outcomes may be worse and that children in these countries face the additional burdens of poverty, socio-political instability and communicable diseases.^{3,4}

Objectives: To review the current situation and challenges faced by the children in less resourced countries with rheumatic diseases and those who provide medical care for them, and to explore opportunities that will drive the global development of paediatric rheumatology to the benefit of all children with rheumatic diseases.

Methods: A thorough review of published literature and gaps in knowledge on the epidemiology and outcomes of childhood rheumatic diseases from less resourced countries. A review of current and planned global initiatives to improve Paediatric Rheumatology care in less resourced countries.

Results: Despite increasing emerging data on paediatric rheumatic diseases from less resourced countries, data on paediatric rheumatic diseases from less resourced countries are sparse. Paediatric rheumatology services in most countries remain inadequate or non-existent to serve the needs of the population, despite encouraging growth in some areas. Improvements in healthcare systems in these countries offer opportunities for the growth of paediatric rheumatology care. Greater genetic diversity and different disease profiles offer opportunities for the advancement of genetic and environmental influences on rheumatic diseases.

Conclusion: An organised effort from the paediatric rheumatology global community can play an important role in the development of education, networks, services and research capabilities that could lead to increased scientific growth and clinical benefits for all children with rheumatic diseases, regardless of their geographical or socio economic position.

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Disclosure of Interests: None declared

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2019-eular.8584

SP0021 DELIVERING FUTURE GLOBAL RESEARCH CHALLENGES IN PAEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY

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The treatment of pediatric rheumatic diseases has improved tremendously in the last 20 years thanks to appropriate legislative initiatives, the existence of very large collaborative networks and the availability of new potent medications. In particular there has been a tremendous improvement in a sizable proportion of patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) with over 3500 children enrolled in trials with registrative purposes. For JIA now the tendency is to concentrate on oral therapies and on drugs targeting specific JIA categories. Also in juvenile systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) the childhood counterpart of SLE there are several potential targets to be tested in children. In addition the field of paediatric rheumatology has provided an excellent example of large scale academic studies which, through the Paediatric Rheumatology International Trials Organisation (PRINTO) have enrolled over 38,000 children from over 60 countries. Further improvement in future years will stem from a better definition of the paediatric disease entities, the discovery of laboratory and imaging biomarkers that could help the tuning of therapy, a smoother implementation of future clinical trials, a more standardized link between academia (clinical and basic science), regulatory authorities, learned societies such as the Pediatric Rheumatology European Society (PRES) and family organisations for the planning of future trials. This lecture will present a general overview and a perspective for the future (mainly academic) work to align clinical data collection with basic researchers, PRES, and family associations in order to foster and facilitate drug evaluation in pediatric rheumatic diseases as well as academic research.

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Disclosure of Interests: Nicolino Ruperto Grant/research support from: The Gaslini Hospital, where NR works as full-time public employee, has received contributions (> 10.000 USD each) from the following industries in the last 3 years: BMS, Eli-Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, F Hoffmann-La Roche, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sobi. This funding has been reinvested for the research activities of the hospital in a fully independent manner, without any commitment with third parties., Consultant for: Received honoraria for consultancies or speaker bureaus (< 10.000 USD each) from the following pharmaceutical companies in the past 3 years: Ablynx, AbbVie, Astrazeneca-Medimmune, Biogen, Boehringer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli-Lilly, EMD Serono, GlaxoSmithKline, Hoffmann-La Roche, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, R-Pharma, SanofiServier, Sinergie, Sobi and Takeda., Speakers bureau: Received honoraria for consultancies or speaker bureaus (< 10.000 USD each) from the following pharmaceutical companies in the past 3 years: Ablynx, AbbVie, Astrazeneca-Medimmune, Biogen, Boehringer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli-Lilly, EMD Serono, GlaxoSmithKline, Hoffmann-La Roche, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, R-Pharma, SanofiServier, Sinergie, Sobi and Takeda.

DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2019-eular.8578

SP0022 PROJECT ABSTRACT 2: EMERGE – HELPING DELIVER OUR WORLDWIDE GOALS

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EMERGE (EMERging Rheumatologist and rEsearchers) is a new group of young physicians and scientists from across the globe with a shared interest and passion for pediatric rheumatology. Amid numerous differences in education, research opportunities and healthcare systems across countries, the overarching aim of the group is to work closely together towards the same goal of providing a best possible care for children with rheumatic diseases. With the support of the Pediatric Rheumatology European Society (PreS), the group has created several compelling initiatives which could help the creation of a new generation of professionals who can deliver this goal. Therefore, one the paramount initiative of the group is the PreS EMERGE fellowship. This unique program enables clinicians and scientist from all over the world to come to the established pediatric rheumatology centers in Europe, receive clinical or translational research training, perform a short study and build a support network readily available after returning to their surroundings. Next, the Peer Review Mentoring Program has been recently started in order to provide a first structured peer review training in the field of pediatric rheumatology. The prevailing intention of this initiative is to improve the quality of published researches by education of the future peer reviewers. The important initiative of the group is also the organization of the Young Investigators Meeting (YIM), that takes place every year before the PreS congress. This meeting gathers many clinicians and scientist from all continents and provides them with an excellent opportunity of presenting their basic and clinical discoveries and compelling cases to their peers and "not so senior" faculty. Besides, the group is involved in the organization of many educational courses where world-leading experts are conveying their experience and knowledge of a particular topic. To succeed in these initiatives, the EMERGE group is working closely with other similar groups, such as CARRA young investigators from North America and EMEU-NET group of young adult rheumatologist from Europe. Moreover, the group has a firm collaboration with Pediatric Task Force Global Musculoskeletal Health, a group dedicated to raising the awareness and improving access to right care for children with musculoskeletal diseases, and ENCA, a network of national associations working with children and young people with pediatric rheumatic diseases. Finally, in order to spread information about these initiatives and to attract new members, the group is actively using social media platforms, such as Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PreSEMERGE/>), Twitter (@PreSEMERGE), and bi-monthly newsletters (emerge.pres@gmail.com).