category. No special application is required.
The selection of presentations for this newsletter is totally personal, limited and consecutively very incomplete.

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