

EULAR non-pharmacological treatment of autoimmune connective tissue diseases study group

Aims of the study group

The overarching aim of the EULAR Study Group for non-pharmacologic treatment in autoimmune connective tissue diseases (CTDs) is to improve and standardise care and thereby reduce variation in care of patients with CTDs within the EULAR member countries. To achieve this overarching aim the group has the following objectives:

- identify areas where variation in care and rehabilitation exists for persons with CTDs
- raise awareness of the importance of high quality non-pharmacological treatment in the CTDs
- create new and capitalise on existing networks with the aim of developing clinical support and research collaborations
- set up a research agenda, initiate research in identified areas and search for grants
- develop consensus-based and evidence-based guidelines for the care of people with CTDs through systematic reviews and EULAR-recommendations for non-pharmacological treatment in CTDs
- develop reliable and valid outcome measurements for evaluation of non-pharmacological treatments of patients with CTDs
- implement better evidence and standardised care pathways across EULAR member countries
- being a resource and provide feedback on EULAR online course, on CTDs, for HPRs
- submit session proposals for EULAR HPR conference program
- facilitating educational visits within the group

Being defined as a special interest group within EULAR it facilitates international networking and communication with other EULAR Study Groups. The group is open to all HPRs or specialties within the EULAR umbrella and patients whom have an interest in non-pharmacological treatment and related issues. The group also provides feedback/lay report specifically for the EU Umbrella organisations such as Lupus Europe, Federation of EU Scleroderma Associations and the other CTDs organisations, which could ensure that any recommendations and guidelines etc for care for people with CTDs are distributed amongst the community. The group can be accessed by registration at Linked-in and by attendance at the study group meeting at the EULAR Congress, announced by the EULAR Newsletter of the HPRs.

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Founding members Prof Anthony Redmond (podiatrist) United Kingdom; Dr PhD Els van den Ende (physiotherapist) Netherlands; Prof Tanja Stamm (occupational therapist) Austria; Prof Stefan Bergman (physician) Sweden; Prof Rene Westhovens (physician) Belgium; Prof Elisabet Welin (nurse) Sweden; Assoc prof Helene Alexanderson (physiotherapist) Sweden; PhD Rikke Moe (physiotherapist); PhD Li Alemo Munters (physiotherapist) Sweden; Dr PhD Mwidimi Ndosi (nurse) United Kingdom; PhD Sookhoe Eng (nurse) United Kingdom; PhD Begonya Alcacer-Pitarch (Podiatrist) United Kingdom; PhD Susanne Pettersson (nurse) Sweden; PhD Malin Mattsson (physiotherapist) Sweden; PhD Malin Regardt (occupational therapist) Sweden; PhD student Ricardo Ferreira (nurse) Portugal; PhD-student Agnes Kocher (nurse) Switzerland; PhD-student Valentin Ritschl (occupational therapist) Austria; PhD-student Julia Unger (occupational therapist) Austria; PhD-student Erika Mosor (occupational therapist) Austria and; PhD-student Alexandros Mitropoulos (physiotherapist) United Kingdom

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