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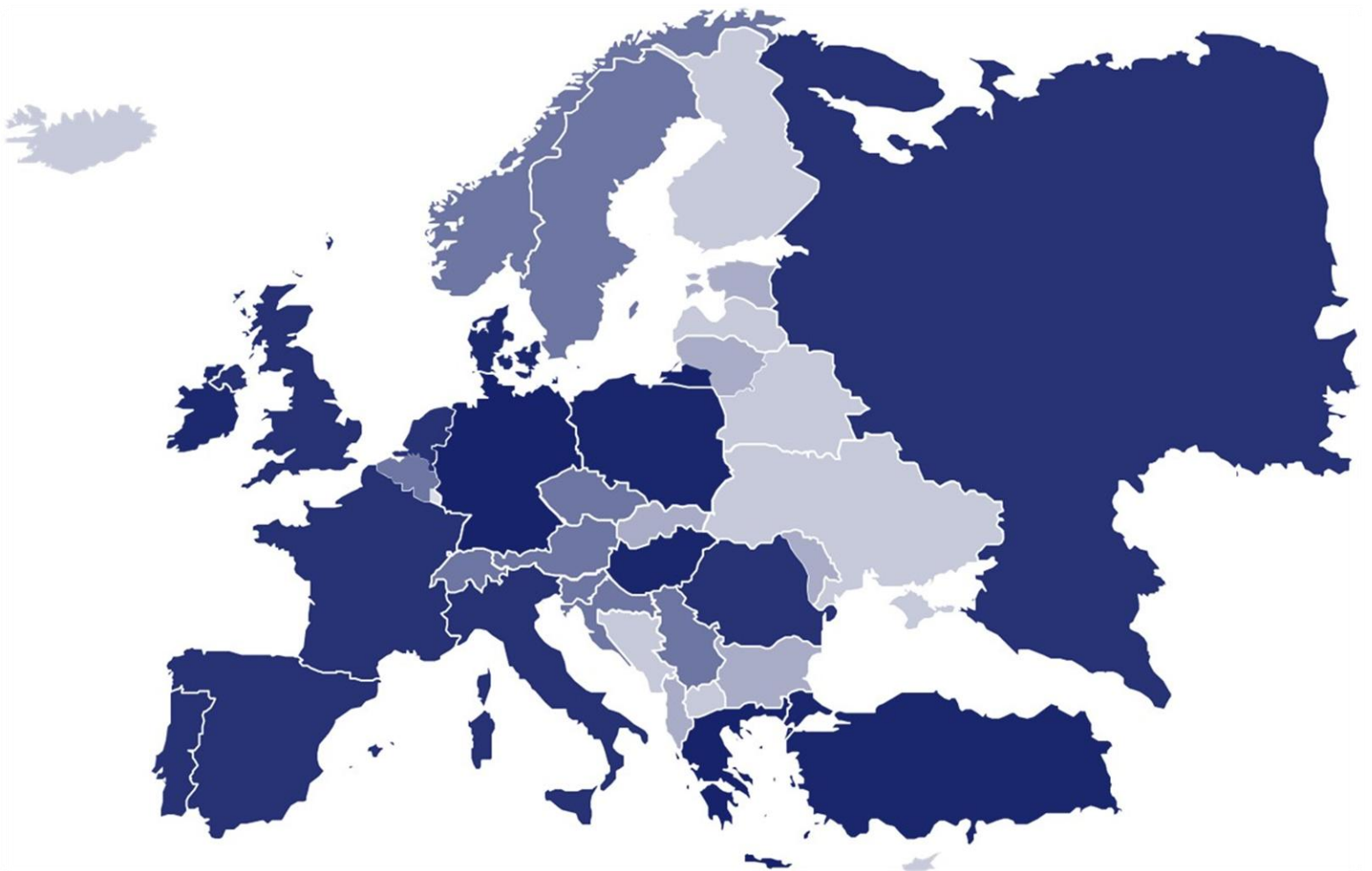
EDITION MARCH 2017

SPECIAL EDITION: COUNTRY LIAISONS

MEET THE COUNTRY LIAISONS

COUNTRY LIAISONS IN ACTION: PROMOTING EMEUNET

EMEUNET: A GROWING COMMUNITY



Dear young rheumatologists and researchers in rheumatology,

We are happy to present to you a new edition of the Country Liaison Newsletter. Our team in the Country Liaisons Subgroup works closely with the ambassadors of EMEUNET in the EULAR countries, the Country Liaisons, in order to promote and expand the EMEUNET network and reach enthusiastic young rheumatologists and researchers. The Country Liaisons are a vital pillar of our community. The activities that they organize in their countries and the networks that they build support the development of young rheumatologists and their access to the educational and professional opportunities offered by EMEUNET/EULAR. In this newsletter, you can get to know the Country Liaisons and see snapshots from the different activities they organized in their respective countries. We also have the pleasure to introduce our new Country Liaisons, who have taken the challenge and joined the team. We warmly thank all our current as well as former Country Liaisons for their wonderful and inspiring work! In this issue we have highlighted the outstanding contribution of some Country Liaisons. We are looking forward to this year's Country Liaison meeting during the EULAR Congress in Madrid. If this is the first time that you have heard about EMEUNET and/or Country Liaisons, we invite you to read this Newsletter and join us! Find your national Liaison, get in contact with him/her or directly speak to any EMEUNET member and become an active member of EMEUNET! The Country Liaisons rotate every 2-3 years, you could be next! We hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter. Questions or comments are always welcomed!

Alessia Alunno, Marlies van der Goes, Marcin Milchert, Ania Olewicz-Gawlik, Valentina Vardanyan, Mary Canavan, Aurélie Najm, Javier Rodríguez-Carrio and Rucsandra Dobrota

on behalf of the Country Liaison Subgroup

Richard Conway and Alessia Alunno

on behalf of the Newsletter Subgroup



DIRECTORY

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THE EMEUNET COUNTRY LIAISON SUBGROUP

2016-2017

The main aims of the Country Liaison Subgroup are:

1) To encourage and support the Country Liaisons and to maintain an active network of Country Liaisons: the Country Liaison network is a key element in the communication between EMEUNET and the young rheumatologists and researchers at a national level. Thus, we work together to spread all relevant information from EMEUNET to the different countries and also to gain feedback from Country Liaisons to identify emerging needs and expectations to be satisfied.

2) To promote EMEUNET and to distribute EMEUNET/EULAR information: we aim to reach and attract young rheumatologists and researchers in Europe to become EMEUNET members and to participate in EMEUNET/EULAR activities. To this aim, we work closely with our Country Liaisons, on whom we rely to distribute all the information from EMEUNET and to perform all kind of activities and events at national level aimed to increase the visibility of EMEUNET.

3) To prepare and update EMEUNET advertising materials: we have a very useful collection of advertising materials (flyers, slides and posters) to help the Country Liaisons to expand and advertise the EMEUNET network.

4) To advertise and improve the visibility of the Country Liaison activities: we frequently report the different activities organized by the Country Liaisons on social media and EMEUNET Newsletters, in collaboration with the EMEUNET Social Media and Newsletter subgroups. We also organize the annual Country Liaisons meeting at EULAR Congress.



Co-leaders:

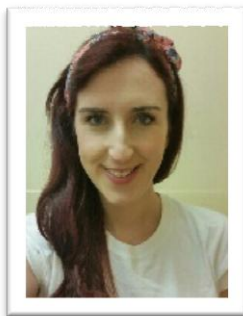
Rucsandra Dobrota

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY LIAISON SUBGROUP



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Marlies
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WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017

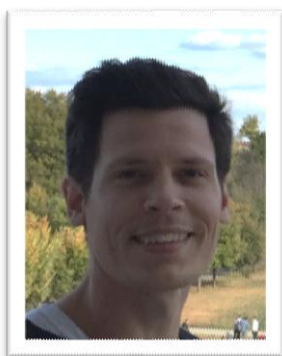


Johannes Fessler, PhD - Austria



Johannes completed his PhD program in 2015 in Graz Medical University in Austria. He is currently working as a Post-doc in the Department of Rheumatology of Graz Medical University, Austria. His current research focuses on T-cell development, autoimmunity, immunology, bone metabolism and epigenetics.

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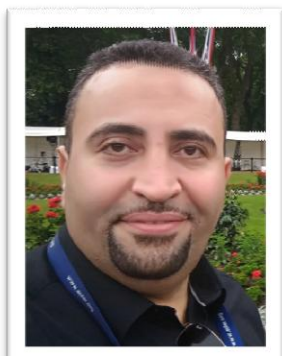


Tue Wenzel Kragstrup, MD, PhD - Denmark



Tue graduated from the medical school at Aarhus University in 2010. 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 currently working as rheumatology fellow and Assistant Professor in Aarhus. He is also a board member, cashier and Webmaster of the Danish Association of Young Rheumatologists and member of the Danish Society of Rheumatology Research Council. His research focuses on ex vivo models of immune-mediated inflammatory arthritis, mechanistic biomarkers, and the role of fibroblast-like synovial cells.

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Ahmed Negm, MD, PhD - Egypt



Ahmed earned his MB Bch in 2004 at Faculty of Medicine in AL-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt. He completed a residency in rheumatology at AL-Hussein and Sayed Galal University Hospital, Cairo where he finished his Masters degree in 2008. He completed the two year EULAR on-line course on rheumatic diseases in 2010. In late 2011 he joined the Department of Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine, AL-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt. Date of MD/PhD thesis July 2012.

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Katrin Ulst, MD - Estonia



Katrin graduated in 2013 from the Medical Faculty of Tartu University, Estonia. She is currently finishing her rheumatology residency in Tartu University Hospital Rheumatology Department. Her main areas of interest are spondyloarthritis pathogenesis and early rheumatoid arthritis.

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017



Antti Puolitaival, MD – Finland



Antti has a MD from the University of Eastern Finland. He currently works as a rheumatology specialist at Kuopio University Hospital. His main areas of interest are ultrasound, osteoarthritis and new technologies in the field of rheumatology.

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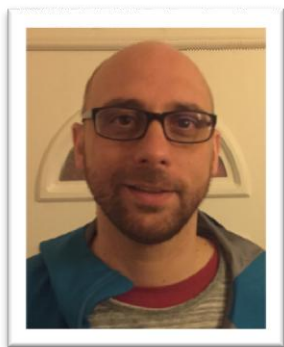


Cecilia Mercieca, MD, Mphil, MRCP – Malta



Cecilia gained international experience in pediatric rheumatology in Bristol (UK). Currently, she is a consultant in Rheumatology/General Internal Medicine at Mater Dei Hospital (Malta). Cecilia has actively contributed to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and training and has recently set up an e-portfolio for rheumatology trainees. She is a member of the Royal College of Physicians (UK) and the British Society for Rheumatology. Her main interests include service development, spondyloarthritis and pediatric rheumatology.

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Adam P Croft BSc(Hons), MBChB, MRCP, PhD – UK



Adam has a BSc Degree in Biomedical Sciences and a PhD from the University of Durham, as well as a Bachelor in Medicine from the University of Birmingham. Adam currently holds a Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Fellowship for Clinician Scientists. Moreover, he is an Honorary Specialist Registrar in Rheumatology and the chair of British Rheumatologists in Training Society Committee. His main research interest is in the development of novel immunotherapies for patients with autoimmune rheumatic and chronic inflammatory diseases. He has a particular interest in the development of stromal cell specific targets.

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Raphael Micheroli, MD – Switzerland



Raphael is a resident in the Department of Rheumatology at the University Hospital of Zurich in Switzerland. His research and special interests in rheumatology focus on imaging, especially ultrasound, rheumatoid arthritis, and spondyloarthritis.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017



Enida Xhaferi, MD – Albania 

Enida got her MD degree from the University of Tirana (Albania) and gained her rheumatology specialization at QSUT Hospital (Albania). Her main areas of interest are ankylosing spondylitis, rheumatoid arthritis and rehabilitation.

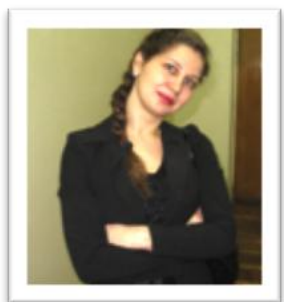
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Vahan Mukuchyan, MD – Armenia 

Vahan graduated from the Medical School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece in 2007. Since 2013, he worked at random medical posts in Armed Forces of Republic of Armenia. He is currently a Rheumatology Resident in the Rheumatology department of Erebouni Medical Center of Yerevan. His scientific interests focus on Adamantiades-Behcet's Disease, Familial Mediterranean Fever and vasculitis.

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Anastasia Tushina, MD PhD – Belarus 

Anastasia completed her PhD program and is currently working as an assistant at the 2nd Department of Internal Diseases in the Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk (Belarus). Her field of interest in rheumatology concerns secondary amyloidosis in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

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Ellen de Langhe, MD PhD – Belgium 

Since 2014, she works as a rheumatologist at the University Hospital Leuven in Belgium, with a special interest in systemic connective tissue diseases. She obtained her PhD in 2013, focusing on the role of BMP and Wnt signaling in mouse models of systemic sclerosis. Her areas of interest focus on pulmonary and skin fibrosis, animal models, BMP and Wnt signaling pathway.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017

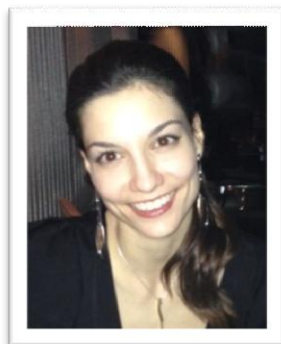


Samir Mehmedagic, MD – Bosnia and Herzegovina



He completed his training as an internist in 2011 in the Clinical Center of the University of Sarajevo, and is currently working in the Department of Rheumatology. His main area of interest is cardiovascular disease in rheumatic patients.

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Russka Shumnalieva, MD, PhD – Bulgaria



Russka currently works as a rheumatology specialist at the Medical University, Sofia (Bulgaria). She joined EMEUNET in 2012 and contributed to the Educational and Newsletter Subgroups. Her major research work focuses on epigenetic changes and microRNA expression in rheumatic diseases.

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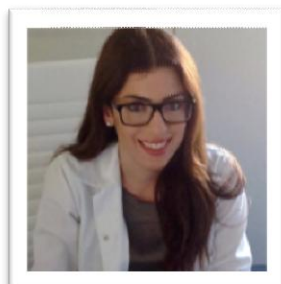


Goran Sukara, MD – Croatia



Goran graduated from the School of Medicine at University of Zagreb in 2009 and is currently working as internal medicine specialist at the Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology in University Hospital Zagreb. His main professional and scientific interests focus on systemic autoimmune diseases, mainly systemic lupus erythematosus.

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Sofia Symeonidou, MD – Cyprus



Sofia obtained her MD degree at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece) in 2004. After two internships in Samos (Greece) and Gothenburg (Sweden), she started her training in rheumatology at the Spenshult Rheumatology Hospital and Sahlgrenska University Hospital (Sweden). Currently she works as a rheumatologist at Hippocrateon Private Hospital, Nicosia (Cyprus). Her main research interests are ankylosing spondylitis, rheumatoid arthritis and ultrasonography.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017



Maria Filkova, MD, PhD – Czech Republic 

Maria graduated at the 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague in 2007 and started her specialty training in rheumatology. She defended her PhD thesis in 2011 and spent 3 years in the Center of Experimental Rheumatology (Switzerland) gaining valuable expertise in basic research. She also worked for 2 years at King's College London (UK) as a clinical trials research fellow. She is currently a physician, a senior postdoc and a PhD supervisor in Prague. Her main interests are molecular aspects of the pathogenesis of rheumatic diseases, clinical aspects of rheumatoid arthritis, and clinical trials.

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Camille Souffir, MD – France 

Camille graduated from Paris Descartes Medical School in 2011. She is currently a resident in rheumatology and a masters degree student in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the research unit of the Rheumatology department (Pr Dougados) in the Cochin Hospital. Her main areas of interest are epidemiology, osteoporosis, body composition in rheumatoid arthritis and ultrasound. She is responsible for communication at the Young Rheumatologists Section of the French Rheumatology Society.

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Christina Tsalapaki, MD – Greece 

Christina graduated from Athens Medical School and completed a MSc program in the University of Athens on "Cardiovascular and Intensive Care Medicine". She has attended the International Observership Program in the Rheumatology Department of Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland and Harvard Medical School, Boston. She recently completed a fellowship in Rheumatology and she is a PhD candidate. Her scientific interests focus on systemic autoimmune diseases, mainly vasculitis.

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Nino Gobejishvili, MD – Georgia 

Nino is the Head of Georgian young rheumatologists union (SARG) and currently works at Aversi and Medical House Clinic, Tbilisi, Georgia. Her professional and scientific interests focus on the principles of immune tolerance and autoimmune diseases.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017



Axel J Hueber, MD PhD – Germany 

Axel is a clinician and group leader in the Immunology and Rheumatology Department at University of Erlangen in Germany. He completed his PhD in immunology in Glasgow, UK in 2011. Following a year in industry in Immuno-oncology as a medical advisor he now focuses on cytokine biology in skin and synovial inflammation, but also on clinical areas such as adherence and patient communication.

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Tamás Németh, MD PhD – Hungary 

Tamás received his MD diploma at Semmelweis University in 2007. During his PhD period, he investigated the signaling pathways of innate immune cells and experimental autoimmune arthritis by a transgenic method, while he was involved in the education of Hungarian medical and dentist students in human physiology and instructed student researchers in a research lab. He started his medical residency in rheumatology in 2013, while continuing his work in research and education.

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Gunnar Tomasson, MD – Iceland 

Gunnar got his MD degree at the medical school of the University of Iceland. He is currently a research associate in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the same institution. His main areas of research are epidemiology, outcomes research and vasculitis.

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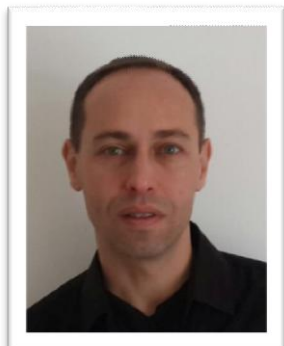
Trudy McGarry, PhD – Ireland 

Trudy graduated with a Bachelor in Biomedical Health & Life Science in 2011 and recently finished her PhD with the thesis title 'Mechanisms of Toll-like Receptor-2 induced inflammation in rheumatoid arthritis' as part of the Clinical and Translational Research Scholars Programme in Molecular Medicine of the University College Dublin (UCD) & St. Vincent's University Hospital.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017



Doron Rimar, MD – Israel 

Doron completed his medical training at the Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva in 2001 and his residency in internal medicine in Haifa in 2007. His Rheumatology fellowship was completed in 2011. Since 2011 Doron serves as senior physician in the Rheumatology department at Bnai-Zion Medical center. His research interest includes biomarkers in familial mediterranean fever and systemic sclerosis. Doron's academic degree is a lecturer in the Ruth and Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel.

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Sara Monti, MD – Italy 

Sara is a trainee rheumatologist, currently working at the Rheumatology Department of the University of Pavia, Italy. She gained previous international experience with an elective program in Oxford. Her professional and scientific interests focus on systemic autoimmune diseases, vasculitides, arthritides and biological therapies.

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Julija Zepa, MD – Latvia 

Julija became a rheumatologist in 2011 at the University of Latvia. Since 2005 she has been working at the Center of Rheumatology in Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital. Her areas of interest focus on rheumatoid arthritis and spondyloarthropathies (including genetic aspects of ankylosing spondylitis). She is also involved in education of primary care physicians and medical students.

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Jeanine Menassa, MD – Lebanon 

Jeanine obtained her MD degree at the Lebanese University in 2002 and she did her residency in internal medicine in the Sacre Coeur and Notre Dame de Secours Hospitals (Lebanon). She also gained international experience during an internship at the Lyon-Sud Hospital (France). Her main area of interest is ultrasonography.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017



Diana Karpec, MD – Lithuania



Diana completed her MD at Kaunas University of Medicine, Lithuania. Currently she is a practicing rheumatologist in Vilnius University Hospital and actively taking part in clinical and research activities. Since 2013 Diana is a PhD student in Vilnius University working in the field of phototherapy in systemic sclerosis. She also gained international experience during training in the Florence University Hospital, Italy and in Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. Her scientific interest is mainly focused on connective tissue diseases.

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Maja Bojadziovska, MD – Macedonia



Maja Bojadzioska became a rheumatologist in 2010. She is currently working at the clinical hospital for rheumatology in Skopje. Her professional and scientific interests focus on patients with arthritis and postmenopausal osteoporosis. She also works as an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine in Skopje.

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Elena Deseatnicova, MD PhD – Moldova



Elena became a rheumatologist in 2001. In 2007 she defended her PhD thesis “Clinical-evolutionary features, indexes of lipid peroxidation and antioxidant system in gout”. Currently she has a teaching position as Associate Professor at the Department of Rheumatology of the State Medical and Pharmaceutical University Nicolae Testemitanu and works at the Clinical Municipal Hospital St. Trinity. Her scientific interests are osteoporosis and association of rheumatic diseases and other diseases with a metabolic background.

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Dusan Mustur, MD – Montenegro



Dusan became a rheumatologist in 2010 in Belgrade, Serbia. He is currently working at Igalo Institute, Montenegro. He is also the Vice Dean for Science and Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Applied Physiotherapy, University of Montenegro.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017



Marlies van der Goes, MD, PhD – the Netherlands 

Marlies is rheumatologist in training at the Department of Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology of the University Medical Center Utrecht in The Netherlands. Her research focuses on rheumatoid arthritis and glucocorticoid therapy. She is an EMEUNET working group member.

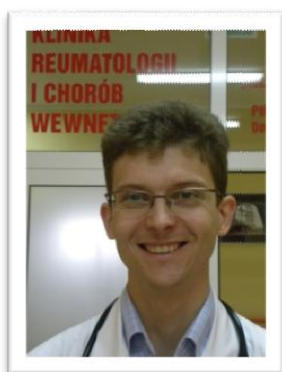
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Elisabeth Lie, MD PhD – Norway 

Elisabeth is currently working as a rheumatologist in training and postdoctoral researcher at Diakonhjemmet Hospital in Oslo, Norway. She is responsible for the conduction of the Norwegian multi-centre register study NOR-DMARD, which was the basis for her doctoral thesis. Elisabeth's main research interests are treatment strategies and outcome measures in psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and axial spondyloarthritis. She has also been involved in European register collaborations and has worked with the Swedish biologics register ARTIS.

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Marcin Milchert, MD PhD – Poland 

Marcin is an internist and rheumatologist working as a clinician and research fellow in Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, North-West Poland. As EMEUNET's Country Liaison he is searching for a proper motivation for young rheumatologists in Poland to get involved in EULAR. As a clinician he's especially interested in vasculitides and aging related diseases. As a researcher he's happy to join both of his main interests, which simply means he's the giant cell arteritis studies biggest fan.

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Vasco Romão, MD – Portugal 

Vasco works as a Rheumatology Clinical and Research Fellow at the Lisbon Academic Medical Centre. In May 2014 he started his PhD training focusing on rheumatoid arthritis synovitis and pathophysiology. He was awarded a EULAR Scientific Training Bursary in 2014 for a 6-month Clinical Fellowship at Queen Mary University of London. His research interests are synovial pathobiology of RA, personalization of novel therapies and inflammatory rheumatic disease outcomes. He joined the EMEUNET Working Group and Social Media Subgroup in 2014.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017



Ana Maria Gherghe, MD – Romania 🇷🇴

Ana is a rheumatology specialist working at the Cantacuzino Clinical Hospital in Bucharest. She is also a PhD candidate with a project focused on vascular involvement in systemic sclerosis.
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Irina Starodubtseva, MD PhD - Russia 🇷🇺

Irina is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Internal Diseases of the NN Burdenko Voronezh State Medical Academy, Russian Federation. Her scientific interests are diagnostic and therapeutic approaches of secondary knee osteoarthritis as well as comorbidities in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Since 2008 she has been an Assistant Professor of the Department of Internal Diseases. Irina takes an active part in the department's scientific activity and has authored 65 publications in the national and international press.

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Stefania Volpinari, MD - San Marino 🇸🇲

A rheumatologist since 2008, Stefania trained at S. Anna Hospital - University of Ferrara, Italy. She currently works in the Republic of S. Marino's Hospital, at the Division of Internal Medicine and at the Rheumatology Unit. Her main interest areas focus on rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis, connective tissue disorders, osteoporosis and ultrasound in rheumatic diseases.

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Ivan Jeremic, MD - Serbia 🇷🇸

Ivan is a doctoral research student at the University of Novi Sad. His scientific activity involves clinical research, currently in chronic pain syndromes, with a focus on fibromyalgia.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017

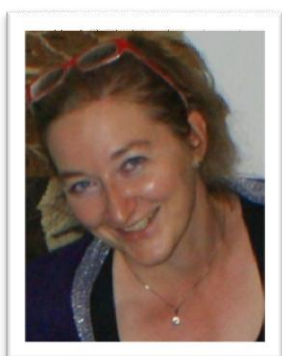


Richard Imrich, MD PhD - Slovakia



After obtaining a MD degree from the Comenius University (Bratislava, Slovakia), Richard pursued a PhD at the Institute of Experimental Endocrinology (Slovak Academy of Sciences) and gained some international experience at the Free University of Brussels (Belgium) and in the NIH (Bethesda, USA). After being involved in several international research projects, he is currently Head of Laboratory and Vice-President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

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Katja Perdan, MD, PhD - Slovenia



Katja is a rheumatology resident at the Department of Rheumatology, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Slovenia, with a strong focus on immunology. In 2013 she successfully defended her PhD thesis on the role of astrocytes in histamine inactivation. She is also actively involved in academic life as an Assistant of Pharmacology and Experimental Toxicology as well as an Assistant of Internal Medicine.

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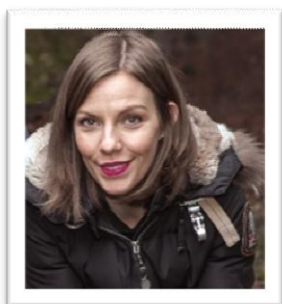


Chamaida Plasencia-Rodriguez, MD - Spain



Chamaida is a specialist in rheumatology. Her research activity is focused on therapeutic drug monitoring and immunogenicity of biological therapies in rheumatic diseases, especially rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis. She completed international training during a half year fellowship in Reade Centre in the Netherlands.

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Valgerdur Sigurdardottir, MD - Sweden



Valgerdur is a resident in rheumatology and is currently involved in research on the epidemiology, risk factors, management, and outcome of gout in the Swedish population. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Swedish Society of Rheumatology.

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ONGOING COUNTRY LIAISONS

2016-2017



Hakan Emmungil, MD - Turkey 

Hakan completed his rheumatology training at the Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ege University. He currently works at the Koç University Hospital in İstanbul. His professional and scientific interests focus on spondyloarthritis and Behçet's disease.
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Iuliia Biliavska MD, PhD - Ukraine 

Iuliia graduated in 2004 with an honors degree. In 2006 she became a rheumatologist and PhD student in the Department of Non-Coronary Heart Diseases and Clinical Rheumatology. In 2009 she defended her PhD thesis focusing on the clinical value of anti-CCP antibodies in rheumatoid arthritis patients with different disease duration. In 2011 she undertook an Articulum Fellowship at the Medical University Vienna, Austria. At the moment her main research areas of interest are comorbidity in rheumatic patients and musculoskeletal sonography.
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A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FORMER COUNTRY LIAISONS

The role of EMEUNET Country Liaison requires networking and continuous communication. Every 2-3 years, the Country Liaisons are rotated, to offer other young fellows in each country the chance to actively represent EMEUNET at a national level.

We warmly thank the Country Liaisons who handed on their role and their work to new fellows in 2016-2017, and count on their support for EMEUNET in the future!

Christian Dejaco, Austria

Anne Troldborg, Denmark

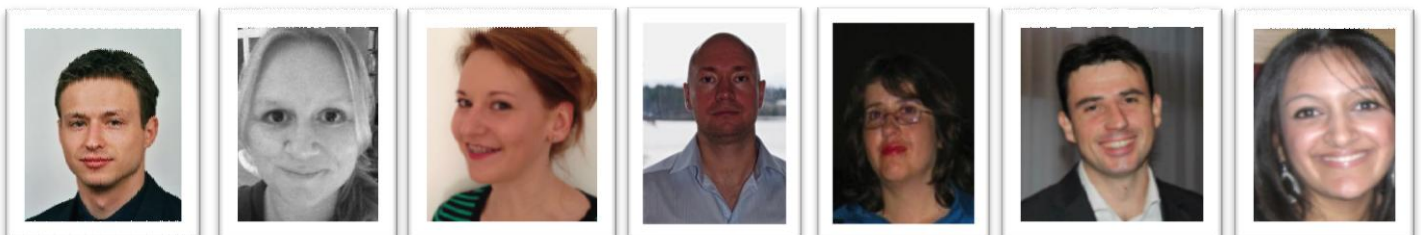
Sandra Tälli, Estonia

Tuomas Rannio, Finland

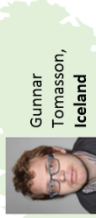
Karen Cassar, Malta

Florian Klett, Switzerland

Sonia Panchal, UK



EMEUNET COUNTRY LIAISONS



Gunnar Tomasson, Iceland



Elisabeth Lie, Norway



Valgerdur Sigurdardottir, Sweden



Antti Puolitaival, Finland



Irina Starodubsteva, Russia



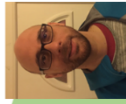
Sandra Tali, Estonia



Diana Karpec, Lithuania



Marlies van der Goes, the Netherlands



Adam Croft, United Kingdom



Anne Treldborg, Denmark



Marcin Milchert, Poland



Julija Zepa, Latvia



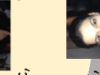
Anastasya Tushina, Belarus



Iuliia Biliavska, Ukraine



Elena Deseatnicova, Moldova



Ana Maria Gherghel, Romania



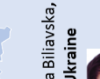
Russka Shumnalieva, Bulgaria



Maja Bojadzic, Macedonia



Doron Rimar, Israel



Richard Imrich, Slovakia



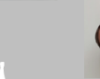
Tamas Nemethy, Hungary



Ivan Jeremic, Serbia



Dusan Mustur, Montenegro



Samir Mehmedagic, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Enida Xhaferi, Albania



Karen Cassar, Malta



Sara Monti, Italy



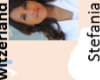
Mehmedagic, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Xhaferi, Albania



Christina Tsalapaki, Greece



Florian Klett, Switzerland



Stefania Volpinari, San Marino



Camille Souffir, France



Eilen De Langhe, Belgium



Axel Hueber, Germany



Maria Filkova, Czech Republic



Johannes Fessler, Austria



Chamalida Plasencia-Rodriguez, Spain



Vasco Romão, Portugal



Nino Gobejishvili, Georgia



Hakan Emmungli, Turkey



Sofia Symeonidou, Cyprus



Jeanine Menassa, Lebanon



Vahan Mukuchyan, Armenia



emeUNET
the emerging eular network

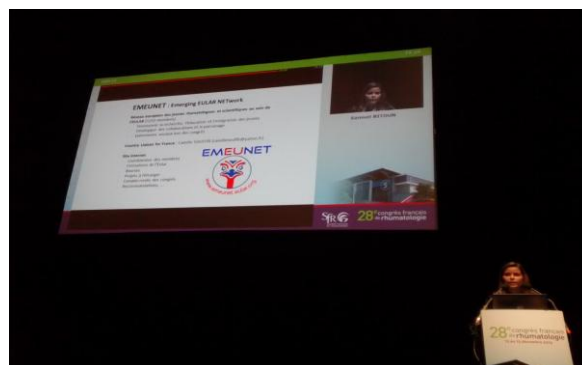
COUNTRY LIAISON ACTIVITIES @ NATIONAL EVENTS

EMEUNET booth raises lots of interest in **Dutch Congress of Rheumatology in 2016**. Thanks to Marlies van der Goes, CL for **The Netherlands**



Marcin Milchert, CL for **Poland**, promoted EMEUNET during the **Central European Congress of Rheumatology 2016**

Camille Souffir, CL for **France**, promoted EMEUNET at the **French Congress of Rheumatology 2016**



EMEUNET and its benefits were promoted thanks to Dr. Michelle Trenkmann (EMEUNET Working Group member) and Trudy McGarry, CL for **Ireland** at the **Irish Society of Rheumatology Meeting 2016**

COUNTRY LIAISON ACTIVITIES @ NATIONAL EVENTS



EMEUNET has been advertised thanks to Sara Monti, CL for **Italy** and Alessia Alunno, EMEUNET CL Working Group member at the **Italian Society of Rheumatology Meeting 2016**

EMEUNET was promoted in Romania thanks to Vasi Iorgoveanu, young rheumatologist and EMEUNET member, at the **Romanian Young Rheumatologist Summer School** in 2015; and in 2016 thanks to Ana Maria Gherghe, CL for **Romania**.



EMEUNET membership benefits were presented in **Spain** at a **regional meeting of Rheumatology** in 2016 by Javier Rodríguez-Carrio (EMEUNET Working Group member and currently co-leader of the CL subgroup)

EMEUNET was introduced in Slovenia thanks to Katja Perdan, CL for **Slovenia**, at the **Slovenian Rheumatology Meeting** in 2016. Also, the link to EMEUNET was included in the Slovenia National Society for Rheumatology website (revma.net).

Povezave

Revmatologija v najširšem pomenu

- [European League Against Rheumatism \(EULAR\)](#)
- [American College of Rheumatology \(ACR\)](#)
- [EMerging EUlar NETwork \(EMEUNET\)](#)

COUNTRY LIAISON MEETING AT EULAR 2016 CONGRESS, LONDON, UK

For the third consecutive year, the EMEUNET Country Liaisons attending the 2016 EULAR Annual Congress together with the EMEUNET Country Liaison Subgroup members participated in the Country Liaison Meeting, this time in a room with a wonderful view of London.

We are proud to report a continued, active, and resourceful promotion of EMEUNET by the Country Liaisons during the last year, with activities ranging from presentations at national meetings to events for fellows and media reports. Our outstanding Country Liaisons Trudy McGarry, from Ireland, and Anne Troldborg, from Denmark, shared with us their unique experience as EMEUNET ambassadors in their respective countries. The other Country Liaisons added their own impressions and suggestions, with valuable tips and inputs for the Country Liaison network. Possible solutions to the different challenges encountered as well as new ideas were discussed, in what ended up to be a lively, productive, and also very enjoyable meeting.

From the Country Liaison Subgroup, we would like to thank the Country Liaisons for their attendance to the meeting as well as for their work and dedication. We also encourage all the Country Liaisons to participate in the upcoming editions of this meeting!



OUTSTANDING COUNTRY LIAISONS 2016

The position of Country Liaison requires significant effort to disseminate EMEUNET at a national level. Because of that, we really appreciate the contribution of all the young rheumatologists and researchers who are dedicating their time and effort to this aim. Also, we strongly encourage all our Country Liaisons to keep on promoting EMEUNET and make our network even bigger and more visible!

As a première, this year we have decided to highlight those Country Liaisons who have shown an outstanding engagement and resourcefulness in the promotion of EMEUNET in their respective countries. Although the decision was difficult, taking into account their national recruitment figures, the organization of activities at the national level, their commitment to the spreading of EMEUNET at the national level, and their continuous and fluent communication with the members of the Country Liaison Subgroup members, we would like to express our greatest gratitude to the following Country Liaisons:



Trudy McGarry

Ireland



Sara Monti

Italy



Chamaida Plasencia-Rodríguez

Spain



CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR GREAT WORK!

PROMOTING A CLOSER CONTACT WITHIN THE COUNTRY LIAISON NETWORK

The maintenance of an active and dynamic network of Country Liaisons is an important pillar for the organization and the objectives of EMEUNET. Therefore the Country Liaisons Subgroup is committed to its continuous support.

Since communication is a key aspect for our joint success, the Country Liaison Subgroup is implementing **new tools in the communication between EMEUNET and the Country Liaison network**, like the organization of **small teleconferences on a regular basis** to promote a closer contact between the Country Liaisons and the members of the EMEUNET Country Liaisons Subgroup.

The aim of these teleconferences is to provide ideas to advertise EMEUNET at the national level, to discuss the (potential) problems encountered by the Country Liaisons and to get some feedback from the Country Liaisons, which can help us to conceive new ideas and projects. Also, we are interested in promoting discussion and feedback among different Country Liaisons regarding their impressions and opinions about the Country Liaison duties.

The first round of teleconferences has just taken place and we would like to thank the following Country Liaisons who have successfully participated:

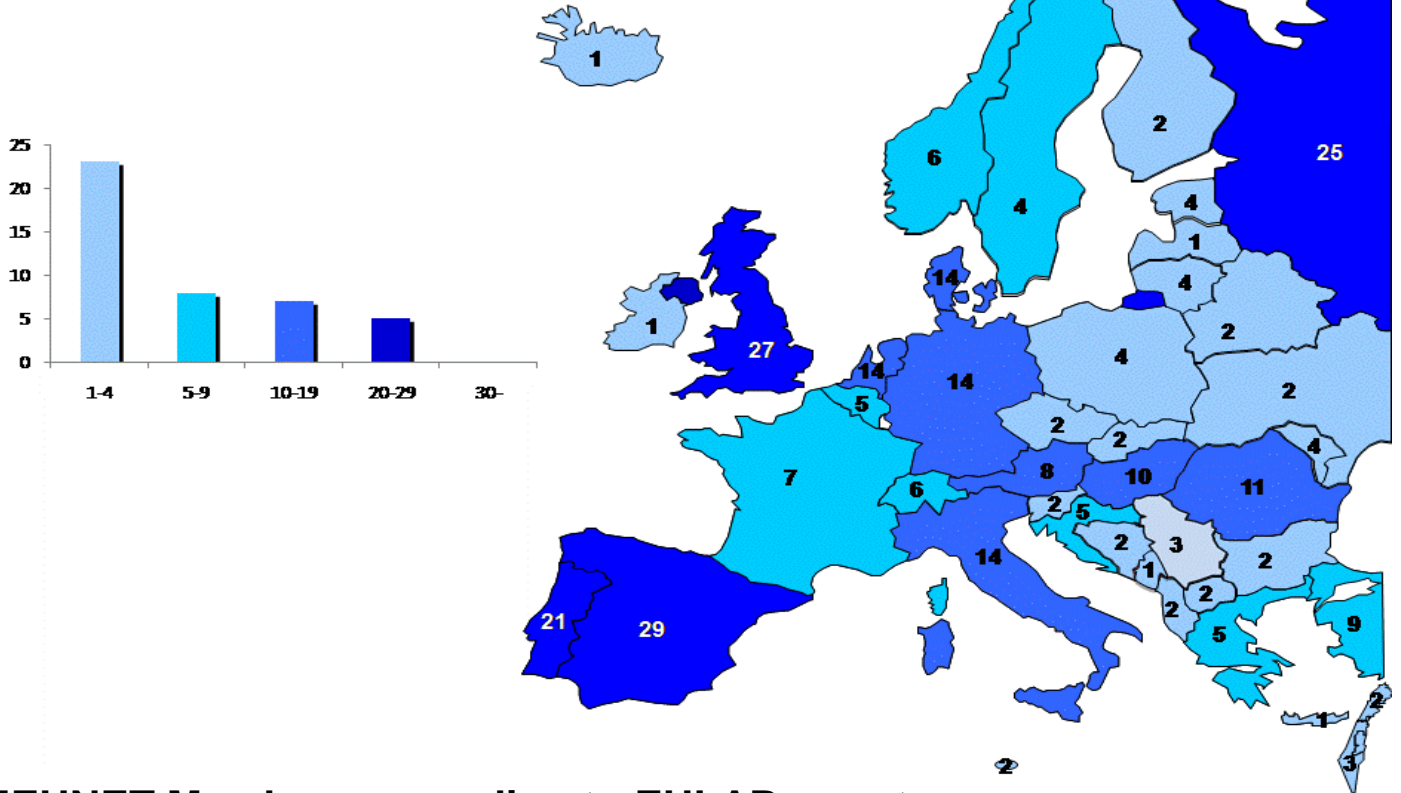
- Enida Xhaferi (Albania)
- Samir Mehmedagice (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Ahmed Negm (Egypt)
- Sara Monti (Italy)
- Ana Maria Gherghe (Romania)
- Chamaida Plasencia-Rodríguez (Spain)
- Raphael Micheroli (Switzerland)

WE WANT YOU!

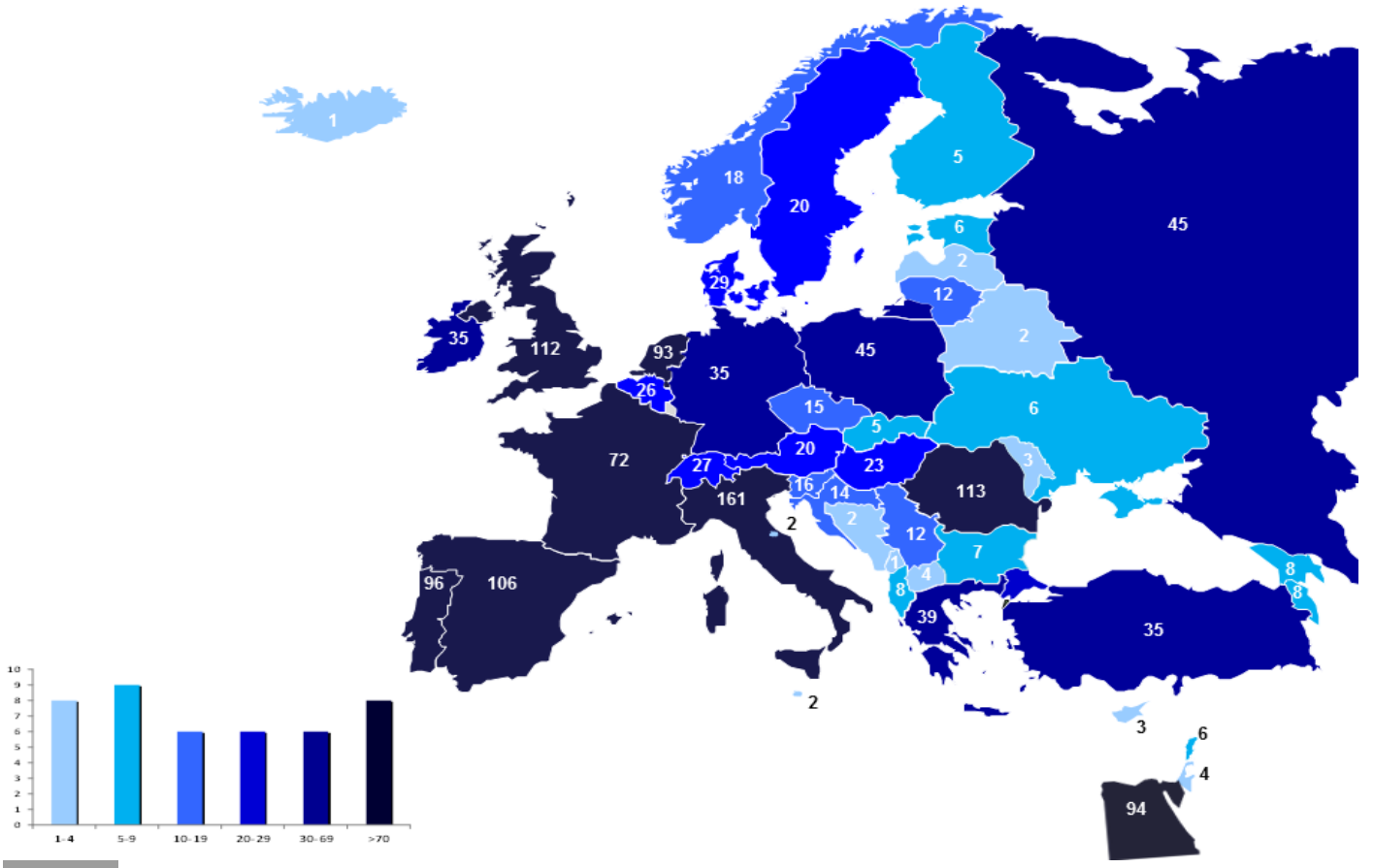


We would like to encourage the rest of Country Liaisons to participate in the coming rounds of this promising initiative! We look forward to our talks!

EMEUNET Members according to EULAR country
September 2012



EMEUNET Members according to EULAR country
March 2017



EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

APRIL 2017

Bone Research Society Clinical Training Courseo **When and Where:** 3 – 5 Apr 2017, Oxford, United Kingdomo **Website:** <http://boneresearchsociety.org>**Doppler Modalities and Advanced Ultrasound Techniques**o **When and Where:** 20 – 21 Apr 2017, Copenhagen, Denmarko **Website:** <http://www.eular.org/myUploadData/files/EULAR%20Doppler%20course-april2017-WEB.PDF>**4th Workshop on Ultrasound in Large Vessel Vasculitis: Fast track diagnostic path for vasculitis in rheumatology**o **When and Where:** Friday, 21 Apr 2017, Szczecin, Polando **Website:** <https://www.pum.edu.pl/wydzialy/wydzial-lekarsko-stomatologiczny/klinika-reumatologii-i-chorob-wewnetrznych>**EUREKA certificate course**o **When and Where:** 23 – 29 Apr 2017, Syracuse, Italyo **Website:** <http://eurekainstitute.org/certificate-course/associated-events/>**British Society for Rheumatology Annual Meeting**o **When and Where:** 25 – 27 Apr 2017, Birmingham, United Kingdomo **Website:** http://rheumatology.org.uk/events/conferences_overview/default.aspx**30th EMSOS-Meeting**o **When and Where:** 26 – 29 Apr 2017, Budapest, Hungaryo **Website:** <http://www.assisztencia.hu/emsos2017/invitation.pdf>**2017 World Congress on Osteoarthritis**o **When and Where:** 27 – 30 Apr 2017, Las Vegas, Nevada, USAo **Website:** <http://2017.oarsi.org/>**9th International Congress of Familial Mediterranean Fever and Systemic Auto-Inflammatory Diseases**o **When and Where:** 27 – 30 Apr 2017, Antalya, Turkeyo **Website:** http://fmf.igh.cnrs.fr/ISSAID/doc/ISSAID_Antalya_flyer.pdf

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS (CONTINUED)

APRIL 2017

Musculoskeletal Ultrasound course for rheumatologists - Basic level

o **When and Where:** 27 – 29 Apr 2017, Bucharest, Romania

o **Website:** http://eular.org/myUploadData/files/EULAR_US_basic_bucarest.pdf

Musculoskeletal Ultrasound course for rheumatologists - Basic level

o **When and Where:** 27 – 29 Apr 2017, Belek, Turkey

o **Website:** http://eular.org/myUploadData/files/Antalya_2017_basic_programme_.pdf



THE EULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY COURSE

This year's course will cover the topic of outcome measures, from how to develop and validate them to their measurement properties.

WHERE AND WHEN? Berlin, 30 June & 1 July 2017 (2 day-course)

FOR WHOM? This 2-day course is aimed at young rheumatologists/HPR/researchers with at least some previous experience in epidemiology/outcomes research/clinical trials/statistics.

WHY? The main goal of the course is to increase the interest, knowledge and skills of young researchers in epidemiology and outcome measures and to stimulate critical thinking in the design and reading of research studies. Furthermore, the course will also allow young researchers to get together, which will facilitate future collaborations; as well as interact with the prestigious speakers.

HOW MUCH? This EULAR Course costs 425 euros (with 1 night accommodation) or 500 Euros (with 2 nights accommodation); this includes the courses, all meals and hotel (so additionally you only have to pay the travel costs). You may also ask for a EULAR bursary which will cover the Course costs (or ask for pharma company support if you wish).

HOW TO PARTICIPATE? The number of participants is limited to 45 and this is a competitive application process! Applicants will be selected based on their curriculum vitae/application form.

For more information, please refer to:

EULAR website: http://www.eular.org/edu_course_epidemiology.cfm

Course flyer/programme: http://www.eular.org/myUploadData/files/Epid_Course_Flyer_2017.pdf

You can find some additional information on previous courses with feedback from participants:

http://emeunet.eular.org/epi_course_2012.cfm

http://emeunet.eular.org/new_epi_course_2013.cfm

**Applications are now open! The application deadline is 30th March 2017
but the sooner you sign up, the better.**

Bursary applications can be made through: http://www.eular.org/bursary_app_epidemiology.cfm

The epidemiology course application form should be sent to:

Mrs Gaëlle Notzli, c/o MCI Suisse SA

Phone: +41 22 33 99 628

Fax: +41 22 33 99 601

E-mail: Gaelle.Notzli@mci-group.com



THE EULAR ULTRASOUND COURSES

The aim of this annual multi-level course is to cover the whole spectrum of conditions in which musculoskeletal Ultrasound (MSUS) could be used in rheumatology practice and research.

The **advanced course** (for up to 50 participants with considerable experience in MSUS) focuses on difficult issues within MSUS and emerging research fields in MSUS (contrast enhanced, 3D, quantification of inflammation). This includes time for discussion with expert rheumatologists and radiologists in MSUS.

The **intermediate course** (for up to 50 participants with some experience in MSUS) aims at consolidating standardised MSUS scanning methods according to EULAR guidelines, as well as describing and identifying musculoskeletal lesions/abnormalities by US and knowing the role of MSUS in different musculoskeletal pathologies (inflammatory, degenerative and/or traumatic). The standardised approach in the study of the various anatomic regions as well as the future development of US technique and its role as a research tool is discussed.

NEW: The **EULAR-PreS paediatric musculoskeletal ultrasound course**, is a combination of lectures and workshops on the principal applications of musculoskeletal ultrasound in children, ultrasound scanning of paediatric joints and basic ultrasound abnormalities in children with rheumatic diseases. The course is recommended to rheumatologists or paediatricians with a special interest in paediatric musculoskeletal ultrasound.

The 24th EULAR Ultrasound Courses will take place on 11-13 June 2017,

The PreS US course will take place on 12-14 June 2017

All courses in Madrid, Spain

Applications are now open! EULAR grants 20 bursaries to young rheumatologists attending the intermediate, advanced level courses or the paediatrics US course to cover part of the attendance fee

For additional information and to apply: http://www.eular.org/edu_course_ultrasound.cfm



THE EULAR-EMEUNET AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME FOR FIRST TIME ATTENDEES TO EULAR CONGRESS

Attending the largest European Rheumatology congress for the first time can be a daunting experience. The annual EULAR meeting welcomes around 14,000 clinicians and scientists, discussing clinical management and new scientific findings in an overwhelming number of sessions which run in parallel, starting early in the morning and ending late at night. There has been a long tradition that senior attendees share the skills on how to survive the annual EULAR meeting, on how to get a taste of everything and not miss the important facts, and have a great time. But how can you find your way through countless opportunities within four days?

We invite 30 fellows who are first or second-time attendees to the conference to be part of our EULAR/EMEUNET ambassador programme and receive congress mentorship from EULAR veterans on how to make the most of your time.

The details are as follows:

- o Applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis
- o Participants will be allocated to small groups, each with a EULAR ambassador from EMEUNET. Your ambassador will get in contact with you prior to the meeting
- o You will be invited to the welcome meeting on the first day of the congress, so that you can meet other fellow first time attendees and your ambassadors too in an informal setting
- o Participants will learn how to master the clinical and scientific EULAR programme
- o Participants will be offered the chance to participate in the EMEUNET social activities
- o The mentoring process will be very informal
- o The programme is free for EMEUNET members and non-members

Interested to take part in the EULAR-EMEUNET Ambassador Programme?

Pay attention to our social media and do not miss the opportunity to apply!!





Second Summer School in Advanced Musculoskeletal Epidemiology

July 3rd – 7th 2017
Manchester, UK

Who is the course for?

Clinicians, allied health professionals, and
researchers working in musculoskeletal disease

Course content

Big data; Longitudinal studies; Pharmacoepidemiology;
Clinical trials; Causal inference

How much will it cost?

£1,250

Includes course materials, all accommodation and meals

For more information and to register visit: <http://www.conferecare.manchester.ac.uk/events/ame2017>

EMEUNET PEER REVIEW MENTORING FOR RHEUMATOLOGY JOURNALS

EMEUNET began a collaboration with the **Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases** in 2012 to train new peer reviewers. Since then, this initiative has been continuously growing and it is a pleasure for us to announce that this edition of the program will also involve collaboration with **RMD Open**.

In this project EMEUNET members will review manuscripts submitted to these journals under the supervision of senior reviewers who will provide mentoring on the manuscript review process.

The mentors involved in the program are:

Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases (ARD)

Maxime Dougados: rheumatoid arthritis, clinical epidemiology/clinical trials

Anna Moltó: spondyloarthritis, outcome measures, longitudinal analysis

David Pisetsky: systemic lupus erythematosus, antinuclear autoantibodies, rheumatoid arthritis

Marco Matucci-Cerinic: systemic sclerosis, pathogenesis of scleroderma, lung/vascular involvement

Dirk Elewaut: basic science, immunology, inflammation

Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases Open (RMD)

Xavier Mariette: Sjögren's syndrome, anti-TNF, B-cells, lymphoma and autoimmunity

Daniel Aletaha: early arthritis, diagnosis, therapy, outcomes

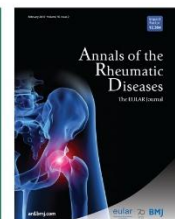
Ready to become an independent reviewer?

Visit: http://emeUNET.eular.org/peer_mentoring.cfm

Application deadline: 14th April



With the collaboration of:





SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

Over the years EMEUNET has developed several projects covering different topics and areas of interest. However, we appreciate any suggestions and welcome new ideas to expand on what we currently offer to EMEUNET members.

Make your voice be heard and share with us your ideas!

It is easy, 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!

We look forward to hearing from you!!!

More information about EMEUNET can be found in
<http://emeunet.eular.org>

You can also reach us through the following email
emeunet@eular.ch



www.facebook.com/EMEUNET



www.twitter.com/EMEUNET



<http://www.linkedin.com>