

EULAR Foot and Ankle Study Group

October 2019

The purpose of the foot and ankle study group is bringing together all health professionals with a common interest for the purposes of shared learning, improving clinical practice and informing an international research agenda. The group convenes annually at the EULAR congress and has quarterly virtual meetings. The group has four main objectives:

1. To work towards improved standards of foot and ankle health care across the EULAR member countries
2. To reduce unjustifiable variations in foot and ankle health care
3. To provide a forum for the foot and ankle community across the EULAR member countries to share learning or ideas and identify priority areas for further work
4. To establish a collaborative network through which to develop a EULAR-wide research agenda to promote foot and ankle health care

The group is informal and provides an encouraging and open forum for discussion and support. In particular, the group aims to enable health professionals new to EULAR or the field to gain confidence and support in sharing their experience or ideas, particularly with a view to presenting audit, quality improvement or research papers and presentations.

The group currently has 44 members, across 11 countries, representing seven health care professional roles. The group sits within the hierarchy of EULAR HP committees and sits within the health professionals study groups.

In the coming year, the group has a prioritised expanding the network to welcome new members, particularly from states currently without representation. The groups' strategic research focus for 2019-20 is on exploring inequity of health care across EULAR states and strategies to over this.

For further information or to join please contact the study group convenor, Dr Lindsey Cherry; l.cherry@soton.ac.uk.

Current group research projects open to new contributors:

- Health Professional and patient perspectives about foot and ankle health care provision for people with RMDs across Europe
- International harmonisation of RMD clinical outcome measures for the foot and ankle

Recent publications from the group:

- Alcaccer-Pitarch et al 2019. Provision of foot and ankle care services for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease across Europe. *Musculoskeletal Care*. *In Press*