EDITORIAL

Dear young rheumatologists and researchers in rheumatology, the EMEUNET team welcomes you in this new issue of EMEUNEWS. We are happy to provide, once again, a collaborative work of EMEUNET members about some interesting presentations in the upcoming EULAR congress in Madrid. The current Newsletter also contains some reports from events which took place over the last months.

EMEUNET continues its activities targeting young European rheumatologists through cooperation of the different subgroups, in which you all, old and new members, are welcome to join and actively participate.

We would be happy if you, as EMEUNET members, disseminate the existence and aims of EMEUNET to anybody who is interested.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and would be happy to receive any comments or contributions to future issues.

See you in Madrid,

Serena Bugatti, Xenofon Baraliakos and Pedro Machado, on behalf of the Newsletter Subgroup

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**Newsletter Topic: EULAR 2013 Do-Not-Miss!**

In this edition of EMEUNEWS, we would like to draw your attention to what we believe could be the most interesting presentations at this year’s EULAR congress.

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**At this year’s EULAR** you have plenty of opportunities to meet other EMEUNET members and to get useful information about the sessions and the meeting place, wonderful Madrid!

As usual we have an EMEUNET corner in the EULAR village. Since we got a double booth this year, there will be more information and more space to sit and chat. The tour around Madrid is unfortunately already fully booked, but you still have the opportunity to meet up with the other EMEUNET members on **Thursday evening** at the Santa Ana square (venue to be announced).

As a novelty we also have a "Meet EMEUNET" corner during the Networking event on **Wednesday evening** after the Opening Plenary Session.

Come there and see who of your fellow EMEUNETers is also in Madrid!
Basic Research I

Anna Engler, MSc in Molecular Biomedicine, is a PhD student at the Center of Experimental Rheumatology, University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland. Her research focuses on epigenetic changes and regulation of miRNA biogenesis in rheumatoid arthritis.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:
Wednesday 12.06.2013 16:05
Session: B cells in auto-immune response; how do they look and what do they need? (Room N107/108)
Gaugler, B. et al. (France)
OP0008 – Peripheral blood B cell subsets and BAFF/APRIL receptor expression, together with circulating BAFF and APRIL levels, are disturbed in rheumatoid arthritis but not in ankylosing spondylitis

Thursday 13.06.2013 11:10
Session: Translating progress in bone and joint research (Room N115)
Laiguillon, M.C. et al. (France)
OP0125 – Visfatin/NAMPT in Osteoarthritis: a pro-inflammatory adipokine involved in synovium-cartilage and synovium-bone communications

Friday 14.06.2013 14:35
Session: New pathways in spondyloarthritis: the IL23 axis and beyond (Room N107/108)
Ciccia, F. et al. (Italy)
OP0278 – Autophagy, but not the unfolded protein response, regulates the expression of IL-23 in the gut of patients with ankylosing spondylitis and subclinical gut inflammation

Friday 14.06.2013 16:35
Session: Cell-cell interactions and vascular functions (Room N107/108)
Van Lent, P. et al. (Netherlands)
OP0299 – Synovial activation in experimental OA drives rapid suppressive effects of adipose-derived stem cells after local administration and protects against development of ligament damage

POSTERS:
Thursday 13.06.2013
Aradi, B. et al. (Switzerland)
THU0071 Protein tyrosine phosphatase nonreceptor type 2 (PTPN2) is an important regulator of inflammation and autophagy in rheumatoid arthritis

Friday 14.06.2013
de Munter, W. et al. (Netherlands)
FRI0044 Cholesterol accumulation by low density lipoprotein receptor deficiency or a cholesterol-rich diet enhances osteophyte formation during experimental osteoarthritis by activating transforming growth factor-bets

Basic Research II

Serena is Lecturer and Consultant Rheumatologist at the University of Pavia School of Medicine, Italy. Her research focuses on the pathobiology of inflamed tissues in rheumatoid arthritis (synovium, subchondral bone, lymph node) and on tissue and serum biomarkers in RA.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:
Wednesday 12.06.2013 16:20
Session: Complementopathies – new mechanisms for old diseases (Room N109/1110)
Chauhan, A. et al. (United States) OP0009 – CD4+ T cell differentiation by immune complexes and complement

Thursday 13.06.2013 10:30
Session: Pathogenesis of Lupus and Sjögren’s syndrome (Room N109/1110)
Murray-Brown, W. et al. (United Kingdom) OP0080 – Lesional IL-21 expression correlates with functional germinal center formation and T follicular helper cell infiltration in the salivary glands of Sjögren’s syndrome

Friday 14.06.2013 11:20
Session: Innate and adaptive immunity (Room N105/106)
Daridon, C. et al. (Germany) OP0198 – Proliferative lymphoid nodules and not germinal centers are the sites of autoantigen stimulation in human spleen

Saturday 15.06.2013 09:35
Session: Tertiary lymphoid structures in diseases: good or bad for the patients? (Room N105/106)
Olivier, B.J. (Netherlands) SP0165 – Neuronal control of TLS in the intestine

POSTERS:
Thursday 13.06.2013
Chung, M.M. et al. (United Kingdom) THU0047 Persistence and memory in a model of tertiary lymphoneogenesis

Friday 14.06.2013
Aringer, M. et al. (Germany) FRI0008 Evidence for increased activity of interleukin-6 (IL-6) in seropositive rheumatoid arthritis (RA+), and differential tumor necrosis factor (TNF) receptor expression between RA+ and seronegative RA
**RA I (epidemiology, clinics and outcome)**

Mette Holland-Fischer is a Consultant and PhD-student at the Department of Rheumatology, Aalborg University Hospital, Denmark. Her areas of interest are Rheumatoid Arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis, their comorbidities and relationship with immunosuppressive drugs.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Wednesday 12.06.2013 16:05
Session: Cardiovascular risk in inflammatory arthritis (Room N101/102)
Meek, I. et al. (Netherlands) OP0004 - Cardiovascular risk in intensively treated rheumatoid arthritis: Comparison to an osteoarthritis population. First prospective analysis of the ACT-CVD cohort

Thursday 13.06.2013 10:50
Session: Epidemiology: outcomes (Room N111/112)
Sørensen, J. et al. (Denmark) OP0090 - Duration of symptoms before diagnosis in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis

Thursday 13.06.2013 14:00
Session: Performance of RA remission criteria (Room N101/102)
Gossec, L. (France) SP0062 - What is the influence of the patient component in RA remission criteria?

**POSTERS:**

Saturday 15.06.2013
Douglas, M. et al. (France) SAT0061 Prevalence of co-morbidities in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and evaluation of their monitoring: Results of an international, cross-sectional study (COMORA)

Saturday 15.06.2013
Ling, S. et al. (United Kingdom) SAT0049 Obesity is associated with reduced improvement in functional disability after 1 year of treatment: Results from an inception early rheumatoid arthritis cohort.

**RA II (biological therapies)**

Cécile Gaujoux-Viala MD, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Rheumatology at the Nîmes University Hospital affiliated with the Montpellier I University (France). Her major research interest is outcome assessment, in particular evaluation of the benefits in health in bone and joint diseases especially in rheumatoid arthritis.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Thursday 13.06.2013 10:15 - 11:45
Session: RA: anti-TNF therapy (Room Retiro)
Fautrel, B. et al. (France) OP0066 - Targeting the lowest efficacious dose for rheumatoid arthritis patients in remission: clinical and structural impact of a step-down strategy trial based on progressive spacing of TNF-blocker injections (STRASS trial)

Thursday 13.06.2013 10:15 - 11:45
Session: RA therapy beyond TNF inhibition (Hall 4)
Burmester, G. et al. (Germany) OP0041 - Tocilizumab in combination and monotherapy versus methotrexate (MTX) in MTX-naive patients with early rheumatoid arthritis: clinical and radiographic outcomes from a randomized, placebo controlled trial

Thursday 13.06.2013 10:15 - 11:45
Session: RA therapy beyond TNF inhibition (Hall 4)
Schiff, M. et al. (United States) OP0044 - Head-to-head comparison of subcutaneous abatacept versus adalimumab on background methotrexate in RA: two year results from the AMPLE study

Saturday 15.06.2013 12:00 -13:30
Session: HOT 10- Update of EULAR Rheumatoid Arthritis Management recommendations (Hall 7)
Nam, J. (United Kingdom) SP0188 Systematic Literature review: Biological DMARDs

**POSTERS:**

Thursday 13.06.2013
O'Dell, J. et al. (United States) THU0224 - Randomized double-blind comparative effectiveness in RA patients with active disease despite methotrexate (MTX): a comparison of conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs with a biological

Saturday 15.06.2013
Finckh, A. et al. (Switzerland) SAT0104 - Comparison of drug discontinuation to inefficacy and adverse events between anti-TNF agents and non-anti-TNF biologics agents in anti-TNF inadequate responder rheumatoid arthritis patients
ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Thursday 13.06.2013 11:30
Session: Epidemiological Outcomes (Room N111/112)
Eriksson, J. et al. (Sweden)
OP0094 – Cost-effectiveness of biologic versus conventional combination treatment in early rheumatoid arthritis: 2-year results of the randomized controlled SWEFOT trial

Thursday 13.06.2013 10:50
Session: RA - anti-TNF therapy (Room Retiro)
Burmester, G. et al. (Germany)
OP0067 – Efficacy, pharmacokinetics, and safety of different doses of methotrexate in combination with adalimumab: results from the CONCERTO trial

Friday 14.06.2013 10:30
Session: RA - prognosis, predictors and outcome (Hall 4)
De Jong, P.H.P. et al. (Netherlands)
OP0177 - Randomized comparison of triple DMARD therapy with methotrexate mono-therapy

Saturday 15.06.2013 12:00-13:30
Session: HOT 10- Update of EULAR Rheumatoid Arthritis Management recommendations (Hall 7)
Gaujoux Viala, C. (France)
Systematic Literature Review: Conventional DMARDs

POSTERS:

Thursday 13.06.2013
O’Dell, J. et al. (United States)
THU0224 Randomized double-blind comparative effectiveness in RA patients with active disease despite methotrexate (MTX): a comparison of conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs with a biological

Saturday 15.06.2013
Lie, E. et al. (Norway) SAT0261 Which conventional DMARD to select in the treatment of psoriatic arthritis (PSA)? Data from NOR-DMARD on 1351 treatment courses with methotrexate (MTX), sulfasalazine (SSZ) and leflunomide (LEF).

Psoriatic arthritis

Katerina Chatzidionysiou, MD, is a Rheumatology Fellow at Karolinska University Hospital (Stockholm) and currently a PhD candidate. Her main research focus is biologic treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Thursday 13.06.2013 10:15
Session: Management of spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis (Room N117)
Mease, P. et al. (United States) OP0103 – Efficacy of brodalumab, an anti-IL-17R antibody, in subjects with psoriatic arthritis

Thursday 13.06.2013 10:15
Session: Management of spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis (Room N117)
Edwards, C. et al. (United States) OP0104 – Apremilast, an oral phosphodiesterase 4 inhibitor, in patients with psoriatic arthritis including current skin involvement: results of a phase 3, randomized, controlled trial

Friday 14.06.2013 13:30
Session: New pathways in spondyloarthritis: the IL23 axis and beyond (Room N107/108)
Baeten, D. (Netherlands) – IL23-IL17: translational and clinical insights into spondyloarthritis

POSTERS:

Saturday 15.06.2013
Mease, P. et al. (United States) SAT0263 Biologic therapy, time to low disease activity and effect of mono vs. background oral DMARD therapy among psoriatic arthritis patients in a US registry

EULAR 2013 – Do-Not-Miss

June 2013

Katerina Chatzidionysiou, MD, is a Rheumatology Fellow at Karolinska University Hospital (Stockholm) and currently a PhD candidate. Her main research focus is biologic treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.
**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**Thursday 13.06.2013 11:30**

Abstract session: Management of spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis (Room N117)
Smolen, J. et al. (Austria) OP0110 - Treat-to-target recommendations for spondyloarthritis, including ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis: a consensus of an international task force

**Friday 14.06.2013 10:50**

Abstract session: Spondyloarthritis - diagnosis and prognosis (Room N109/110)
Weber, U. et al. (Switzerland) OP0217 - Frequent detection of inflammation and fat infiltration suggestive of spondyloarthritis on MRI of the entire spine in healthy subjects and patients with mechanical back pain

**Friday 14.06.2013 11:00**

Abstract session: Spondyloarthritis - diagnosis and prognosis (Room N109/110)
Ramiro, S. et al. (Netherlands) OP0218 - Erosions and sclerosis, but not squaring predict the development of new syndesmophytes: a 12-year longitudinal analysis

**Friday 14.06.2013 11:10**

Abstract session: Spondyloarthritis - diagnosis and prognosis (Room N109/110)
Briot, K. et al. (France) OP0219 - Use of non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and high body mass index prevent bone loss in patients with early inflammatory back pain: results from the DESIR cohort

**POSTERS:**

**Friday 14.06.2013**

Baraliakos, X. et al. (Germany) FRI0420 Long term inhibition of IL-17a with secukinumab reduces spinal inflammation but has no influence on fatty lesions as assessed by magnetic resonance imaging in patients with ankylosing spondylitis

**Saturday 15.06.2013**

van den Berg, R. et al. (Netherlands) SAT0228 Performance of MRI compared to conventional radiographs in the detection of structural lesions in the sacroiliac joints in patients with recent onset axial spondyloarthritis

**SLE & APS**

Estibaliz Loza, MD, is a researcher and currently works in the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health. Her main area of interest is public health and quality, in particular the development of standards of care and quality indicators.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**Thursday 13.06.2013 11:40**

Session: Novel treatment in SLE and Sjögren's syndrome (Room N118)
Jayne, D. et al. (United Kingdom, United States, China) LB0003 - A randomized controlled study of laquinimod in active lupus nephritis patients in combination with standard care

**Friday 14.06.2013 10:30**

Session: Osteoporosis (Room N118)
Bultink, I.E. et al. (Netherlands) OP0246 - Incidence of and risk factors for clinical fractures in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and matched controls: a population based study in the United Kingdom

**Friday 14.06.2013 11:30**

Session: Imaging in diagnosis of rheumatic diseases (Room N103/104)
Gandjbakhch, F. et al. (France) OP0175 - Systemic lupus erythematosus and primary Sjögren's syndrome may display joint erosions on MRI as well as healthy control, but cannot be considered as erosive disease such as rheumatoid arthritis: an MRI observational study of 90 subjects

**Friday 14.06.2013 14:05**

Session: Educational pearls (Room N115)
Devilliers, H. et al. (France) OP0285 - Assessment of patient needs to design a patient education program in systemic lupus erythematosus

**POSTERS:**

**Friday 14.06.2013**

Fischer-Betz, R. et al. (Germany) THU0260 Low risk of renal flares and of negative outcomes in women with lupus nephritis conceiving after switching mycophenolate mofetil to azathioprine

**Saturday 15.06.2013**

Henriquez, C. et al. (Chile) SAT0587-HPR The meaning of living with systemic lupus erythematosus: qualitative study in Chilean women
Peter Mandl is a consultant rheumatologist, currently doing research in osteoimmunology and musculoskeletal ultrasonography at the Division of Rheumatology, Medical University of Vienna. He is the current Chairperson of EMEUNET.

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**Thursday 13/06/2013 10:30**
Abstract session: Clinical scleroderma and myositis (Room N103/104)
Jordan, S. et al. (Switzerland) OP0034 - Performance of the new ACR/EULAR classification criteria for systemic sclerosis in clinical practice

**Thursday 13/06/2013 16:35**
Session: Translational model of fibrosis and myositis (Room N109/110)
Liu, S. et al. (Canada) OP0155 - A novel model of systemic sclerosis? Loss of PTEN in fibroblasts results in lung fibrosis in a CCN2/CTGF-dependent fashion

**Friday 14/06/2013 10:40**
Abstract session: Novel advances in vasculitis: pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment (Room 107/108)
Sifuentes Giraldo, W.A. et al. (Spain) OP0208 - Diagnostic value of the number of affected branches of the temporal artery by color Doppler ultrasonography in giant cell arteritis

**Friday 14/06/2013 10:20**
Abstract session: Systemic sclerosis, which pathway is really important? (Room N111/112)
Manetti, M. et al. (Italy) OP0222 - Inactivation of urokinase-type plasminogen activator receptor induces dermal and pulmonary fibrosis and peripheral microvasculopathy in mice closely resembling human systemic sclerosis

### POSTERS:

**Saturday 15/06/2013**
Loughrey, L. et al. (United Kingdom) SAT0199 Video-capillaroscopy assessment of peri-calcinotic skin indicates specific features of severe vasculopathy associated with calcium deposits in systemic sclerosis

**Saturday 15/06/2013**
Sobanski, V. et al. (United Kingdom) SAT0221 Can changes in NT-proBNP predict early response to therapy and prognosis in systemic sclerosis associated pre-capillary pulmonary hypertension?

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I.H. Tarner, M.D. is attending rheumatologist at the Department of Rheumatology, Clinical Immunology, Osteology and Physical Medicine of the Kerckhoff-Klinik in Bad Nauheim, Germany, affiliated with the University of Gießen. His primary interests are rheumatoid arthritis, systemic sclerosis, fibromyalgia syndrome, and innovative imaging.
Francisca Sivera, MD, is a Rheumatologist working at the Hospital de Elda (Spain) and has an honorary appointment in the Department of Medicine at Universidad Miguel Hernandez (Elche). Her research interests include crystal arthritis and synovial fluid analysis.

JOÃO MADRUGA DIAS, MD, is a Rheumatology fellow at Santa Maria University Hospital (Portugal) with a special interest in inflammatory rheumatic diseases in pregnancy, seronegative spondyloarthropathies, MSK-ultrasound and arthroscopy. He trained arthroscopy in Saint Vincent’s University Hospital, University College of Dublin (Prof. D.J. Veale).

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**Thursday 13.06.2013 10:40**

Abstract session: Other orphan diseases (Room N107/108)
Saidenberg-Kermañac’h, N. et al. (France) OP0073 – High risk fracture in sarcoidosis patients despite not lowered bone mineral density: implication of serum 25(OH) vitamin D levels

Friday 14.06.2013 14:50
Session: Osteoporotic fractures and fracture healing in osteoporosis (Room N103/104)
Sehgal, A. et al. (United States) OP0270 – Osteoporotic hip fractures in extreme elderly men: a growing problem

Friday 14.06.2013 16:35
Session: Cell-cell interactions and vascular functions (Room N107/108)
Van Lent, P. et al. (France) OP0299 – Synovial activation in experimental OA drives rapid suppressive effects of adipose-derived stem cells after local administration and protects against development of ligament damage.

Saturday 15.06.2013 13:15
Session: Inflammation and mechanics in OA: exclusive or synergistic entities? (Room N107/108)
Ding, C. et al. (Australia) OP0317 – Infrapatellar fat pad area is associated with reduced knee symptomatic and structural abnormalities in older adults: a cross-sectional study

**POSTERS:**

Thursday 13.06.2013
Oldroyd, A. et al. (United Kingdom) THU0419 The appropriate age of testing for low BMD in men with DXA: an observational study

Saturday 15.06.2013
Petrella, R. et al. (Canada) SAT0311 A randomized double-blind control trial of intra-articular hyaluronic acid: botulinum toxin type a versus placebo for mild to moderate knee OA

**Crystal arthropathies**

**Wednesday 12.06.2013 16:15**

Session: Chronic gout: imaging, diagnosis, treatment (Room N103/104)
Scire, C.A. et al. (Italy) OP0003 Development and preliminary validation of a candidate disease activity score for gout

Thursday 13.06.2013 14:35
Session: Nutrition and inflammation (Room N103/104)
Eliseev, M.S. et al. (Russian Federation) OP0130 Independent risk factors for cardiovascular events in male patients with gout: results of the 7-year prospective follow-up study

Friday 14.06.2013 10:20
Session: Abstract session: Imaging in diagnosis of rheumatic diseases (Room N103/104)
Musetescu, A.E. et al. (Romania) OP0168 Ultrasound morphostructural changes in hyperuricemic hypertensive patients asymptomatic for gouty arthritis

Saturday 15.06.2013 13:15
Session: Metabolic syndrome and rheumatic diseases (Hall 8)
Perez-Ruiz, F. (Spain) OP0312 – Association of insulin resistance and hypertension with renal clearance of uric acid in males with gout and normal renal function

**POSTERS:**

Saturday 15.06.2013
Meek, I. et al. (Netherlands) SAT0361 Hyperuricemia: cause or consequence of increased cardiovascular risk

Saturday 15.06.2013
Perez-Ruiz, F. et al. (Spain) SAT0359 The number of episodes of acute inflammation are associated to both acute gastrointestinal and renal complications attributed to NSAIDs in patients with gout

**OA & Osteoporosis**

**Thursday 13.06.2013 10:40**

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ARTICULUM Fellowship

We would like to draw your attention to the ARTICULUM Fellowship in Arthritis and Pain to Young Research Fellows. As stated in the official announcement, the purpose of the ARTICULUM Fellowship is to provide opportunities for young Fellows from any country with an interest in arthritis and pain to conduct a research project. The deadline for applications for the ARTICULUM Fellowship is 31 July 2013.

More information can be found under: http://www.articulumfellowship.com/index.html

The International EUREKA Certificate Program in Translational Medicine

-Translating Dreams into Reality-

“When you get back, don’t try to explain what you have learnt during the past week! Those who will ask you about this course won’t understand it anyway. Just let them know that food and wine in Siracusa were delicious!” These were the advices Berent Prakken and Salvo Albani, the founders of EUREKA, gave us to take along when we left the lovely Sicilian town Siracusa. And indeed, recalling the miraculous 2013 International EUREKA Certificate Program (IECP), we can barely explain what we experienced during the first week of May. Since the experiences from the IECP, however, are among the best of our whole (professional) lives, we will try to provide insights into the scientific program and share thoughts on the unique spirit of EUREKA. Founding EUREKA in 2006, Berent and Salvo aspired to form a future network in translational medicine. The two immunologists designated an interdisciplinary training course for young scientists as the core module of EUREKA. Eager work and the expertise of Janet Hafler, a professor of paediatrics and education from Yale, led to the first IECP in Siracusa two years later. The result was remarkable: as participants of the 5th version of the IECP in 2013, we could appreciate Berent’s and Salvo’s aspiration to form a future network in translational medicine in every single unit of the course. Keeping Berent’s and Salvo’s dream in mind helps to better understand the multi-dimensional concept of the IECP. In the foreground, the course provided in-depth knowledge about current and future concepts of translational medicine. In the background, by strategic design, the IECP made us understand teambuilding strategies, group dynamics and our own roles in groups and networks. The design of the IECP is highly sophisticated to enable condensed teaching and learning of the different aspects of translational medicine. Twenty-three mentors, including scientists, clinicians, officials from regulatory agencies, psychologists and lawyers, all of them leaders in their fields, shared with us their knowledge about translational medicine. Of note, our group of 29 students reciprocated the heterogeneity of the mentors and included doctoral
students, post-doctoral researchers, senior clinicians and department leaders from different fields of medical sciences. The IECP units included lectures, group work, individual tasks, special team building exercises, mentoring groups and one-to-one “speed-dating” with our mentors. A “hidden curriculum” with various evening events completed the schedule. In these units, we gathered in-depth knowledge about the multiple steps and obstacles of drug development; we developed strategies to translate ideas from bench to bedside; we practiced grant writing, presentations and case discussions; we worked on solutions for personal challenges in our professional lives; we participated in creative artistic initiatives and at the same time, in every single step, we tied our bonds with our group of peers and mentors. The group experience at the 5th IECP in Syracuse was amazing. From the very first moment, the “magic moment” when everybody first met, our mentors conveyed their spirit of a future network to us. At the end of the first day, we had already developed a strong group identity that we further strengthened during the rest of the IECP. We are sure that the group exercise has formed bonds that may last for the rest of our (professional) lives.

As alumni of the 5th IECP, we wish that the seeds Berent and Salvo sowed will grow and form a strong network of translational medicine across different fields and specialties. We wish to encourage basic and clinical young scientists to apply for the IECP and become part of this unique interdisciplinary network. Finally, we wish to thank EULAR and EMEUNET that gave us the opportunity to participate in this unique training course for translational medicine.

Coziana Ciurtin, UK and Christian Beyer, Germany

The mission of the EUREKA Institute (cited from http://www.eurekainstitute.org)

Our mission is to develop a community of translational medicine professionals equipped to catalyze the application of discoveries for the benefit of human health. We do this through: Education and Building Community

Translational medicine is the evolution of an idea into a new therapy or tool to improve human health and manage disease. The field includes a broad range of disciplines—for example, molecular medicine, intellectual property, funding, regulation, and trial design, among others.

Many challenges hamper such an evolution. Aside from those most discussed, such as getting ideas out of the lab and into people, more insidious obstacles revolve around individual and group skills, the shifting international landscape and a basic awareness of what the development process actually entails. Limited training exists to address these and other concepts of translational medicine collaboratively in one program; and training at an international level is nonexistent.

For further information see: http://www.eurekainstitute.org

Or contact:

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WIN ("What Is New") with EULAR
23 - 24 November 2012
Prague, Czech Republic

It was my great pleasure as a young African rheumatologist to attend a new version of the WIN with EULAR last November in Prague.

It was different in many ways from conventional postgraduate courses in terms of high quality lectures from experts taking place over two days, rather than the 5 days that conventional postgraduate courses usually take. We had more time for discussions, as well as the opportunity to sit with EULAR scholars during lunches and dinner. Materials and course content was really very good and broad-ranging, and included excellent syntheses of the most up to date research and its clinical application.

For future courses I would suggest there being more case presentations - particularly complicated cases - for discussion and to enable attendees to make use of the presence of experts. I would recommend this course to every young rheumatologist, as well as for consultants. The new knowledge gained from the course was also helpful for passing my exam.

Hassan Abdelrahman, Sudan

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5th EULAR/EUSTAR Educational Course 2013
24th - 27th of January 2013
Cluj, Romania

I have first learned about the EUSTAR course a couple of years ago, while doing research for my Bachelor thesis. I was impressed by this joint initiative of the leading experts in the field to gather, exchange knowledge and train fellow specialists that deal with scleroderma patients and wished I would someday be part of that audience.

This year, I had the opportunity to participate in the 5th EUSTAR course held in Cluj Napoca, in my home country, Romania. I went there expecting to gain an up to date overview of the clinical management of systemic sclerosis, clarify some issues, perfect my skin scoring technique and get a glimpse on the latest research trends in the field. As you can see, quite a handful to start with.

Even from the first day, the course offered a well-structured, thorough and practice-oriented approach of the many faces of systemic sclerosis. From pathogenesis to clinical manifestations, diagnosis and management, all relevant topics were covered throughout the course by international experts. There were also practical sessions of skin scoring, group work with debates on difficult cases and capillaroscopy demonstrations, all of which I have enjoyed.

Forthcoming EUSTAR/EULAR projects and research opportunities were also discussed.

Another great part, one that I hadn’t particularly considered beforehand, were the people. During the group work sessions, breaks and social programme, I had a great experience with teamwork, meeting fellows from different countries, sharing ideas, common practices and, of course, small talk.

I left the course with a head full of information, some answers, a bunch of new risen questions (Isn’t that is the fun of learning?), a couple of new friends and lots of enthusiasm. It will undoubtedly be exciting to see what the next EUSTAR course will bring about!

Rucsandra Dobrota, Romania
The selection of presentations for this newsletter is totally personal, limited and consecutively very incomplete.

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

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