

EULAR news

EULAR, with its 42 member countries, needs a forum in which its activities and preoccupations can be communicated to its members. As all those who attended the first annual congress at Nice will receive the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, the EULAR journal, it seems useful to provide an overview of EULAR's continuing activities from time to time. Hence the inclusion of a EULAR news section.

The first article in this section appeared in the June issue (p419), proposing the establishment of a EULAR

Surveillance Registry for Biological Compounds. Other articles will follow, including reports from the chairmen of the standing committees, where most of the important activities of EULAR take place.

If you feel concerned about some of the issues reported and would like to take part in any activity, please contact the corresponding chairman. We need active participation in our work!

THOMAS L VISCHER
EULAR President

Standing Committee on Epidemiology and Health Services Research: past, present, and future

Report presented at the EULAR Congress in Nice, June 2000

At their meetings in Geneva and Glasgow, members of the standing committee discussed the mission statement of this EULAR committee. It was concluded that the area of health services research is definitely within the scope of this EULAR committee. The name has now been changed accordingly to better reflect its activities. The mission is (1) to clearly demonstrate the enormous burden of illness due to rheumatological conditions and their consequences, and (2) to show that this burden can be reduced effectively. The full mission statement has now been published in *Rheumatology in Europe* and on the EULAR web site pages. From now on all information on the standing committee will be published both in EULAR's own journal—namely, the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* and on the EULAR internet site (www.eular.org), including pages for the standing committee. Electronic communication will increasingly facilitate interaction between committee members.

The burden of illness due to rheumatic conditions can be expressed not only in the traditional terms of prevalence, incidence, and duration of disease, but also in its consequences, such as increased mortality, functional limitations, including sick leave and number of work days lost, and other indicators of health resources utilisation. Nowadays, insight into the economic consequences of rheumatic diseases is becoming increasingly important everywhere. Appropriate education of professionals about these issues

is among the top priorities of the committee. To this purpose the committee organised a symposium, "Clinical epidemiology in practice" at the EULAR congress in Nice and intends to repeat this initiative at the next EULAR congress in Prague. Topics in Nice included "detecting small, but relevant differences", "number needed to treat", and "quality assurance in practice".

Importantly, members of the standing committee are contributing to the "Bone and Joint Decade". For the "Bone and Joint Monitoring Project" it is extremely important to identify the burden of illness by reporting the existing data for each country. These issues were also discussed in Nice. Other topics included preparing a common project proposal of all members of the EULAR Standing Committee on Epidemiology and Health Services Research.

The standing committee is looking forward to co-opting as members people who would like to contribute actively to the work of the committee. They may want to join one or more of our task forces, such as the groups on burden of rheumatic illness, economic consequences, or communication among members. Of course, the choice is yours! Those interested are encouraged to contact the chairman (sli@sint.azm.nl) or the secretary (hyazici@attglobal.net).

S J VAN DER LINDEN
Maastricht

Notes/news

Forthcoming events

In 2000

28 Oct– 64th American College of Rheumatology
2 Nov AGM, Philadelphia, USA
Contact: ACR, Ronald F Olejko, Director of Conferences and Meetings, 1800 Century Place, Suite 250, Atlanta, Georgia 30045-4300, USA
Tel: +1 404 633 3777. Fax: +1 404 633 1870
Email: acr@rheumatology.org
Web site: www.rheumatology.org

20–22 Nov 13th French Congress of Rheumatology, Paris, France
Contact: Société Française de Rhumatologie, Pavillon Layani, Hôpital de la Pitié, 83 Bd de l'Hôpital, 75651 Paris Cedex 13, France
Tel: 33 1 45 86 30 58
Fax: 33 1 45 86 33 59
Email: s.f.rhum@wanadoo.fr
Web site: www.citi2.fr/rhumato

22–25 Nov Hellenic Congress on Rheumatology, Athens, Greece

- Contact: Dr Grigoris Skarantavos, Hellenic Society for Rheumatology
Tel/fax: 00 +301 01 654 5243
Email: mail@ere.gr
- 7–9 Dec American Back Society Conference, Vancouver, Canada
Advances in spinal diagnosis and treatment for the 21st century
Contact: Aubrey A Swartz, American Back Society, 2647 International Boulevard, Suite 401, Oakland, CA 94601, USA
Tel: +1 510 536 9929. Fax: +1 510 536 1812
Email: info@americanbacksoc.org
Web site: www.americanbacksoc.org
- In 2001**
- 20–24 Feb 3rd International Congress on Autoimmunity, Geneva, Switzerland
Contact: 3rd International Congress on Autoimmunity, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel
Tel: +972 3 5140018/9
Fax: +972 3 5140077/5175674
- 1–4 Mar 21st European Workshop for Rheumatology Research, Vienna, Austria
The following topics will be covered: genetics, autoantibodies, lymphocyte function, cytokines, gene regulation and signal transduction, apoptosis, new therapeutic approaches
Contact: Vienna Medical Academy, Alser Strasse 4, A-1090 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43/1 405 13 83 22
Fax: +43/1 407 82 74
Email: jdp@medacad.org
- 8–11 Mar European Atherosclerosis Society Workshop on the Immune System in Atherosclerosis, Geneva, Switzerland
Contact: Secretariat, European Atherosclerosis Society Workshop, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel
Tel: 9723 514 0018
Fax: 9723 517 5674 or 9723 517 2484
Email: immune@kenes.com
- 12–16 Mar Ninth Intensive Applied Epidemiology Course for Rheumatologists, Manchester, UK
No previous experience in epidemiology required. Residential course limited to 20
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.ser.man.ac.uk
- 24–28 Mar 6th International Conference on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Barcelona, Spain
Contact: Secretariat: Viajes Iberia Congresos, Diagonal, 523 4^o2^a, 08029 Barcelona, Spain
Tel: +34 93 495 5306. Fax: +34 93 405 1390
Email: congresos@v-iberia.com
- 24–27 Apr XVIII BSR and Scandinavian AGM, Edinburgh, UK
Abstract closing date 1 December 2000
Contact: British Society for Rheumatology, Julia Crawford, Conference Assistant, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7 242 3313
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7 242 3277
- Email: conferences@rheumatology.org.uk
Web site: www.rheumatology.org.uk
- 4–5 May International Meeting on Gene/Cell Therapy in Osteoarticular Diseases, Montpellier, France
Contact: Dr Christian Jorgensen, Service d'Immuno-Rhumatologie, CHU Lapeyronie, 34295 Montpellier cedex 5, France
Fax: (33) 04 67 33 77 98
Email: jorgens@montp.inserm.fr
- 5–10 Jun Joint Meeting of the International Bone and Mineral Society (IBMS) and European Calcified Tissue Society (ECTS), Madrid Spain
Contact: Tilea Londres 17, 28028 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 361 2600. Fax: +34 91 355 9208
Email: ibms.ects2001@tilea.es
Web site: www.intercongres-2001.com
- 13–16 Jun Annual European Congress of Rheumatology, Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Fred Wyss, Executive Secretary, EULAR, Witikonstrasse 15, CH-8032, Zurich, Switzerland
Tel: +41 1 383 9690. Fax: +41 1 383 9810
Email: eular@bluewin.ch
Web site: www.eular.org
- 19–30 Jun International Society of the Study of the Lumbar Spine Meeting, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
Contact: Medicongress, Waalpoel 28, B-9960 Assenede, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0) 9 344 3959
Fax: +32 (0) 9 344 4010
Email: congresses@medicongress.com
- 26–31 Aug XXth ILAR Congress, Edmonton, Canada
Contact: ILAR 2001 Secretariat, Health Care Communications, Suite 906, 50 Burnhamthorpe Road West, Mississauga, Ontario L5B 3C2, Canada
Tel: +1 905 273 3080 from outside Canada; 800 535 3330 within Canada
Fax: +1 905 273 3611
Email: healthcarecomm@sympatico.ca
- 21–23 Sep International Conference on the Neuroendocrine Immune Bases of the Rheumatic Diseases, Genova, Italy
Main topics: stress and rheumatic diseases, neurotransmitters and rheumatoid arthritis, oestrogens/androgens, immunity and autoimmunity, melatonin and inflammation, cytokines and hormones, non-genomic mechanisms of glucocorticoids, hormones and bone
Contact: Maurizio Cutolo, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Genova, Viale Benedetto XV, 6, 16132 Genova, Italy
Tel/fax: +39 010 3537994/8885
Email: mcutolo@unige.it
- 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 30045–4300, USA
Tel: +1 404 633 3777. Fax: +1 404 633 1870
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Web site: www.rheumatology.org