Standing Committee on Epidemiology and Health Services Research

Report to the General Assembly in Prague, June 2001

At the last EULAR congress in Nice this standing committee held an educational symposium on “Clinical Epidemiology in Practice”. This initiative was very well received and highly appreciated by the participants. Therefore, the committee organised a similar symposium at this congress. The standing committee will together with the standing committee chairmen of “Education and Training” (Professor A Woolf) and “International Clinical Studies, including Clinical Trials” (Professor P van Riel) provide a course on Clinical Epidemiology, including clinical trials and selected topics in Bucharest, Romania from 29 September to 5 October 2001. Currently, the maximum number of participants for these small group tutorials is 40 people from eastern European countries, which has almost been reached.

The standing committee has started its own web site. Electronic communication will facilitate contact between members of the committee, and the committee is still willing and able to co-opt interested people eager to participate in activities of the standing committee.

Finally, the committee has prepared a protocol to study and compare the prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis and spondyloarthropathies in many EULAR countries following a successful French initiative (Professor F Guillemin). The feasibility of this study was assessed last year. Now EULAR has provided financial support to enable the first phase of this project to be started by members of the standing committee. The time of the committee will be devoted almost completely to implementation of this study. You will definitely hear more about this project next year at the EULAR Congress in Stockholm, Sweden.

S J VAN DER LINDEN
Maastricht


The EULAR Congress in Prague attracted more than 8300 participants and was, therefore, by far the largest congress ever organised by EULAR. The EULAR Executive Committee wishes to express its gratitude and thanks to the local organisers, the speakers, the abstract review chairmen and, in particular, to the 96 additional abstract reviewers.

Volvo awards for low back pain research 2002

To encourage research into low back pain the Volvo Company for the 24th and final year will sponsor three prizes of $10 000 each. Awards will be made competitively on the basis of scientific merit in one or more of the following three areas:

- Clinical studies
- Bioengineering studies
- Studies in other basic science.

Papers submitted for the contest must contain original material, not previously published or submitted for publication. Multiple authorship is acceptable. The manuscripts, in English, should be in the form of a complete report, including original illustrations (please note: marked with names); not exceeding 15 typewritten pages (references and tables can be added); double spaced; typed text should not be smaller than Times 12 point; and in a form suitable for submission as an original paper to a scientific journal. Ethics committee approval is necessary for all animal studies and for controlled clinical studies. One original and five copies—including illustrations—must reach the address given below not later than 3 December 2001.

Accordingly, articles sent by fax will not be accepted. Do not forget to give complete address with telephone number, fax number, and email address. Winners will be informed at the end of February 2002.

One of the authors should be prepared, at his/her own expense, to come to Cleveland, Ohio, USA, at the time of the meeting of the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine, 15–19 May 2002, to present the paper and to receive the award. The board of referees will be chaired by Professor Alf Nachemson and will contain members from the field of clinical medicine, bioengineering, and biochemistry.

All correspondence should be directed to: Professor Alf Nachemson, Department of Orthopaedics, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, S-413 45 Göteborg, Sweden.

Forthcoming events

In 2001

13–15 Sep First Torino-Toronto Joined Workshop on Therapeutic Endoscopy, Torino, Italy
Contact: Anna Botto, M.A.F. Servizi-Congress Division, Via G.B. Vico, 7-10128, Torino, Italy
Tel: +39 011 50 59 00 Fax: +39 011 50 59 76
Email: abotto@mafservizi.it
Web site: www.mafservizi.it

21–23 Sep International Conference on the Neuroendocrine Immune Bases of the Rheumatic Diseases, Genova, Italy
Contact: Maurizio Cutolo, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Univesity of Genova, Viale Benedetto XV, 6, 16132 Genova, Italy
Tel/fax: +39 010 3537994/8885
Email: mcutolo@unige.it
27–30 Sep  
VII European Pediatric Rheumatology Congress, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
Contact: Scientific secretariat Hannah Verbeek, Wilhelmina Children's Hospital, UMCU, PO Box 85090, 3508AB Utrecht, The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 30 2504195. Fax: +31 30 2505346  
Email: h.verbeek@wkz.azu.nl  

28 Sep–1 Oct  
EULAR course: Clinical Evaluation of Joints and the Back, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Registration: Henning.bliddal@fh.hosp.dk for notice of acceptance and details of fee and hotel registration  
Further details: Ann Rheum Dis 2000; 60:659

12–13 Oct  
International Symposium: Obesity, Bone, and Joint, Brussels Belgium  
Contact: Professor Dr M Szpalski, Centre Hospitalier Molière Longchamps, Rue Marconi 142, 1180 Brussels, Belgium  
Fax: +32 2 348 56 94

12–16 Oct  
23rd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, Phoenix, Arizona, USA  
Contact: Julia Janko, American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, Suite 300, 1200 19th Street, N. W., Washington DC 20036-2422, USA  
Tel: (202) 857 1161. Fax (202) 223 4579  
Email: asbmr@sba.com

16–19 Oct  
ERASS meeting  
Contact: Eleanor Schlageter, ERASS Office, Klinik Schulthess, Lengghalde 2, CH-8008, Zurich, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 1 385 7429. Fax: +41 1 385 7599

11–15 Nov  
65th American College of Rheumatology AGM, San Francisco, USA  
Contact: ACR, Ronald F Olejko, Director of Conferences and Meetings, 1800 Century Place, Suite 250, Atlanta, Georgia 30345, USA  
Tel: +1 404 633 3777. Fax: +1 404 633 1870  
Email: olejko@rheumatology.org  
Web site: www.rheumatology.org

5–8 Dec  
American Back Society: Advanced Diagnosis of Neck and Back Pain, Orlando, Florida  
Contact: American Back Society, 2647 International Boulevard, Suite 401, Oakland, CA 94601, USA  
Tel: (510) 536 9929. Fax: (510) 536 1812  
Email: info@americanbacksoc.org

In 2002  
20–24 Feb  
3rd International Congress on Autoimmunity, Geneva, Switzerland  
Contact: Professor Yehuda Shoenfeld, 3rd International Congress on Autoimmunity, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel  
Tel: 9723 514 0018. Fax: 9723 517 5674  
Email: autoim02@kenes.com

28 Feb–3 Mar  
22nd European Workshop for Rheumatology Research, Leiden, The Netherlands  
Abstract deadline 15 December 2001  
Contact: Professor F C Breedveld, Leiden University Medical Centre, Department of Rheumatology, PO Box 9600, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands  
Tel: +31 (0)71 526 3598  
Fax: +31 (0)71 526 6752  
Email: F.C.Breedveld@lumc.nl  
Web site: www.eurowrr.org

11–15 Mar  
Tenth Intensive Applied Epidemiology Course for Rheumatologists, Manchester, UK  
No Previous experience in epidemiology is needed. The course is residential and limited to 25 places  
Contact: Ms Lisa McClair, ARC Epidemiology Unit, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PT, UK  
Tel: +44 (0)161 275 5993  
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 5043  
Email: Lisa@fs1.scr.man.ac.uk

23–26 Apr  
British Society for Rheumatology XIXth AGM, Brighton, UK  
Abstracts should be submitted by 23 November 2001  
Details from: BSR, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4TL, UK  
Web site: www.rheumatology.org.uk

10–14 May  
IOF World Congress on Osteoporosis, Lisbon, Portugal  
Contact: IOF Secretariat, 71 cours Albert Thomas, F-69003 Lyon, France  
Tel: +33 472 91 41 77. Fax: +33 472 36 90 52  
Email: info@ioflyon.org  
Web site: www.osteofound.org

26–30 May  
5th European Conference on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Athens, Greece  
Chairman Professor HM Moutsopoulos  
Secretariat: Amphitrition Congress Organising Bureau  
Email: hmoutsop@med.uoa.gr  
Email: congress@amphitrition.gr

27–29 June  
10th International Congress on Behçet’s Disease, Berlin, Germany  
2nd International Convention for Patients with Silk Road Disease (Behçet’s Disease), Berlin, Germany  
Contact: Professor Ch C Zouboulis, Department of Dermatology, University Medical Centre Benjamin Franklin, The Free University of Berlin, Fabneckstrasse 60–62, 14195 Berlin, Germany  
Fax 49 30 84456908  
Email: zoubbere@zedat.fu-berlin.de

15–18 Aug  
29th Scandinavian Congress of Rheumatology, Tromso, Norway  
Contact: Hans Nossent, Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital Tromso, Norway  
Tel: 47 776 27294. Fax: 47 776 27258  
Email: 29scr2002@rito.no or revhan@rito.no

21–22 Sep  
Translational Research in Autoimmunity, Pavia, Italy  
Organising secretariat: eventi S.R.L., Corso Cavour, 18/20 - 27100 Pavia, Italy  
Email: tra@e20pr.com  
Web site: www.e20pr.com  
Congress web site: www.medicine.ucsd.edu/albani/2001 meeting

www.annrheumdis.com