Report on the 15th EULAR Postgraduate Course

Is it possible to learn the many facets of rheumatology within three days, discuss the arthritides, vasculitides and connective tissue diseases, and make new friends from all over the world? No, of course, that’s not very realistic, but the EULAR postgraduate comes very close to fulfilling these challenges.

The three day EULAR postgraduate course is designated to clinical residents and fellows who already have solid knowledge and basic skills in rheumatology. Based on that, the participants acquire general scientific and in-depth clinical knowledge about the major rheumatic diseases. The programme covers a great deal of what clinicians really need to know in their clinical routine, presented and discussed by world-leading experts of the field of rheumatology.

With participants from Europe, Africa, and the Near East, the EULAR postgraduate course is international and exciting. It’s amazing to learn that the standard of care in rheumatology is high worldwide, and fascinating to discover the subtle differences in how clinical practice looks like in various countries. Despite a very dense and compacted schedule, the course offers enough leaves to exchange one’s experiences with international fellow students from all over the world.

One central element of the EULAR postgraduate course is the vivid interaction between teachers and students. The organizers foster these interactions by organizing case discussions and workshops in small groups. During the coffee breaks, at lunch and dinner the teachers mix with the students, so that it is always easy to have in-depth discussions, make new friends and build networks.

The organizers and teachers created a safe and pleasant learning atmosphere. Ingrid Lundberg, head of the organizing committee and moderator of the course, actively involved the students and guided the discussions upon the need of the participants. In addition to Ingrid’s dedication, the perfect organizational work by Gabriela Kluge and their team from the EULAR secretariat and the MCI group merit special thanks: They brought together the international group of teachers and students in Prague, one of Europe’s historical centers of science and education.

Background information:

- The 16th EULAR Postgraduate Course will take part in Prague next year, from October 18th to 21st. Registration will open in April. Additional information can be found at: http://www.eular.org/index.cfm?framePage=/course_postgraduate_course.cfm
- The costs for the course (including accommodation at the Diplomat hotel) will be approximately 650€. Each year EULAR offers 20 course bursaries to cover the costs for the course and accommodation.
- The maximal number of applicants: 100
Photo: A plenary session of the 15th EULAR postgraduate course with Dimitrious Boumpas, one of the leading lupus experts.