

Heinz Marchesi

28 March 1952 – 19 July 2022

EULAR Executive Director 2007-2017

It is with deep sadness that we bid farewell to our former Executive Director Heinz Marchesi, who worked to shape the fortunes of EULAR for more than a decade. During his term in office, he was involved in the development and implementation process of two sequential strategic plans, spanning 2007-2017. As such, he was part of a remarkable phase in the development of EULAR as an organisation as it sought an ever greater improvement in the lives of people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases.

One major result of these strategy driven innovations was the foundation of FOREUM, the Foundation for Research in Rheumatology, which is promoting health in individuals with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases through excellent research. Since its foundation in 2013, FOREUM has successfully raised funds and thereby supported international research projects across Europe that has been of fundamental and catalytic importance in developing ideas and career development of note. Heinz Marchesi was the driving force underpinning the formation of FOREUM from the first idea to the creation of the full-blown operationally successful Swiss foundation.

Another major EULAR innovation, which was initiated during Heinz Marchesi's later years as EULAR Executive Director, was the foundation of the EULAR School of Rheumatology, the pre-eminent provider and facilitator of high-quality educational offerings for physicians, health professionals in rheumatology, and people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. It was founded in 2017 as a fully integrated operational entity which is now recognised to be world leading, serving the educational needs of learners all over the world.

With his departure, EULAR not only loses a driving force of the last decade, but also a friend. Heinz Marchesi loved (old) music and was an interested reader of literature; he was eager to confer his enthusiasm about his listening and reading. He was a real gentleman, interested in the employees of EULAR and the always changing leadership. In deep appreciation and loving remembrance we say goodbye to him on behalf of the Board, the Council and the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology, EULAR.



Professor Annamaria Iagnocco

EULAR President

European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology, EULAR