MEETING REPORTS

Summary of report of the 3rd Workshop of European Biologics Registries

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The national societies of rheumatology in several European countries have initiated independent registries to observe the long term outcomes (safety, effectiveness, and costs) of treatments with biological agents. The third meeting of biologics registries was held in January 2004 in Berlin with 45 representatives from the existing or planned registries in Europe and Canada together with representatives from the following companies: Abbott, Amgen, Centocor, Schering-Plough, and Wyeth.

Initial experiences with the use of register data for satisfying the reporting requirements of the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA) were discussed as well as methodological issues such as the role of a control group of non-biologic treated patients, attribution of events to treatments (especially when treatments are changed), coding of adverse events, and interpretation of findings. The

next meeting of biologics registries will be held in Stockholm in May 2005 under the auspices of EULAR.

A comprehensive version of the report can be found on the web at <http://www.annrheumdis/supplemental/>

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Who cares about team care? Conference report from CARE II. Spenshult, Sweden, 18–20 September 2003

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New trends in rheumatological team care were the topics of an international workshop in Sweden in September 2003. Team care has long been an important part of rheumatological care, but its scientific base is weak. Therefore, a more focused development of high quality research, a common future research agenda, and new strategies for evaluation and implementation of team care are necessary. The CARE conferences (the first in Holland in 2002 and the third to take place in Canada in 2005) are important for these purposes and the results of CARE II at Spenshult Hospital, Sweden, can be found on the *Annals* website.

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