SPECIAL EDITION: EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES
Dear young rheumatologists and researchers in rheumatology,

We are delighted to present you with the new issue of EMEUNET News, entirely devoted to the EMEUNET Sub-Committees and their activities. The EMEUNET (The Emerging EULAR Network) is an exciting community that started its activities in 2009, emanating from one of the objectives set by EULAR – “Bring on board high quality, young generation contributors in all EULAR activities”. Since January 2021, EMEUNET has become one of EULAR Committees.

Our work is divided within 6 Sub-Committees (uniting 54 active members from 23 countries) each focusing on a particular aspect of EMEUNET. Current Sub-Committees include Education, Country Liaison, Social Media, Visibility and Global Affairs, Peer Mentoring and Newsletter. EMEUNET Sub-Committees ensure the growth of EMEUNET and promote interaction and networking among members.

The call for applications for the EMEUNET Subcommittees for 2022-23 has just been launched! Stay tuned and apply to become a member of our dynamic team. If you have unsuccessfully applied in previous years, this does not preclude you from applying again this year.

In this issue, you will also find details about upcoming educational events.

If this is your first contact with EMEUNET, we invite you to explore more and join us via our Website and social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube) If you are already part of our community, we kindly remind you that sharing is caring. Spread the word about our activities and work and help us reach more young rheumatologists and researchers.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and would be happy to receive any comments or contributions for future issues.

Diego Benavent and Mikhail Protopopov, on behalf of the EMEUNET Newsletter Sub-Committee
Dear EMEUNET members,

We invite you to apply to become part of the EMEUNET Sub-committees!

Following the recognition of EMEUNET as a EULAR committee in January 2021, this is your chance to get on board and become part of the EMEUNET & EULAR family!

As a member of the EMEUNET sub-committees (former EMEUNET working group), you will have a chance to directly contribute to the core activities of EMEUNET & EULAR for 3 years.

We have 6 Sub-Committees (known before as sub-groups): Education, Country liaisons, Social media, Visibility & Global Affairs, Newsletters, and Peer Mentoring. For more information on the activities of each sub-committee, please check our upcoming newsletter on sub-committees and our website.

Not sure which sub-committee you would like to join? Not to worry, you do not need to express a preference now, you will be able to choose later.

To apply, you should meet the following criteria:
1) be a registered EMEUNET member; (not a member? You can register here!)
2) be aged under 40 at the time of the application;
3) be a resident in one of the member countries of EULAR;
4) have an interest in research and/or education in rheumatology;
5) be active in research, having at least one abstract as the first author in an international congress or one first authorship of manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal.

The application process is highly competitive. Selection is based on the motivation, scientific merit, prior contribution to EMEUNET activities (e.g. as a country liaison) as well as balanced gender and geographic representation.

Please be aware that if you applied in the past and we could not accept your application, you can re-apply now.

Please note that your letter is a highly valued part of your application. You should use it to demonstrate your interest in furthering the aims of EMEUNET and to provide your views about the future directions and specific activities that EMEUNET should develop in the near future. With the growing EMEUNET activities on Social Media, interest/skills in this domain will be valued.

When applying, please consider that being part of an EMEUNET Sub-committee requires the commitment of time and energy on a regular basis.

If you require more info, do not hesitate to contact us at emeunet@eular.org, on twitter (@EMEUNET) or any other social media, or just ask one of the current sub-committees (working group) members or sub-committee chairs.

The deadline to send in your application is April 20th, 2022.

To apply, send the following documents to: emeunet@eular.ch.
1) the application (received in your EMEUNET email)
2) a recent 2 pages CV
3) a list of publications;
4) a signed letter of support from your Head of Department;
5) a motivation letter

We look forward to receiving your applications!
Candidates will be notified by May
EMEUNET is the largest network of young clinicians and researchers in the field of rheumatology in Europe and last year we have been officially recognised by the EULAR as an official EULAR Committee. The main objectives of EMEUNET are to promote top-quality education and mentoring and foster research collaborations among emerging rheumatologists and researchers. None of these objectives could be fulfilled without the work and enthusiasm of the people involved in the 6 Sub-Committees that form EMEUNET: Education, Peer Mentoring, Newsletters, Social Media, Visibility & Global Affairs and Country Liaisons. EMEUNET Sub-Committees are engaged in several activities and the list of current and upcoming projects continues to grow over the years. We would like to thank all these volunteers for their tremendous support to the development of EMEUNET! There are truly the pillars of our community.

With all the initiatives and activities presented in this Newsletter, we hope that EMEUNET will continue to be embraced by the young rheumatology community, and more and more young clinicians and researchers in rheumatology will become involved in education, research and the EULAR. Thus, EMEUNET can carry on as successful and influential resource that fosters new and long-term collaborative endeavours and ensures that excellence in European rheumatology and EULAR continues to blossom.
The aims of the Education Sub-Committee are to:

1) **Promote scientific and education exchange and knowledge.** This is accomplished through a number of activities on the website and via social media. These include the monthly ‘What is New’ (WIN) contributions highlighting 10 newly published publications in the field of rheumatology. The WIN contributions have also since the end of 2019 been incorporated as part of the EMUNET podcast. The annual [EULAR-EMEUNET Ambassador Program](#) supports first-time attendees at the EULAR congress and matches them with an experienced member with similar interests.

2) **Promote educational opportunities and support for young rheumatologists/researchers working in the field of rheumatology in Europe and beyond.** This is done by obtaining reports for [EULAR courses and EULAR-endorsed courses](#) via our ‘Roving Reporters’ with the aim to inform future participants. We also coordinate bursaries for certain EULAR-endorsed courses and for other events.

3) **Provide opportunities for EMEUNET members to integrate in EULAR activities.** EULAR Task Forces includes up to two EMEUNET members who participate and contribute to the shaping of EULAR recommendations. Candidates are chosen competitively on scientific merit and previous contributions to EMEUNET and EULAR coordinated by the Education Sub-Committee. Additionally, we work closely with the EULAR Education Committee and the EULAR School of Rheumatology.
MEMBERS

Tue Wenzel Kragstrup  Alla Ishchenko  Olena Zimba  Massimo Radin

Luis Fernando Perez  Juan Molina  Elise van Mulligen  Fabian Proft
THE «WHAT IS NEW» SECTION

Luis and Elise worked together on the WIN initiative with the purpose of making WIN more interactive and reach more EMEUNET members. We changed its format using a simple template where contributors can include an interactive question for the digital audience.

December 2021

Rheumatoid Arthritis
Basic and Translational Research

Loss of balance between protective and pro-inflammatory synovial tissue T-cell polyfunctionality predates clinical onset of rheumatoid arthritis

Achilleas Floudas 1, Nuno Neto 1,2, Carl Orc 1, Mary Canavan 1, Phil Gallagher 1, Conor Hurson 1, Michael G Monaghan 1, Sunil Nagpaul 1, Ronan H Mullan 1, Douglas J Veale 1, Ursula Fearn 1

Why Win? The contribution of T cells to the development of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is poorly understood. This study shows the presence of polyfunctional CD4+CD8+ T cells already in individuals at-risk for RA, as well as in RA patients, and further characterizes these cells, broadening our understanding of T-cell involvement in the disease pathogenesis.

Objectives. This study investigates pathogenic and protective polyfunctional T-cell responses in patient with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), individuals at risk (IAR) and healthy control (HC) synovial-tissue biopsies and identifies the presence of a novel population of pathogenic polyfunctional T-cells that are enriched in the RA joint prior to the development of clinical inflammation.

Methods. Pathway enrichment analysis of previously obtained RNAseq data of synovial biopsies from RA (n=118), IAR (n=20) and HC (n=44) was performed. Single-cell synovial tissue suspensions from RA (n=10), IAR (n=7) and HC (n=7) and paired peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were stimulated in vitro and polyfunctional synovial T-cell subsets examined by flow cytometric analysis, simplified presentation of incredibly complex evaluations (SPICE) and FlowSOM clustering. ... Fluorescent lifetime imaging microscopy (FLIM) was used to visualize metabolic status of sorted T-cell populations.

Results. Increased plasticity of Tfh cells and CD4 T-cell polyfunctionality with enriched memory Treg cell responses was demonstrated in RA patient synovial tissue. Synovial tissue RNAseq analysis reveals that enrichment in T-cell activation and differentiation pathways pre-dates the onset of RA. Switch from potentially protective IL-4 and GMCSF-dominated polyfunctional CD4 T-cell responses towards pathogenic polyfunctionality is evident in patient with IAR and RA synovial tissue. Cluster analysis reveals the accumulation of highly polyfunctional CD4+ CD8dim T-cells in IAR and RA but not HC synovial tissue. CD4+ CD8dim T-cells show increased utilisation of oxidative phosphorylation, a characteristic of metabolically primed memory T-cells. Frequency of synovial CD4+ CD8dim T-cells correlates with RA disease activity.

Conclusion. Switch from potentially protective to pathogenic T-cell polyfunctionality pre-dates the onset of clinical inflammation and constitutes an opportunity for therapeutic intervention in RA.

Full text available here
Please welcome the EMEUNET Podcast! Now you can get updated on educational content and research opportunities while doing the dishes or riding your bike. Find it on Spotify or your favorite podcast app. Let us know what you think to improve the user experience.

EULAR Task Forces

EMEUNET Members appointed to Task Forces to develop and/or update EULAR Recommendations

EMEUNET members are an integral part of all EULAR Task Forces and committees working on developing new and updated EULAR recommendations and points to consider. Participants from EMEUNET are selected after a competitive process on a rolling basis, as and when new Task Forces are established.

Fabian was new as a Reviewer/Scorer of applications to become a EMEUNET representative in EULAR Task Forces. "This has been a very interesting task and I had the chance to learn a lot throughout this experience. Being in contact with my friends and colleagues from the Sub-Committe and the peers/convenors was an incredibly helpful experience for me and I learned a lot that I will be able to use to make selection processes more objective in the future. I can only warmly recommend to everyone to become involved in all of the exciting ongoing activities of the Education SC". Fabian
The Country Liaison Sub-Committee is the bridge between the EULAR | EMEUNET Committee and the Country Liaisons (CLs), which are our representatives at the national level. Our objectives are:

1. **To maintain an active CL network.** Our Sub-Committee establish fluid communication with CLs to support them on their tasks and receiving their feedback and try to put their proposals into practice. For this purpose, we send out periodic reminders and materials, organize regular Teleconferences, and are always available to give any required assistance.

2. **To promote and disseminate EULAR | EMEUNET and its initiatives.** By supporting our CLs we can reach young rheumatologists, researchers and allied professionals in every country and attract to become members and to participate in the activities we develop. Our CLs disseminate the information we send them among their colleagues in their country. They also develop national activities meant to increase the visibility and adherence to EMEUNET and report back on so we can boost their visibility through our website and Social Media channels. For assistance in this task, we produce and maintain a repository of materials that are constantly updated and with their help, we obtain translations to further increase the possibilities of reaching more potential new members.

3. **To Increase the visibility of CLs and their actions.** We give more visibility to the work of our CLs by posting them on our website, social media channels and our annual newsletter, where we also highlight their promotional activities and those who had an outstanding performance.
MEMBERS

Aggelos Banos

Alessandro Giollo

Antigone Pieta

Xabier Michelena

Irene Cecchi

Tania Gudu
ACTIVITIES

Production and translation of advertising materials

- Materials are constantly updated based on CLs feedback.
- Flyers are translated into different languages with the help of CLs and members of the working group.
- We are currently updating the materials with the new brand and migrating everything to the EMEUNET website.

Monthly Newsletter

- We prepare a monthly newsletter to be distributed to the CLs including their activities in different countries, current EULAR | EMEUNET initiatives and tips for keeping with their tasks.

Website updating and some advertising

- Periodically there are new CL appointments and we receive feedbacks from CL promotional activities that we post on our website.
- We maintain an updated list and a map with all of our CLs to increase their visibility.

Annual EULAR | EMEUNET newsletter in collaboration with the Newsletter SC

- Every year, the CL newsletter is released.
- In this newsletter, performed in alliance with the NLSC, all CLs are introduced, their work is acknowledged, and we introduce the ones with and outstanding work.

Open to new projects proposed by the Country Liaisons

- We are currently working in exciting new projects that will involve the CL and the whole EMEUNET community which will hopefully diminish the gap between our members and the Sub-Committee.
The Country Liaison Meeting at EULAR Congress

Since 2014, we organize every year the **Country Liaison meeting** during EULAR Congress. Unfortunately, these have been online in the past years due to the pandemic. This a good opportunity for CLs to meet each other, share their work, discuss the difficulties they found for performing their task and propose new ideas to be held during the next year. We are looking forward to Copenhagen, hoping the meeting will be face-2-face again!
Lianne is an epidemiologist working at The University of Manchester, UK. Her research focus is safety and effectiveness of biologic therapies for use in children and adults with juvenile idiopathic arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. She is particularly interested in young adults with rheumatic diseases and their long-term outcomes.

Simone is a rheumatologist at Turin University Hospital, Italy. He is a member of the MSK Ultrasound Study Group and Epidemiology Unit of the Italian Society of Rheumatology. His main research interests are inflammatory arthritis, connective tissue diseases and US-guided interventional joint procedures.

The aim of the EMEUNET Social Media Sub-Committee is to spread all information concerning EMEUNET or ongoing activities of rheumatologic interest across different channels:

- Website
- E-mails
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- YouTube
- Podcast

EMEUNET Website

The core of all EMEUNET-related information can be found on our website, www.emeunet.eular.org. The site has been online since June 2012, and has been expanding ever since. On our homepage, you can find announcements of interesting conferences, useful courses and exchange programmes, updates with information about registrations to conferences and bursaries, links to educational content and job offers. However, the website is more than just an information channel. We prepare special educational content, such as “What is New” section according to disease and “Imaging quizzes” showing fascinating musculoskeletal images and associated diagnoses. Moreover, as a logged-in member, you are granted full access to the whole content of the website, including all Newsletters, contacts to EULAR Centers of Excellence, and the database of EMEUNET members. It is especially designed for the needs of young rheumatologists and researchers in the field of rheumatology, being the only webpage to collect and gather such a broad range of information about rheumatology worldwide!
MEMBERS

Simone Parisi

Lianne Kearsley-Fleet

Cristiana Sieiro Santos

Dálifer Freites Núñez

David Simon

Edoardo Prediletto

Emre Bilgin

Mariana Luís

Mrinalini Dey

Philipp Bosch

Stefan Dinescu

Tsvetoslav Georgiev

MARCH 2022
EMAILS

As an EMEUNET member, you will receive regular e-mail updates (job offers, courses, and many more) and our EMEUNET Newsletters (Press Review, EULAR and ACR Do Not Miss and Highlights, among others). You will never miss an opportunity! Email us at emeunet@eular.ch

FACEBOOK, TWITTER and INSTAGRAM

In 2014, we launched our EMEUNET Facebook and Twitter platforms to maximize contact with both members and non-members, providing quick up-to-date information to the rheumatology community. This year we also launched our EMEUNET Instagram account. Our main goals are promoting EMEUNET visibility and its goals, through reaching out to all rheumatologists and researchers in rheumatology across the world. Facebook and Twitter are readily accessible and very intuitive platforms, where you can follow all ongoing activities, deadlines, and projects while they are actively taking place!

LINKEDIN

In October 2016, we also launched our profile on LinkedIn, to reach a broader audience, especially those who are not engaged in Twitter or Facebook.
YOUTUBE – EMEUNET TUBE

In May 2015, we started the YouTube channel EMEUNET TUBE, wherein you can watch interviews with top-class rheumatologists, as well as short video introductions about our different Sub-Committees, to further explore EMEUNET. We are extending our video section constantly, hosting video interviews about research topics and top papers in the field and newsletter editorials. Also, if you are not sure whether you are interested in our popular Mentor-Mentee meetings, you can find video reports about these events there.
PODCAST

In February 2020, in collaboration with the Education Sub-Committee, we launched the EMEUNET Podcast channel, where you can listen to recently published scientific news and interviews with high-level rheumatologists. We are constantly updating and enriching our audio section, to allow all colleagues to stay updated even in a simple and functional way. You can find us on major podcast platforms, including Spotify!

WHERE TO LISTEN

To keep it simple…

Our ultimate goal is to set the grounds for the key concept of EMEUNET: to keep every young rheumatologist in the world informed and involved in educational, clinical, and research activities.

If you have any information you think might be interesting for us to publish, please do not hesitate to contact us via any of our Social Media platforms or by email (emeunet@eular.ch).

We are always happy to receive any comments/suggestions you may have!
Mikhail is a junior researcher at the Med. Department of Gastroenterology, Infectiology and Rheumatology CBF, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany. He has completed his PhD in the Kazan State Medical University, Russia. His major research interests include spondyloarthritis, imaging and outcomes research/epidemiology. Mikhail is an associate member of ASAS.

**NEWSLETTER**

Leader: Mikhail Protopopov

The EMEUNET Newsletter Sub-Committee has a goal of **spreading** all the information that is considered useful to young rheumatologists and researchers in our community.

Every year, up to **11 newsletters** are released, bringing the freshest news to the EMEUNET, covering all EMEUNET activities (e.g. introducing all Sub-Committee Members, Country Liaisons, and by presenting the various activities of the EMEUNET Sub-Committees). EMEUNews also covers major rheumatology meetings (ACR and EULAR), with the selections of **Do Not Miss** abstracts and the **Highlights** of abstracts and activities. The theme of the Special issue varies on an annual basis.

In collaboration with EULAR, EMEUNET has established a **Press Review and Journal Club newsletter** as part of the EULAR School of Rheumatology and an addition to the **EULAR / EMEUNET Twitter Journal Club**. These issues are published every 4 months and provide an overview of the recently published papers in the area of rheumatology. They also bring two selected papers in focus: one selected by Twitter Community Vote for the Twitter-based Journal Club, and an EMEUNET Paper of the Month voted for by our members and featuring a video interview with one of the paper’s authors.

In addition to the contents mentioned above, all newsletters provide information on upcoming educational events, courses, grant opportunities and other new initiatives.

Over the years, the newsletters have become an important activity of EMEUNET. They are an essential part of the “voice” of EMEUNET, promoting EMEUNET visibility and engaging the community.
MEMBERS

Mikhail Protopopov

Diego Benavent

Tadeja Kuret

Maria Sokolova

Renaud Felten

Pierre-Antoine Juge

Féline Kroon

Gisem Ayan

Anastasia Madenidou

Giacomo Cafaro

NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE

MARCH 2022
EMEUNET Newsletters are published monthly to provide the overview of EMEUNET activities, to highlight the most emerging publications in the sphere of rheumatology and to provide the coverage of the biggest events (EULAR and ACR annual Congresses). The Newsletters are distributed by email mass-mailing to all EMEUNET registered members and also advertised on EMEUNET Social Media. Every Sub-Committee member is responsible for coordinating at least 1 Newsletter per year. Currently, editorials of the Newsletter are available to everyone, access to full text requires registration.
EULAR-EMEUNET Twitter Journal Club

@EULAR_JC

- 1-hour-long Twitter discussions with the authors of the pre-selected newly published papers
- The potential candidates are proposed by EMEUNET Committee Members, Pre-selected by the EMEUNET JC Team and EULAR Faculty, final decision is made by the public vote on Twitter
- 3-4 JCs per year
- All articles that make it to the poll are highlighted in the Press review and Twitter Journal Club Newsletter issues

EMEUNET’s Choice Paper

- 15-minute-long YouTube interviews with the authors of the pre-selected newly published papers
- The potential candidates are proposed by EMEUNET Committee Members, final decision is made by the public vote among the EMEUNET Members
- 3-4 Interviews per year

EULAR-EMEUNET Podcasts

- The content of the Press Review NLs are summarized in a Podcast
Silvia Piantoni is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and Consultant in Rheumatology at the ASST Spedali Civili Hospital, University Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, in Brescia (Italy). Her translational research focuses on the involvement of T lymphocytes in autoimmune diseases.

During her PhD Course in Immunology, she went to Geneva at the Centre Médicale Universitaire (CMU) to improve her skills in flow cytometry.

She is a member of the Italian Rheumatology Society from 2015.

PEER MENTORING

Chair: Silvia Piantoni

The Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee aims to provide young rheumatologists and researchers with a wide range of mentoring options to interact with mentors and leading clinicians/researchers in the field of rheumatology. It also encourages the exchange of ideas and networking between peers providing an opportunity to get in touch with rheumatologists and researchers with similar research interests.

Ongoing projects of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee:

1) **Peer Review Mentoring Program** for Rheumatology Journals: To train EMEUNET members as reviewers for scientific journals in rheumatology under the supervision of senior reviewers. This program is organised in collaboration with the editorial offices of Ann Rheum Dis and RMD Open.

2) **Mentor – Mentee meetings** at international conferences (ACR and EULAR): Informal meetings between EMEUNET members and experts in the field of rheumatology to discuss career plans, research options, training etc. under an informal atmosphere.

3) **Research institute database**: To promote research collaborations between EMEUNET members and research institutes in Europe. Along with the official list of the EULAR Centres of Excellence, and EULAR Centres of Imaging we provide information on a list of various high quality centres around Europe that are available to enable exchange of research projects and also to enhance the mobility and international experience of young rheumatologists and researchers.

4) **PostDoc Mentoring Program**: A pioneer program for early career researchers aimed at providing mentoring to cover a number of aspects of the research and career development: how to lead projects, build networks, evolve into a senior researcher and general career advice.
MEMBERS

Silvia Piantoni

Arani Vivekanantham

Mert Öztaş

Lise Verhoef

Jeroen Smeele

Ertugrul Cagri-Bolek

Alvise Berti

Steven Zhao

Stephanie Shoop-Worrall

PEER MENTORING SUB-COMMITTEE

MARCH 2022
THE MENTOR-MENTEE MEETINGS AT e-EULAR 2021

Prof Laura Andreoli & Dr Ioannis Parodis

Prof Rene Westhovens & Prof Lars Erik Kristensen

THE MENTOR-MENTEE MEETINGS AT e-ACR 2021

Dr Mariola Kurowska-Stolarska

Prof Peter Merkel
Since its first edition in 2012, this innovative program has received enormous attention from the whole EMEUNET community and beyond, and it has been continuously expanding with **29 mentors and more than 100 EMEUNET members** having participated. Since 2017, the program involves the two EULAR/BMJ rheumatology journals (Ann Rheum Dis and RMD Open). This brought new top-level mentors and a broader selection of research topics, as well as a higher number of available places. The 7th edition has been launched in 2021.

The experience from the EMEUNET Peer Review Program has been recently reported in a [viewpoint article](#) and a [podcast](#) in RMD Open. In this article, we have summarized the main characteristics of the program, the outcomes of the last editions and the recent improvements implemented.

Do not miss the opportunity to engage in scientific state-of-the-art discussions with leading experts and receive invaluable training in peer review. Stay tuned to our social media platforms and newsletters and apply to upcoming editions! For any questions related to this program, please contact [emeunet.peer.review@gmail.com](mailto:emeunet.peer.review@gmail.com)
A recent survey conducted among EMEUNET members revealed that there is a need for mentoring during the early career stages (see also the recent article on this). As a result, in 2018, the EMEUNET Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee launched the **EMEUNET PostDoc Mentoring Program**. This program is a pioneering initiative in Europe. The third edition started in 2020.

It offers mentoring to young postdoctoral researchers from senior, leading experts in the field. To guide the mentoring process, the program follows an Individual Development Plan, which collates the expectations and aims of the mentees and identifies areas where the mentor could provide guidance. It is based on a flexible scheme of communication between mentor and mentee during a 12-month time frame.

Are you a Post-Doc researcher in rheumatology and need a mentor to support your academic growth? Take advantage of this unique program and apply for coming editions! For any questions related to this program, please contact mentoring.emeunet@gmail.com
Manouk is a PostDoc researcher at the Ghent University Hospital and the Inflammatory Research Centre of Ghent University in Belgium. Her focus is on imaging in spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis. In addition, she is owner of a company assessing imaging reads for clinical trials and cohort studies.

The main aim of the V&GA subcommittee is to increase awareness around the world about EMEUNET as an organization and the projects we do. The goals of this subcommittee are:

1. **To promote EMEUNET.** Over the years we have expanded our activities, involving other (young) organisations and working together on projects with other EMEUNET subcommittees (Newsletter, Country Liaison and Social Media subcommittees).

2. **To increase EMEUNET visibility among young rheumatologists and researchers within the Reumatology society.** This task is tackled mainly by organising networking events during ACR and EULAR annual meetings and by disseminating information on EMEUNET at our booth at the EULAR congress. During the COVID-19 pandemics, V&GA subcommittee ensured to maintain the contact between the EMEUNET members using digital platforms, organizing e-networking meeting and virtual reality events. During 2021 V&GA subcommittee launched a series of scientific gettogethers to foster the scientific interaction and collaboration among the sub-committee members.

3. **To develop interactions between young specialist organisations.** We collaborate with different organisations: the Young Nephrologists’ Platform (YNP), the Paediatric Rheumatology European Society Emerging Rheumatologists and Researchers (PReS EMERGE), the ECTS Academy, young PANLAR and APLAR and the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Junior Members (EAACI JM).

4. **To interact and collaborate with PARE and Young PARE.** A better understanding of the views and needs of (young) people living with musculoskeletal and rheumatic disease is essential.
MEMBERS

Manouk de Hooge

Nadia Roodenrijs
Vincenzo Venerito
Daniele Mauro
Muhammad Shipa
Krystel Aouad

MARCH 2022
2021 has been yet another tough year. Due to the continuing restrictions, both EULAR and ACR annual meetings were virtual again. Like the year before, EMEUNET did not give up on its traditions. During EULAR 2021, countless EMEUNET members participated to the matchmaking networking event where they were linked to another attendee to meet and interact with each other.

During the ACR 2021, a virtual trivia game was organized and hosted by the Visi&GA subcommittee. Here members were tested on their quick knowledge of Rheumatology and EMEUNET. The winners received online EULAR courses and EULAR textbooks.

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT NETWORKING EVENT AT EULAR 2022
UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

**APRIL 2022**

**EUSTAR/WSF Systemic Sclerosis Virtual School 2022**
- When and Where: 1-2 Apr 2022, Virtual Event
- Website: [https://ccwebcast.eu/sclerosis/](https://ccwebcast.eu/sclerosis/)

**20th International Vasculitis and ANCA Workshop**
- When and Where: 3-6 Apr 2022, Dublin, Ireland
- Website: [https://vasculitis2022.org/](https://vasculitis2022.org/)

**OARSI 2022**
- When and Where: 7-10 Apr 2022, Berlin, Germany
- Website: [https://2022.oarsi.org/](https://2022.oarsi.org/)

**11th Annual Meeting of the Lupus Academy**
- When and Where: 8-10 Apr 2022, Florence, Italy
- Website: [https://www.lupus-academy.org/registrations](https://www.lupus-academy.org/registrations)

**British Society for Rheumatology Annual Conference**
- When and Where: 25-27 Apr 2022, Glasgow, UK (Hybrid Event)
- Website: [https://www.rheumatology.org.uk/events-learning/conferences/annual-conference](https://www.rheumatology.org.uk/events-learning/conferences/annual-conference)

**66th Japan College of Rheumatology Annual Conference**
- When and Where: 25-27 Apr 2022, Yokohama, Japan

**MAY 2022**

**4th Digital Rheumatology Day**
- When and Where: 6-7 May 2022, Berlin, Germany
- Website: [https://digitalrheumatology.org/4th-digital-rheumatology-day/](https://digitalrheumatology.org/4th-digital-rheumatology-day/)

**European Workshop for Rheumatology Research (EWRR)**
- When and Where: 5-8 May, Vienna, Austria
- Website: [https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/web/ueber-uns/events/2022/european-workshop-for-rheumatology-research/](https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/web/ueber-uns/events/2022/european-workshop-for-rheumatology-research/)

**Australian Rheumatology Association Annual Scientific Meeting**
- When and Where: 20-22 May 2022, Perth, Australia (Hybrid Event)
- Website: [https://www.araconference.com/](https://www.araconference.com/)
EULAR has developed e-learning opportunities with the newest updates in the field of rheumatology. 99 modules are available, covering different areas of rheumatology.

- **Fee**: 25 EUR for each module
- **Start**: no deadline / any time
- **Available for**: 1 year after booking

### 11th EULAR Online Introductory Ultrasound Course

The course, covering 7 modules, is designed for approx. 7 months of training, the expected learning time per week is around 2 1/2 hours. Upon passing the examination, a EULAR certificate will be issued.

- **Fee**: 150 EUR
- **Start**: 17.10.2022; **Registration will open in June 2022**
- **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension

### 12th EULAR Online Course on Systemic Sclerosis

The Course consists of 10 modules dealing with physiopathology, clinical aspects and management of SS. All modules are developed by EUSTAR.

- **Fee**: 150 EUR
- **Start**: 17.10.2022; **Registration will open in June 2022**
- **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension

### 17th EULAR Online Course on Rheumatic Diseases

The course is managed by a scientific course committee controlling the structure and content of the course and performing regular quality control and advancement. The full version covers the entire field of rheumatology and consists of 55 illustrated modules (of which some are optional), each one covering a specific topic. The expected learning time per week is calculated around 2 1/2 hours but very flexible for the learners who can enter the learning system at any time and have available free of charge an extra year if needed.

Knowledge and skills are targeted to suit a level of knowledge appropriate for the final years of training as a rheumatologist.

- **Fee**: 150 EUR
- **Start**: 17.10.2022; **Registration will open in June 2022**
- **Available for**: 2 years + 1 year extension
### 14th EULAR Online Course on Connective Tissue Diseases
The Course consists of 16 modules which deal with immunology and systemic auto-immune diseases, such as SLE, scleroderma, and vasculitis.
- **Fee:** 150 EUR
- **Start:** 17.10.2022; **Registration will open in June 2022**
- **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension

### 2nd EULAR Online Course on Patient Education for Physicians and Health Professionals
The Course consists of 4 modules (approx. 6 hours each). The learning objectives are: understand the problematics of chronic rheumatic diseases, understand issues of patient education, develop attitudes in the relationship with the patient, elaborate a program of patient education, perform an educational diagnosis, design and animate educational workshops evaluate a program and among different learning objectives. Upon passing the examination a EULAR certificate will be issued.
- **Fee:** 150 EUR
- **Start:** 17.10.2022; **Registration will open in June 2022**
- **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension

### 4th EULAR Online Course for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
The Course consists of 12 modules covering the recent updates in diagnosing and managing SLE, as well as the recent updates to management guidelines.
- **Fee:** 150 EUR
- **Start:** 17.10.2022; **Registration will open in June 2022**
- **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension

### 5th EULAR Online Course on Imaging in RMDs
The Course covers 3 modules. The learner level is aimed primarily at Section Residents and Fellows in Training as well as Rheumatologists. It aims to educate rheumatologists and future rheumatologists on how to interpret imaging examinations in chronic inflammatory RMDs and to use the imaging results to guide their daily treatment.
- **Fee:** 150 EUR
- **Start:** 17.10.2022; **Registration will open in June 2022**
- **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension
8th EULAR Online Course for Health Professionals in Rheumatology
The course consists of a total of 8 modules. Care is given to integrate the multidisciplinary perspective of the treatment of rheumatic diseases.
➢ **Fee**: 150 EUR
➢ **Start**: 17.10.2022; **Registration will open in June 2022**
➢ **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension

9th EULAR/PRES Online Course in Paediatric Rheumatology
The 11-module course represents a joint effort of EULAR and the Paediatric Rheumatology European Society (PRES), offering a deep insight of all the aspects related to rheumatic diseases in children and adolescents including their impact on the growing body and the differential diagnosis with other paediatric disorders.
➢ **Fee**: 150 EUR
➢ **Start**: 17.10.2022; **Registration will open in June 2022**
➢ **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension
EULAR Online courses:
• RMD: EULAR Course on Rheumatic Diseases
• US: EULAR Online Introductory Ultrasound Course
• IMG: EULAR Online Course on Imaging in RMDs
• PAED: EULAR / PRES Online Course in Paediatric Rheumatology
• HPR: EULAR Online Course for Health Professionals in Rheumatology
• SSc: EULAR Online Course on Systemic Sclerosis

The EULAR Educational Cooperation with National Societies (EULAR ECONS)
EMEUNET Research Speed-Dating

The EMEUNET Research Speed-Dating is an organized networking activity in which young rheumatologists and researchers interact in a series of short one-on-one conversations to determine if there is mutual interest for research collaborations. The EMEUNET research Speed-Dating will provide an opportunity for participants to explore collaboration interests in a cursory way, forming the basis for further and more profound interaction.

Application requirements

Before applying, do ensure that you have prepared the following application documents:
• Completed application form
• CV
• Motivation letter
• Proof of nomination by National Society for the EULAR Congress bursary (If applicable)

For more information and registration, access through the EULAR website.
The EULAR Research Center

How does it work?

1. Select your support area and describe your needs in a short online form
2. Get matched with an experienced scientist
3. Obtain up to 10 hours of free consultation
4. Share your feedback upon service completion

Support Areas

- Basic/Translational Research (using patient/human materials, e.g. cells, serum...or Dedicated animal models of RMDs to address bedside-to-bench research questions)
- Clinical Research
- Epidemiology and Public Health
- Health Services Research
- Implementation Science

Study design
Statistical methods
Sampling strategy
Data collection and analysis
Patient involvement
Participant recruitment strategy
Access to patient and human materials
Access to equipment and technologies
Research reporting
EU grant writing support

The EULAR Research Consultation Service is offered through the EULAR Research Centre. The service is available for researchers based in EULAR-affiliated countries.
The EULAR Outcome Measures Library (OML) aims to be a comprehensive database of validated instruments (indices, questionnaires, scales, or others), with an emphasis on patient-reported outcomes (PRO) used in rheumatology. The EULAR OML was created by rheumatologists, health professionals, students and patients, all of whom are engaged in the field of rheumatology.

The database includes a detailed description of each instrument, including the instrument itself (and validated language versions, if available), useful references, a description of the population(s)/setting(s) where it has been validated, recommendations and rules for use, guideline for interpretation of the results in clinical practice or in research, information on the most relevant psychometric properties of each instrument. Instruments are categorized by disease or by topic. Also, guidelines for interpretation of results in both practice and research settings are provided. The OML is an ongoing project and is frequently updated with the most recent information on PROs in rheumatology.

For more information visit:

http://oml.eular.org/
SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

Over the years EMEUNET has developed several projects covering different topics and areas of interest. However, we always appreciate any suggestions and welcome new ideas to expand on what we currently offer to EMEUNET members. Make your voice heard and share your ideas with us!

For additional suggestions and ideas, just write down some lines to summarize your proposal and send it either via email at emeunet@eular.ch or through our website (http://emeunet.eular.org/contact_us.cfm). Don't forget to provide your contacts so we can come back to you for additional details!

More information about EMEUNET can be found at http://emeunet.eular.org

www.facebook.com/EMEUNET
www.twitter.com/EMEUNET
https://www.linkedin.com
EMEUNET Tube
EMEUNET Podcast
The European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) is very concerned about the situation in Ukraine, and it condemns Russia’s unacceptable act of aggression towards the country. As hospitals are being attacked and access to medical aid is interrupted, EULAR wants to respond to this humanitarian crisis and particularly support the Ukrainian people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), who need urgent treatment and assistance.

Together with EMEUNET, EULAR has developed a support programme for young Ukrainian rheumatologists, enabling them to take up their profession, maintain and further develop their skills, and provide care to a range of patients, including particularly displaced Ukrainian RMD patients. Across Europe, Ukrainian rheumatologists or rheumatologists in training can apply for this programme, sponsoring their employment in one of EULAR’s various partner hospitals or institutes. EULAR will fund up to 20 such positions, allowing for a stable income for a Ukrainian physician who had to flee their country, and securing medical treatment for Ukrainian refugees with RMDs. EULAR will provide €500,000 for this purpose.

What: Funding programme for displaced Ukrainian physicians
Who can apply: Hospitals or medical institutions (employers) in countries with many displaced Ukrainian refugees
Target group: Ukrainian rheumatologists, focus on rheumatologists in training
How much: 20,000 – 30,000 EUR/year

Please send your application to eular@eular.org.