SPECIAL EDITION:
MEET THE EMEUNET COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2021 - 2022

EMEUNET members: 2754
Dear young rheumatologists and researchers in rheumatology,

We are excited to present you a new issue of EMEUNews and to introduce the EMEUNET Committee and Sub-Committee members (previously known as Working Group) for 2021-2022.

This group of enthusiastic young volunteers participates in the organization of EMEUNET and its activities. Currently, it has 54 members from 23 different countries.

The application process is competitive and takes place annually in April-May. Selection is based on the motivation letter, scientific merit, prior contribution to EMEUNET activities (e.g. as a country liaison) as well as balanced gender and geographic representation.

If you would like to join one of the EMEUNET Sub-Committees and be actively involved in our activities, keep an eye on emails from EMEUNET and do not miss our next call for applications! If you have already applied but have not been selected, this does not preclude you from applying again for the following year.

As we welcome our new Committee and Sub-Committee members, we sadly have to say farewell to members leaving, following a period of outstanding initiative and hard work. The EMEUNET family is deeply grateful for their ample efforts over the last years and wishes them all the best onwards. Finally, as usual, in this issue you will also find details about upcoming educational events of interest to EMEUNET members.

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

Diego Benavent and Mikhail Protopopov, on behalf of the Newsletter Sub-Committee
EMEUNET CHAIRMANSHIP
2021 - 2022

Kim Lauper, MD – Switzerland, UK
Kim is a rheumatologist and senior clinical associate at the Geneva University Hospitals in Switzerland and a clinical research fellow at the Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis at the University of Manchester in the UK. Her research focuses on rheumatoid arthritis, (pharmaco)-epidemiology, real-life evidence and methodology of observational studies. Kim is the Chair of EMEUNET.
kim.lauper@unige.ch

Felice Rivellese, MD, PhD – Italy, UK
Felice is a Research Fellow and Honorary Clinical Fellow at the Department of Rheumatology of Queen Mary University of London. He is a Clinical Immunologist and obtained his PhD in Immuno-rheumatology in 2016 with a thesis studying cells of the innate immunity in inflammatory arthritis. His current research focuses on the use of synovial biopsies to predict disease progression and treatment response in inflammatory arthritis. Felice is the Past-Chair of EMEUNET.
rivelles@gmail.com
EMEUNET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Lianne Kearsley-Fleet, PhD – UK

Lianne is a research associate in epidemiology working at the internationally acclaimed Centre for Epidemiology Versus Arthritis, The University of Manchester, United Kingdom. Her research focus is safety and effectiveness of biologic therapies for use in children and adults with juvenile idiopathic arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, using the UK biologics registers (BSRBR-RA, BCRD and BSPAR-ETN). She is particularly interested in young adults with rheumatic diseases and their long-term outcomes. Lianne Kearsley-Fleet is a member of PReS (Paediatric Rheumatology European Association), BANNAR (Barbara Ansell National Network for Adolescent Rheumatology), and is the co-leader of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

lianne.Kearsley-Fleet@manchester.ac.uk

Simone Parisi, MD - Italy

Simone is a consultant rheumatologist at University Hospital “Città della Salute e della Scienza”, Turin, Italy. His major research interests include arthritis, connective tissue diseases and imaging. He has gained much experience in joint injection therapy, especially in the use of haemocomponents. He is a member of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Study Group and Epidemiology Unit of the Italian Society for Rheumatology. Simone is the co-leader of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

simone.parisi@hotmail.it

Tue Wenzel Kragstrup, MD, PhD – Denmark

Tue is currently working as a part time Associate Professor in immunology and pharmacology and a part time rheumatology fellow in Aarhus, Denmark. The Kragstrup lab focuses on the immunological mechanisms of immune mediated inflammatory diseases with special interest in arthritis and immune mediated adverse effects of cancer immunotherapy. Tue graduated from the medical school at Aarhus University in 2010 also spending time at Sydney University Hospital. He did his internship in Copenhagen and PhD at the Department of Biomedicine at Aarhus University and Department of Immunology at Stanford University. Tue is leading the EMEUNET Education Sub-Committee for the third and final year.

kragstrup@biomed.au.dk

Xabier Michelena Vegas, MD, MSc – Spain

Xabier is a Rheumatology and Emergency Medicine consultant at Vall d’Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain. He also maintains a visiting research fellow position at the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine (LIRMM), University of Leeds, United Kingdom. His major research interest is in spondyloarthritis, including axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis. He is currently pursuing his PhD between the University of Leeds and Barcelona on the axial phenotype across the spondyloarthritides. Xabier is member of the scientific committee of GRESSER (Spanish Society Spondyloarthritis research group) and the chair of the Country Liaison Sub-Committee.

X.MichelenaVegas@leeds.ac.uk
**EMEUNET COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**2021 - 2022**

**Mikhail Protopopov, MD, PhD – Germany, Russia**

Mikhail is a researcher and a doctor at the Med. Department of Gastroenterology, Infectiology and Rheumatology CBF, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany. His major research interests include spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis, imaging and outcomes research/epidemiology. His work involves identifying predictors of radiographic progression in axial SpA, factors influencing physical function in axial SpA, different screening strategies in patients with suspicion of axial SpA as well as influences of extra-musculoskeletal manifestations on the clinical course of axial SpA. Mikhail is a team member of the EULAR-EMEUNET Twitter Journal Club initiative and an associate member of ASAS. Mikhail is the leader of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

mikhail.protopopov@charite.de

**Silvia Piantoni, MD, PhD – Italy**

Silvia 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 and, in particular, in rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus and systemic sclerosis. 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. Silvia is the Chair of the Peer Review Mentoring Sub-Committee.

slv.piantoni@gmail.com

**Manouk de Hooge, MSc, PhD – The Netherlands, Belgium**

Manouk is a postdoc researcher at the Inflamatory Research Centre at the Ghent University and in the Ghent University hospital (UZ Gent) in Belgium. Her focus is on spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis and imaging. In addition, through her own company -MdH Research- she assesses imaging reads for clinical trials and cohort studies. She did her PhD at the Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands on imaging in axial spondyloarthritis under supervision of prof.dr. D van der Heijde and she is still involved in some spondyloarthritis projects there. She is the co-chair of Young ASAS and for the third year she is the leader of the Visibility & Global Affairs Sub-Committee.

msmdehooge@gmail.com
THE EMEUNET SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Krystel Aouad, MD – France, Lebanon

Krystel is a consultant rheumatologist, working part-time in Lebanon and completing her MPH degree in Research and Biostatistics in Paris-Saclay university, France. She pursued her training in Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital in Paris. She received a diploma in musculoskeletal ultrasound from Sorbonne University, Paris. She has a high interest in clinical research in the field of spondyloarthritis (SpA), psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and rheumatoid arthritis. She received the 1st prize from EMEUNET at the ACR congress 2020 for her research work on PsA. She is currently leading a research project on axial SpA analyzing the data of the DESIR cohort. Krystel is a member of the Visibility and Global Affairs Sub-Committee.

krystel.aouad@hotmail.com

Gizem Ayan, MD – Turkey

Gizem is a first-year rheumatology fellow at Hacettepe University Medical Faculty in Ankara where she started the residency right after the 1.5-year inflammatory arthritis research fellowship at Ottawa University, Canada. She has recently joined to Young-GRAPPA team and will work as the education leader. Her major research interests are inflammatory arthritis particularly psoriatic arthritis and outcome measures in rheumatic diseases. Gizem is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

drgizemayan@gmail.com

Aggelos Banos, MD, PhD – Greece

Aggelos is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Laboratory of Autoimmunity and Inflammation (BRFAA, Athens, Greece) and a Resident of Internal Medicine (Ippokrateion University Hospital, Athens, Greece). His major research interests include molecular clustering of autoimmune diseases through -omics technologies, with special focus in SLE and vasculitis. His past research studies involved nuclear architecture and chromatin rearrangements in antiviral response and transcriptomic analysis of various primary cells in SLE context. His current work is focusing on analysis of hematopoietic stem cells and bone marrow niche dynamics in SLE patients and mouse models. Aggelos is a member of Country Liaisons Sub-Committee.

abanos@bioacademy.gr

Emre Bilgin, MD – Turkey

Emre is an internist and rheumatology fellow-in-training at Hacettepe University Hospitals in Ankara, Turkey where he is planning to have a master class in Clinical Epidemiology. His major research interests are biologic drug registries, data science and epidemiology in musculoskeletal disorders and rheumatoid arthritis. He is currently participating in 3 journals as an editor (Medicine, Journal of Turkish Society for Rheumatology, Acta Medica) and 3 journals as an editorial board member (Rheumatology, BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders and BMC Rheumatology). Emre is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

Dr.emrebilgin@gmail.com
Diego Benavent, MD – Spain

Diego is a consultant rheumatologist at Hospital Universitario La Paz in Madrid, where he is currently doing his PhD on axial spondyloarthritis. He also collaborates as Medical Expert in Savana, a company working on artificial intelligence in medicine. He has been the European Junior Doctors representative at UEMS-Rheumatology section for the years 2019-2021. Aside from his activities regarding healthcare technology, his major interests are spondyloarthritis, patient-reported outcomes and musculoskeletal epidemiology. Diego is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

d_benavent@hotmail.com

Alvise Berti, MD – Italy

Alvise is a consultant in the Rheumatology Department of the Hospital of Trento, Trentino region, Italy, and a PhD student at the University of Trento, Italy. His major research interests include vasculitis and rare diseases, particularly ANCA-associated vasculitis, from the basic science to the clinical and epidemiological research. He is the Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium (VCRC) fellow for the years 2019-2020, at Mayo Clinic, Rochester (USA). Alvise is a member of Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.
alvise.berti@gmail.com

Philipp Bosch, MD – Austria

Philipp is a rheumatology research fellow and PhD candidate at the Department of Rheumatology and Immunology at the Medical University of Graz. His major research interest is ultrasound in rheumatic diseases, as well as outcome measure research and epidemiology. His previous work involved the connection between disease activity and ultrasound in psoriatic arthritis. Currently, he is working on evaluation of ultrasonographic changes in giant cell arteritis patients undergoing glucocorticoid treatment and the predictive value of ultrasound for radiographic progression in psoriatic arthritis. He is also involved in EULAR and OMERACT projects and is currently the head of the Visibility Group of the Austrian Society of Rheumatology. Philipp is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.
philipp.bosch@medunigraz.at

Giacomo Cafaro, MD – Italy

Giacomo is a consultant rheumatologist and PhD candidate at the Rheumatology Unit of the University of Perugia, Italy. He is currently carrying out his PhD project on T cell biology in rheumatoid arthritis and is involved in other research projects on musculoskeletal ultrasound, psoriatic arthritis and Sjögren’s syndrome, that represent his main research interests. He is also involved in undergraduate and rheumatology interns training. Giacomo is a member of the newsletter Sub-Committee.

giacomo.cafaro@libero.it
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Ertugrul Cagri Bolek, MD – Turkey

Ertugrul received his M.D. and Internal Medicine specialist degrees from Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey. He is currently clinical fellow-in-training in Division of Rheumatology at same university. Also, he is simultaneously in education program of Immunology MSc. His past work was about clinical features and disease course of Neuro-Behcet's Disease. He is planning to focus on translational research about immunorheumatology and mechanisms of rheumatism (especially about vasculitis and rare diseases). He is active member of ORPHANET-Tr in Health Institutes of Turkey. Ertugrul is a member of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

Irene Cecchi, MD, PhD candidate – Italy

Irene is a PhD candidate at the Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, San Giovanni Bosco Hospital, Turin (Italy). Her research and her clinical routine practice, includes mainly connective tissue diseases, antiphospholipid syndrome, and reproductive immunology. Her doctoral research project is focused on developing a predictive model for the early detection of adverse pregnancy complications in connective tissue disease patients. Irene is a young scholar of the AntiPhospholipid Syndrome Alliance for Clinical Trials and InternatiOnal Networking (‘APS ACTION’). Irene is a member of the Country Liaisons Sub-Committee.

Mrinalini Dey MB BChir, MRCP – UK

Mrinalini Dey is a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)-funded Academic Clinical Fellow and Rheumatology registrar working in Liverpool, UK. She developed her interest in academic rheumatology as a student at Cambridge. Her research interests include epidemiology and infection in rheumatic diseases. Her past work has focused on vasculitis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and osteoporosis (ongoing). She has also led a large project on the development of a point-of-care test for infection in the acute hot joint setting, funded by British Society for Rheumatology, Wellcome Trust, and University of Liverpool. Mrinalini is on the Editorial Board and social media committee for Rheumatology journal and has been a presenter for EULAR TV at the EULAR Congress since 2019. She sits on the EULAR Communications Committee and, as a passionate patient advocate, is involved in educational activities for PARE. Mrinalini is part of the EMEUNET Social Media Sub-Committee and podcast production team.

Stefan Dinescu, MD - Romania

Stefan is a rheumatology specialist at the Emergency County Hospital in Craiova. He has completed his PhD studies in 2018, with a research focused on imaging features in Sjogren’s syndrome. He is currently involved as sub-investigator in a multicenter clinical trial on systemic lupus erythematosus. He has completed a certified musculoskeletal ultrasound course, an investigation which he uses regularly in daily practice. Major interests include Sjogren’s syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus and musculoskeletal ultrasound. He is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.
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Renaud Felten, MD, PhD student – France

Renaud Felten is an assistant professor in the department of Rheumatology, University Hospital of Strasbourg and National Reference Centre for Rare Systemic and Autoimmune Diseases East South-West (RESO) in Strasbourg, France. His major research interests include DMARDs, immunosuppressive drugs in the fields of auto-immune diseases and inflammatory rheumatism, spondyloarthritis. Currently, he is a PhD student looking for new therapeutics targets in Sjögren's syndrome. Renaud is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee after one year in the Social Media Sub-Committee.

Dalifer Freites Núñez, MD – Spain

Dalifer is a consultant rheumatologist at Hospital Universitario Clínico San Carlos in Madrid, where she is currently doing his PhD. She also collaborates as a rheumatologist in Hospital Nuestra Señora del Rosario in Madrid. She has participated in various research projects, promoted by the Research Unit of the Hospital Clínico San Carlos, some of them with a European scope. Projects related to the optimization of biological agents and predictive model of biotherapy response in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. She has participated as a sub-investigator in clinical trials in rheumatoid arthritis and shares a special interest on rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease epidemiology. Dalifer is a member of the EMEUNET Social Media Sub-Committee.

Alessandro Giollo, MD PhD(c) – Italy

Alessandro is a rheumatologist and a PhD candidate in clinical and experimental biomedical sciences at the University of Verona (Italy). He is interested in the cardiovascular involvement of immune-mediated and inflammatory diseases, and his research mainly focuses on rheumatoid arthritis, systemic vasculitis and scleroderma. He spent 9-months in the UK at the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine (LIRMM) as a clinical research fellow training on cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging in ANCA-associated vasculitis under the supervision of Prof. Maya Buch. He is a member of EUVAS and EUSTAR YIG. Alessandro is a member of the Country Liaisons Sub-Committee.

Tsvetosлав Georgiev, MD - Bulgaria

Tsvetosлав works as a rheumatologist and assistant professor at the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna and Medical University – Varna, respectively. He graduated in medicine in 2012 and defended his PhD thesis on osteoarthritis in 2018 at the Medical University - Sofia. His area of interests are osteoarthritis, imaging of musculoskeletal disorders, and COVID-19 in the context of rheumatic diseases. Tsvetosлав is practicing musculoskeletal ultrasound and holds an intermediate-level certificate (EULAR). Since 2019, he has been an associate editor of Rheumatology International. Since 2017, he has been a frequent reviewer for influential journals in the field of rheumatology and medicine. He participates in many Bulgarian and international courses in musculoskeletal ultrasound and imaging. He has conducted seminars and lectures on writing and reviewing scientific literature. Tsvetosлав is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.
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Tania Gudu, MD – Romania

Tania is a Rheumatology Consultant currently working at Cambridge University Hospitals, UK. She undertook her rheumatology training in Bucharest (Romania) and Paris (France). Her major interests are psoriatic arthritis/ spondylarthritis, patient reported outcomes, epidemiology, and musculoskeletal ultrasound. She has completed her PhD in 2018 on the topic of impact of psoriatic arthritis. In addition to her research interests, she is a strong advocate of patient education and patient involvement in research. Tania is a member of the Country Liaison Sub-Committee.

taniagudu@gmail.com

Alla Ishchenko, MD – Belgium

Alla works as a rheumatologist in a private hospital and as a part-time PhD fellow at the University of Leuven, Belgium. Her research is focused on psoriatic arthritis and the impact of metabolic factors on the course of the disease. She has a Level 2 competency in musculoskeletal ultrasound, and competencies in knee needle arthroscopy and in ultrasound-guided joint-injections and synovial biopsies. Her interests include musculoskeletal ultrasound, systemic diseases and spondylarthritis. Alla is a country liaison for Belgium and a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

alla.ishchenko@telenet.be

Pierre-Antoine Juge, MD, PhD – France

Pierre-Antoine is a fellow in rheumatology at Bichat Hospital, Paris, France. After his residency, he worked for his PhD on immunology. His works focus on rheumatoid arthritis associated interstitial lung disease related genetic and other risk factors. By working with ILD experts pulmonologists he has developed a strong network between rheumatology and pulmonology. Pierre-Antoine is a member of Newsletter Sub-Committee.

pierreantoine.juge@aphp.fr

Tadeja Kuret, MSc – Slovenia

Tadeja is a postdoctoral research associate at Institute of Cell Biology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. She obtained her PhD at Department of Rheumatology, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, focusing on primary systemic vasculitides and acute phase response in rheumatic diseases. During her PhD she also worked as a research fellow at Center of Experimental Rheumatology, University Hospital Zurich in Switzerland. Her current research interests include primary systemic vasculitides (giant cell arteritis and IgA vasculitis), chronic inflammation, biomarker discovery, single cell RNA sequencing, spatial transcriptomics, in vitro 3D models and systems biology. Tadeja also works as a teaching assistant at University of Primorska in Koper, Slovenia; She is a member of the EMEUNET Newsletter Sub-Committee.

tadejakuret@gmail.com
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Féline Kroon, MD, PhD – The Netherlands

Féline is a rheumatologist-in-training at Zuyderland Medical Center in Heerlen (The Netherlands). She did her PhD on treatment and outcome measurement in hand osteoarthritis at the Leiden University Medical Center in Leiden. She is a member of the OMERACT Technical Advisory Group, and currently also fellow in a EULAR recommendations task force. Féline is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee and the Country Liaison for The Netherlands.

fpbkroon@gmail.com

Mariana Luís, MD – Portugal

Mariana Luís is a consultant rheumatologist in Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal. Her research interests include neuroimaging of chronic pain and systemic lupus erythematosus. She has been working on a biopsychosocial model for the origin of fibromyalgia. Mariana is a former member of the Education Sub-Committee and currently a member of the EMEUNET Social Media Sub-Committee.

maryanaluys@gmail.com

Anastasia Madenidou, MD, MSc, MRCP- UK

Anastasia is a rheumatology and general medicine trainee at the rheumatology department of Salford Royal Hospital which is a tertiary referral centre. Her major interests are musculoskeletal ultrasound and connective tissue diseases. She is a trainee representative for the British Society of Rheumatology (BSR) and for the Rheumatology Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB). She is also an Editorial Board member of the Rheumatology Advances in Practice (RAP) journal and a council member of the Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Section of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM). Anastasia is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

amadenidou@gmail.com

Daniele Mauro, MD, PhD – Italy, United Kingdom

Daniele is a medical doctor who completed his PhD in Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology at Centre for Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology at the Queen Mary University of London (UK). He focused his study on the involvement of ubiquitination pathways on the immune system, and their impact on autoimmune rheumatic diseases, mainly systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjögren’s syndrome and rheumatoid arthritis. Since 2018 he is a trainee in Rheumatology in Italy where he is expanding his interests to the mucosal immunology and Innate Lymphoid Cells in spondyloarthritis, working between the Universities of Palermo and Naples in Italy, and the Queen Mary University of London. Daniele is a member of the Visibility & Global Affairs Sub-Committees.

dranielmar@gmail.com
Juan Molina Collada, MD – Spain

Juan is a consultant rheumatologist specialized in ultrasound at Gregorio Marañón University Hospital, Madrid, Spain. His major research interests include the use of imaging in rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis and large vessel vasculitis. After finishing his training at La Paz University Hospital, Madrid, Spain, and a clinical attachment at The Kellgren Centre for Rheumatology, The University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom, he is currently secretary of the Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Group of the Spanish Society of Rheumatology. Juan is a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

molinacolladajuan@gmail.com

Elise van Mulligen, MSc – The Netherlands

Elise is a postdoc researcher and epidemiologist at the department of Rheumatology at the Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, and the LUMC, Leiden. Her PhD project was about tapering treatment in Rheumatoid Arthritis. Her current research focus is on the (very) early detection of Rheumatoid Arthritis, with a special interest in patient reported outcomes, imaging, and economic analyses. Currently, Elise is a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

Elise.vanmulligen@erasmusmc.nl

Mert Oztas, MD – Turkey

Mert is a fellow in training at Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa. His main interests are autoinflammatory disorders and large vessel vasculitis. Mert is a member of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

dr.mertoztas@gmail.com

Luis Fernando Perez, MD– Mexico, The Netherlands

Luis Fernando is a rheumatologist. Currently he is doing finishing his PhD on the effect of rheumatic diseases on male sexual and reproductive health at the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam. Because of his expertise on the field of Reproductive Rheumatology he also collaborates as medical consultant for several pharmaceutical companies. Aside from his activities regarding Reproductive Rheumatology, his major interests are rheumatoid arthritis, male psychology and chronic diseases and patient-reported outcomes. Luis Fernando is a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

l.perez@erasusmc.nl
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Antigone Pieta, MD, MSc – Greece

Antigone Pieta is a Rheumatology Fellow in the Rheumatology Clinic of University Hospital of Ioannina, Greece. Her research interest focuses on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, response to treatment and disease activity metrics in systemic autoimmune diseases. Her work so far included organization of a research biobank and conduction of randomized clinical trials in rheumatic diseases. She is also a member of Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, taking part in research projects regarding lupus. She is a member of the Country Liaison Sub-Committee.

pieta.an@hotmail.com

Edoardo Prediletto, MSc, PhD – Italy, UK

Edoardo is a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology of the William Harvey Research Institute in London. His major research interests include rheumatoid arthritis, basic science in autoimmunity and virology. His past work involved understanding the role of Synoviocytes and B-Cells in the production of autoantibodies. Also, during his PhD he investigated several aspects of the Epstein Barr Virus in rheumatoid arthritis. Currently is work is focusing on the differences between subsets of Fibroblast-Like Synoviocytes inside the synovium, and their possible role fuelling inflammation in RA. Edoardo has been a PhD Versus Arthritis fellow and is a BSI and yEFIS member. Edoardo is a member of the Social Network Sub-Committee.

e.prediletto@qmul.ac.uk

Fabian Proft, MD – Germany

Fabian is a rheumatologist and senior researcher at the Med. Department of Gastroenterology, Infectiology and Rheumatology CBF, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany, where he is heading the clinical trials unit. His major research interests are axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) with a focus on emerging treatments, observational cohort studies and imaging. Currently, he is working on similarities and differences between axial SpA and axial PsA. He also explores factors and potential treatments influencing the radiographic progression in axial SpA. Fabian is a full member of ASAS and GRAPPA and is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

fabian.proft@charite.de

Massimo Radin, MD – Italy

Massimo currently works at the Multidisciplinary Centre for Immunopathology and Rare Diseases, Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, University of Turin, Italy. He is currently enrolled in the PhD Program in Complex Systems for Life Sciences, focusing on computational and experimental predictive modeling in Connective Tissue Diseases. He is a member of APS ACTION and previous fellows at University of Sao Paulo Hospital das Clinicas. Massimo is a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

massimo.radin@unito.it
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Nadia Roodenrijs, MD – The Netherlands

Nadia is a rheumatologist in training at the University Medical Center, Utrecht, the Netherlands. Her main research interests include (difficult-to-treat) rheumatoid arthritis, synovial biopsies, epidemiology and pharmacology. Nadia is a member of the Visibility & Global Affairs Sub-Committee.

N.M.T.Roodenrijs-2@umcutrecht.nl

Cristiana Sieiro Santos, MD – Spain

Cristiana is a rheumatology trainee at Complejo Asistencial Universitario de León in León (Spain). She has a master’s degree in pediatric rheumatology from University Cardenal Herrera and an expert title in autoinflammatory diseases from University of Barcelona. Her major interests are systemic autoimmune diseases, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus and systemic sclerosis and she is also interested in translational research, clinical immunology, and musculoskeletal epidemiology. Cristiana is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

cristysieirosantos@gmail.com

Muhammad Shipa, MD – UK

Muhammad is a senior rheumatology trainee at London deanery and currently pursuing his PhD in B cell depletion therapy in Lupus nephritis at university college London. His major interest includes connective tissue diseases like Lupus and has been working as a key collaborator in clinical trial in Lupus. For his research contribution he won prestigious Gordon Davies silver award in 2017. Muhammad is a member of the visibility and global affairs Sub-Committee.

muhammad.shipa@nhs.net

Stephanie Shoop-Worrall, PhD – UK

Stephanie is a research associate at the University of Manchester, UK. Her major research interests include epidemiology, machine learning and paediatric rheumatology. Her past work explored the state of remission in juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA): how it is defined, predicted and outcomes following its achievement. She has also worked on the validation and translation of patient-reported outcome measures as young people with JIA mature into adulthood. Currently, Stephanie is working with the CLUSTER consortium applying novel machine learning methods to further stratified medicine in JIA. She is a member of PReS and of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

Stephanie.shoop-worrall@manchester.ac.uk
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David Simon, MD – Germany

David is a Rheumatology Resident at the Rheumatology and Immunology Department of the University Hospital Erlangen. His main research focus is on arthritis and enthesitis in rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis patients and on the transition from risk collectives (psoriasis/ACPA positive individuals) to clinically manifest rheumatic disease. With the help of experimental imaging techniques, he made an important contribution to a better understanding of the pathogenesis of enthesitis and arthritis in chronic inflammatory joint diseases. David is a member of the Social Media Sub-Committee.

david.simon@uk-erlangen.de

Jeroen Smeele, MD – The Netherlands

Jeroen is a medical doctor/researcher at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam and currently working on a PhD thesis on Rheumatoid Arthritis. His major interests are rheumatic diseases before and during pregnancy and epidemiology. He has been a scientific translator since 2018. Jeroen is a member of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

h.smeele@erasmusmc.nl

Maria Sokolova, MD, PhD Student – Germany, Russia

Maria is a PhD candidate at the University Clinic Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany. Her current topic of research is autoimmunity in rheumatoid arthritis and translational science. Maria got her medical doctor degree at the Lomonosov Moscow State University in Russia. Afterwards, her research focus was in clinical aspects of vasculitis and Takayasu arteritis. In 2018, she received PARTNER Fellowship to work on a translational project in biomarkers in psoriatic arthritis at the University Clinic Erlangen. Maria is a member of the Newsletter Sub-Committee.

maria.sokolova093@gmail.com

Lise Verhoef, PhD – The Netherlands

Lise Verhoef is a postdoctoral researcher at the Sint Maartenskliniek in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Her main research areas of interest are rheumatoid arthritis, (pharmaceutical) treatment strategies, digital innovation and patient-centered care. In 2019 she completed her thesis entitled ‘Effective and efficient use of bDMARDs in rheumatoid arthritis’. Currently, she supervises several PhD students as co-promotor and is involved in various research projects within the Sint Maartenskliniek. Lise is a member of the EMEUNET Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

L.Verhoef@maartenskliniek.nl,
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Vincenzo Venerito, MD – Italy

Vincenzo is assistant professor of Rheumatology at the University of Bari (IT). His main research interest is the investigation of diagnostic and therapeutic biomarkers in inflammatory through synovial biopsy. Additionally, he is involved in the application of machine learning methods in rheumatic diseases. Vincenzo also has a vivid interest in biostatistics and epidemiology. He is a member of the Visibility and Global Affairs Sub-Committee.

vincenzo.venerito@uniba.it

Arani Vivekanantham, MRCP, MBChB – UK, Sri Lanka

Arani is a NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow at the University of Oxford and Specialist Registrar in Rheumatology and General Internal Medicine at Oxford University Hospitals. Arani’s research interests are in using real world data to answer clinically relevant questions to improve the care and lives for people living with psoriatic arthritis. Arani is the sub-group leader for the networking group in the recently formed Young Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (Y-GRAPPA). In EMEUNET, Arani is a keen and enthusiastic member of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

arani.vivekanantham@gmail.com

Sizheng Steven Zhao, MD, PhD – UK

Steven is an Academic Clinical Lecturer at the University of Manchester, UK. His research mostly involves applying epidemiological and genetic epidemiological methods to improve care for inflammatory arthritis including spondyloarthritis. Steven is an executive committee member of the for the British Society for Spondyloarthritis, and the editorial boards of Rheumatology (Oxford) and BMC rheumatology. Steven is a member of the Peer Mentoring Sub-Committee.

stevenzhao25@gmail.com

Olena Zimba, MD, PhD – Ukraine

Olena has been involved in rheumatology research since 2005 and got her PhD degree in 2010. She works as Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University in Ukraine. Her scientific interests relate to systemic vasculitis. Olena serves as an Associate Editor for Rheumatology International, Archives of Rheumatology and as a Social Media Editor for the J Korean Med Sci (Seoul) and is a Country Liaison for Ukraine. Olena is a member of the Education Sub-Committee.

zimbaolena@gmail.com
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

FAREWELL TO

EMEUNET WORKING GROUP MEMBERS 2020-2021

Achilleas Floudas

Alexandre Sepriano

EMEUNET Chair 2019-2020

Blaz Burja

Charlotte Krausewitz

Chiara Giacomassi

Chris Wincup

Claire Dainen

Deshire Alpizar Rodríguez

George Fragoulis
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

FAREWELL TO

EMEUNET WORKING GROUP MEMBERS 2020-2021

James Bluett  
James Gwinnutt  
Maddalena Larosa

Mary Lucy Marques  
Olga Brzezinska  
Martín Greco

Peter Korsten  
Savino Sciascia  
Sebastián Rodríguez-García
UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2021

49th German Congress of Rheumatology (DGRh) 2021
- When and Where: 15 – 18 Sep 2021, Virtual Event
- Website: https://www.dgrh-kongress.de/

27th European Paediatric Rheumatology Congress
- When and Where: 19 – 21 Sep 2021, Virtual Event
- Website: https://www.pres.eu/pres2021/index.html

7th British Society of Spondyloarthritis annual meeting
- When and Where: 22 Sep 2021, Virtual Event
- Website: https://britspa.co.uk/annual-scientific-meeting/annual-scientific-e-meeting-2021/

Lupus 21st Century Conference
- When and Where: 22 – 25 Sep 2021, Tucson, USA, Hybrid meeting
- Website: http://lupus21century.com/

European Society of Immunodeficiencies Multidisciplinary Symposium on the Immunological Consequences of Targeted Immune Therapies
- When and Where: 27 – 29 Sep 2021; Virtual Event
- Website: https://2021.esidmeeting.org/

OCTOBER 2021

The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research Annual Meeting 2021
- When and Where: 01 – 04 Oct 2021; Virtual Event
- Website: https://www.asbmr.org/annual-meeting

LUPUS & CORA 2021
- When and Where: 06 – 09 Oct 2021; Virtual Event
- Website: https://lupus2021.kenes.com/

9th Annual Meeting of the International Cytokine & Interferon Society
- When and Where: 17 – 20 Oct 2021; Virtual Event
- Website: https://cardiff.cytokinesociety.org/

The 13th International Kawasaki Disease Symposium
- When and Where: 29 – 31 Oct 2021; Virtual Event
- Website: https://site2.convention.co.jp/13ikds/
EULAR ONLINE COURSES AND MODULES

Compilation of EULAR Online Modules
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

10th 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:** 14 October 2021
- **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension

10th 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:** 14 October 2021
- **Available for:** 1 year + 1 year extension

16th 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. Each module corresponds to approximately 5 - 8 hours of study for the student, totalling around 275 - 440 hours of educational training. Knowledge and skills are targeted to suit a level of knowledge appropriate for the final years of training as a rheumatologist. It will finish with an online examination and upon passing, with a EULAR Certificate.

- **Fee:** 150 EUR
- **Start:** 14 October 2021
- **Available for:** 2 years + 1 year extension
13th 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**: 14 October 2021
➢ **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension

1st 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**: 14 October 2021
➢ **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension

3rd 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**: 14 October 2021
➢ **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension

4th 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**: 14 October 2021
➢ **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension
EULAR ONLINE COURSES AND MODULES

7th 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**: 14 October 2021
- **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension

8th 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**: 14 October 2021
- **Available for**: 1 year + 1 year extension
An overview of several useful online resources:

- **EMEUNET “What Is New” initiative.** Discussion of recent papers in the field of Rheumatology, aimed at helping EMEUNET members up to date with the latest scientific and clinical findings in different areas of rheumatology. Sorted by disease topic.

- **EMEUNET Podcast.** Recently launched, this podcast is meant for clinicians and researchers in the field of rheumatology who want to keep up to date on recent publications and events.

- **EULAR School of Rheumatology.** EULAR offers a wide variety of online courses and other learning resources to contribute to the training and education of rheumatologists-in-training and rheumatologists.

- **EULAR Imaging Library.** An online gallery of a wide spectrum of imaging modalities and rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases in adults and children.

- **EULAR Ultrasound Scanning App.** A comprehensive digital technical manual of ultrasound (US) in rheumatology. Designed as an illustrated tool for use on tablets and smartphones, it displays the procedures for US assessment of the principal joint areas and other relevant anatomic regions.

- **EULAR Outcome Measures Library.** A comprehensive database of validated instruments (indices, questionnaires, scales, or others) that are used in rheumatology, with an emphasis on Patient Reported Outcomes. Instruments are categorized by disease or by topic.

- **ACR Virtual Rheumatology Learning Collaborative.** A free 8-week lecture series of over 20 live lectures on a variety of topics in rheumatology. Previous recordings are available to watch as well.
Experts at EULAR offer hands-on advice for scientists investigating rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RDMs) helping them optimise their research.

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
- Clinical Research
- Translational Research

Service Examples:
- Study design
- Research reporting
- Statistical methods
- Data collection and analysis
- Ethical and regulatory issues
- Patient involvement
- Sampling strategy
- Access to patient and human
- Materials
- Access to equipment and technologies

The EULAR Virtual Research Centre (VRC)
The EULAR Research Consultation Service is offered through the EULAR Virtual Research Centre under the umbrella of EULAR Research. It is available for researchers based in EULAR-affiliated countries. For more information, please visit the EULAR VRC web-page.
eular.org
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/
The EULAR | EMEUNET Webinar “Improve your poster presentations”, hosted by Felice Rivellese, Sebastián Rodriguez-García, Manouk De Hooge, starring Catherine Haines and Loreto Carmona, was held on March 16th at 8 pm (CET) and was a great success. The webinar aimed to provide tools for creating posters from scratch and present them at scientific congresses. It was designed as an interactive exercise where attendants could share their views and doubts with the faculty. The seminar explores the basics of poster presentations, overviewing how poster presentations work, common weaknesses and mistakes, the way people interact with posters, reviews and critiques a range of posters and appraises the posters created by the attendees on breakout rooms. Watch closely to improve your own presentation skills and make our next poster presentation stand out!

The recording is now available on our YouTube channel!
EULAR continues to provide valuable content and guidance for clinicians and patients with Rheumatic Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMDs) around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Access the **EULAR COVID-19 Repository for clinicians** - a dedicated space for clinicians and patients where all COVID-related resources and guidelines are concentrated.

- **EULAR guidelines:**
  - COVID-19 Clinic visit guidelines
  - EULAR provisional recommendations for the management of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases in the context of SARS-CoV-2

- **Factors associated with COVID-19-related death in people with rheumatic diseases**

- **Plain Language Summaries of the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance**

- **EULAR - COVID-19 Reporting database for rheumatologists and other clinicians.**
  - The EULAR - COVID-19 Database is a European pediatric and adult database to report on outcomes of COVID-19 in patients with RMDs. It has been updated with Module 2 – reports on cases of vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 of patients with RMDs are now being collected. The page also contains national registries.

- **Information on vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 in patients with RMDs:**
  - EULAR December 2020 View points on SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in patients with RMDs by Prof. Johannes Bijlsma.
  - EULAR PARE Webinar on COVID-19 and vaccination in RMD patients: What we know so far

The **EULAR points to consider on pathophysiology and use of immunomodulatory therapies in COVID-19** have been published in Annals of Rheumatic Diseases. They summarize information that has been gathered so far on available treatment options and pathogenic mechanisms in COVID-19, based on published studies. These are the points to consider for finding optimal management options in patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection.
The EULAR Task Force on Standards in Rheumatology Training Survey

Dear EMEUNET Members,

The EULAR Task Force on Standards in Rheumatology Training developed a list of competences with the aim to harmonise Rheumatology Training across Europe. In this phase, we are gathering the input of all relevant stakeholders in order to shape the document incorporating the perspective of trainees, trainers and people with rheumatic diseases among others.

The first few questions of the survey will allow to identify which stakeholder category you belong to, and to collect your demographic data (e.g. age). The second part of the survey contains the 29 proposed competences and we ask you to state whether: 1) you agree with each statement, 2) you disagree and suggest an alternative phrasing or 3) you disagree and suggest removing that competence from the list. In addition, you can share thoughts and comments on individual competences.

The survey will take about 15 minutes to be completed and it is anonymous.

Thank you very much in advance for your contribution to the shaping of rheumatology training!

The survey is available here:

https://www.soscisurvey.de/rheumatology/

Best wishes
The EULAR Task Force on Standards in Rheumatology Training
EMEUNET PODCASTS!

Are you too busy to read the whole Newsletter?  
Do you want to keep updated about the main EMEUNET activities and save time?

With our Podcasts, you can get updated while on the go, with extracts of the recent newsletters, highlights of the most recent publications in the field of Rheumatology, selected for you by EMEUNET members (What Is New), interviews and review of other EMEUNET activities.

Where to listen:

![Podcast Platforms]

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

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