

EULAR
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ANNOUNCEMENT: EULAR COVID-19 REGISTRY TO CLOSE

The **EULAR/GRA COVID-19 Registry** will be closing on the last day of the **2022 EULAR annual congress**

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Since early in the pandemic, **EULAR – the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology** – has been committed to collecting data to inform the understanding of **COVID-19** in people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), as well as outcomes following vaccination. In **March 2020**, **EULAR** partnered with the **Global Rheumatology Alliance (GRA)** to rapidly institute an online case registry. Over the past 2 years, this initiative has facilitated the collection of **12,908 cases** in the **EULAR registry**, and over **22,000** in total across global provider registries. The information collected has informed clinical practice and the development of new recommendations. The next phase of the pandemic will benefit from detailed biologic data – such as **SARS-CoV-2 variant characterisation**, length of viral replication, immune response to vaccination, and detailed information on **COVID-19 treatments** to inform patient care. Future efforts should focus on the collection and analysis of this type of data; therefore, the **EULAR/GRA COVID-19 Registry** will close on **4th June 2022**.

COVID-19 is the infection caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The outbreak of this virus was declared a pandemic on 11th March 2020 by the World Health Organization. By the end of that month, **EULAR** had partnered with the **GRA** to institute an online case registry. The **EULAR COVID-19 Registry** is an observational database capturing physician-entered data on adult and paediatric patients with a pre-existing RMD and SARS-CoV-2 infection. This initiative has been instrumental in capturing nearly 13,000 cases of COVID-19 in people with RMDs in Europe, and over 22,000 cases worldwide. The aim of the **EULAR–GRA** partnership was to collect, analyse, and disseminate information about COVID-19 and rheumatology to patients, physicians, and other relevant groups to improve the care of people with RMDs.

A major success of the **EULAR–GRA** partnership has been the rapid and collaborative mobilisation of the rheumatology community worldwide. By working together, **EULAR** and the **GRA** have been able to develop a good picture of how patients with RMDs fare with COVID-19. The data and resulting recommendations have helped clinicians and patients guide their way through the pandemic. These collaborations have also directed and informed further work in the field of RMDs and infectious disease, which will continue to support patients long after the pandemic ends.

Across the 2 years of the **EULAR-GRA** partnership the data collected have generated an extensive list of peer-reviewed publications. Key data and insights have included the unravelling of factors associated with worse COVID-19 outcomes in patients with RMDs, and the description of the safety of vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 in people with RMDs. Data from the **EULAR COVID-19 Registry** have also been combined with that from other groups capturing COVID-19 data – particularly those with affinities to rheumatology – for example, in diseases with

mechanistic links in disease pathogenesis or those that use of similar drugs, such as inflammatory bowel disease or psoriasis.

Although the registry is slated to close, there are still more outputs yet to be produced, such as articles, conference presentations, lay summaries for the public, and media content. EULAR is pleased to announce three important new studies that will be presented at the 2022 congress.

- "Characteristics associated with poor COVID-19 outcomes in people with psoriasis and spondyloarthritis: Data from the COVID-19 PsoProtect and Global Rheumatology Alliance physician-reported registries"
- "Factors associated with severe COVID-19 outcomes in patients with idiopathic inflammatory myopathy: Results from the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance physician-reported registry"
- "SARS-CoV-2 vaccine safety in adolescents with inflammatory rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases and adults with juvenile idiopathic arthritis"

The EULAR COVID-19 Registry and its partner GRA registry will close on 4th June 2022 – the last day of the annual congress. EULAR would like to sincerely thank all the rheumatologists, physicians, epidemiologists, healthcare professionals, national societies, and patients who contributed to and supported this important initiative.

For more information, please visit the EULAR COVID-19 [Registry website](#).

About EULAR

EULAR is the European umbrella organisation representing scientific societies, health professional associations and organisations for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (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.

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