

**Annual European Congress of Rheumatology  
(EULAR 2018)**

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 13-16 June 2018

**EULAR SCHOOL OF RHEUMATOLOGY:**

**LAUNCH OF ONLINE 'LEARNING LANDSCAPE' AND NEW EDUCATIONAL OFFERS**

EULAR School of Rheumatology membership for EUR 30 per annum provides access to the latest learning environment and content in rheumatology

**Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 13 June 2018:** The European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) today announces that its EULAR School of Rheumatology (ESOR) has launched an online learning management system (LMS) to facilitate learning in rheumatology. Accessible to individuals across the scientific, health professional and patient audience spectrum around the world, the learning management system is built on the latest technology. It provides round-the-clock access to the highest-quality – and the most innovative content – in the area of rheumatology.

Prof. Johannes W. Bijlsma, EULAR President, said of the launch, "With this platform, the EULAR School of Rheumatology creates a virtual learning landscape, which includes state-of-the-art content. This provides a solid foundation for the future of rheumatology and its growth as a discipline of medicine. Through providing opportunity to individuals all over the world to become members, there is the chance to build knowledge and understanding to reduce the burden of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases, everywhere."

For a cost of EUR 30 per year per individual, ESOR members can enter the online platform, which has been designed as an easy-to-navigate, easy-to-track-your-progress and achievements platform with interactive learning modules. Developed with a responsive design for laptop, tablet, smart phone and all digital devices, the ESOR individual member can create their own profile including a personal history.

The platform contains three different levels of entry:

- Guest: Free access, no registration required, EULAR captures no personal data
- Learner: Buys single course at regular price, full registration to LMS platform required
- Member: Buys a yearly package with specific features and discounts.

Prof. Bijlsma continues, "EULAR is grateful for the continued support and cooperation of its wealth of brilliant, committed colleagues throughout its network, who dedicate time and effort to provide the content for the learning material."

ESOR member benefits include exclusive and free access to the EULAR App, which features a pocket primer in English – as well as in the Spanish language (new in 2018). This is in addition to its existing portfolio including, among other features, access to the EULAR recommendations and imaging library. Further benefits include reduced prices on all EULAR Online Courses, and access of up to four recommended (EULAR selected) recorded sessions from the EULAR Congress, and a EUR 25 reduction on one EULAR Live Course of personal choice.

At the EULAR Congress in Amsterdam, congress delegates have the opportunity to visit the EULAR booth (V 31) in the EULAR Village to sign-up for ESOR membership, and to find out more about membership benefits. There is also a new EULAR Online Course on Imaging, which contains 12

modules, with a sample module on show at the EULAR booth in the new LMS design. The module includes short learning bites, videos and images as well as interactive clinical case assessments.

With the development of new content, the ESOR also announces a new book launch at the EULAR Congress: EULAR/PReS Textbook on Paediatric Rheumatology, and a new edition launch of the EULAR Textbook on Rheumatic Diseases (3rd edition).

EULAR has invested in renewing its educational software to be fully prepared for constantly changing learning methods. Whether blended learning, interactive online tools or responsive design for all digital devices, learning in rheumatology is now possible – anywhere, and at any time. With a long-standing tradition in education, and with its continued commitment to provide the highest-level in educational offerings and products at affordable prices, EULAR continuously subsidizes and invests in education as a means to achieve excellence for all now, and in the future.

**-ENDS-**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**For further information on this study, or to request an interview with the study lead, please do not hesitate to contact the EULAR Press Office:**

**Email:** [eularpressoffice@ruderfinn.co.uk](mailto:eularpressoffice@ruderfinn.co.uk)

**Telephone:** +44 (0) 20 7438 3084

**Twitter:** @EULAR\_Press

**YouTube:** Eular Press Office

### **About Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases**

Rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) are a diverse group of diseases that commonly affect the joints but can affect any organ of the body. There are more than 200 different RMDs, affecting both children and adults. They are usually caused by problems of the immune system, inflammation, infections or gradual deterioration of joints, muscle and bones. Many of these diseases are long term and worsen over time. They are typically painful and limit function. In severe cases, RMDs can result in significant disability, having a major impact on both quality of life and life expectancy.<sup>1</sup>

### **About 'Don't Delay, Connect Today!'**

'Don't Delay, Connect Today!' is a EULAR initiative that unites the voices of its three pillars, patient (PARE) organisations, scientific member societies and health professional associations - as well as its international network - with the goal of highlighting the importance of early diagnosis and access to treatment. In the European Union alone, over 120 million people are currently living with a rheumatic disease (RMD), with many cases undetected.<sup>2</sup> The 'Don't Delay, Connect Today!' campaign aims to highlight that early diagnosis of RMDs and access to treatment can prevent further damage, and also reduce the burden on individual life and society as a whole.

### **About EULAR**

The European League against Rheumatism (EULAR) is the European umbrella organisation representing scientific societies, health professional associations and organisations for people

with RMDs. EULAR aims to reduce the burden of RMDs on individuals and society and to improve the treatment, prevention and rehabilitation of RMDs. To this end, EULAR fosters excellence in education and research in the field of rheumatology. It promotes the translation of research advances into daily care and fights for the recognition of the needs of people with RMDs by the EU institutions through advocacy action.

To find out more about the activities of EULAR, visit: [www.eular.org](http://www.eular.org).

## References

- <sup>1</sup> van der Heijde D, *et al.* Common language description of the term rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) for use in communication with the lay public, healthcare providers and other stakeholders endorsed by the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) and the American College of Rheumatology (ACR). *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*. 2018;doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2017-212565. [Epub ahead of print].
- <sup>2</sup> EULAR. 10 things you should know about rheumatic diseases fact sheet. Available at: <https://www.eular.org/myUploadData/files/10%20things%20on%20RD.pdf> [Last accessed April 2018].