This was the 3rd EULAR/EMEUNET Epidemiology Course hosted at the DRFZ Berlin

The 3rd EULAR/EMEUNET Epidemiology course took place on the 4-5th of July 2014 in the heart of Berlin at the Charité campus, hosted by Prof. Angela Zink and her team. Similar to previous years the course was once again organized by former EMEUNET chairpersons, Laure Gossec and Pedro Machado, who invited some of the most renowned experts to enlighten the participants.

This time the course addressed the major question of time in the interpretation and analysis of trial and cohort data and examined some of the mysteries behind quality adjusted life years. The course was ideal to deepen the understanding and knowledge about certain design types, interpretation and analysis techniques.

The concept of the course was divided into 30-minute lectures followed by 15 minutes of discussion, alternated with breakout sessions and workshops. This year’s topics were treatment exposure, health economics, non-inferiority trials, time varying events, strategies for patients in remission and long term extension studies. The workshops were very interactive so that participants really got a chance to apply their newly gained knowledge to exemplified situations. They also provided ample opportunity to address questions, which could not be answered during the lectures. During the breakout session a manuscript describing a randomized controlled trial was analysed by the very clearly structured critical appraisal method and common uncertainties were addressed, which ameliorates future review considerably.

Photo: Evening event - dinner and games in a Berlin Beergarden

I found the course extraordinary because it provided the perfect balance between lectures, and discussion, so that nearly every question could be answered. It provided the opportunity for some very intensive interaction with all faculty members, even in the evening where we all had a very nice time at a dinner beside the river Spree in the shadows of the heated atmosphere of the soccer world championship.
This course is a definite must-attend event for every young rheumatology researcher with a fascination for trials and cohort studies who intends to improve his or her skills and knowledge on these topics.

Photo: Group photo of participants and lecturers