

MESSAGE AT THE END OF 2017 WHAT HAPPENED IN RHEUMATOLOGY IN 2017?



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The year 2017 was important both for European and Romanian rheumatology, and the achievements were based on the serious work of those involved in the coordination of various sections of the EULAR or the Romanian Society of Rheumatology.

First of all, EULAR (European League Against Rheumatism) celebrated 70 years of existence in the years 2017, years in which it was concerned with the harmonization of knowledge among the 35 national scientific societies, EULAR members. This explains the publication of a large number of recommendations for the management of various rheumatic diseases and their updating, the publication of new criteria for classification, response or diagnosis for various rheumatic diseases.

Education was an important strategic area of EULAR, as a proof of this fact is the establishment in January 2016 of the EULAR School of Rheumatology, structured on seven classes dedicated to patients (PARE), health professionals, medical students, residents, rheumatologists, researchers and teachers, all in order to increase the educational level and to harmonize the knowledge at European level.

A first result in the rheumatology school is already launching at the June 2017 congress of the EULAR on-line pocket primer on rheumatic diseases. EULAR has invested enormous sums in education by supporting scientific grants for young rheu-

matologists of up to 6 months, allowing them to work in various top European laboratories or clinics. Then there are scholarships for young people who have abstracts accepted at EULAR, scholarships to attend various courses or events. EULAR offers at least 20 scholarships for each online musculoskeletal ultrasonography course, epidemiology, capilloscopy, immunology or various rheumatic pathologies.

EULAR seeks to raise awareness of the burden of rheumatic illness on patients and society by raising awareness of the rheumatic diseases of the European Parliament by increasing its support for rheumatology research. In this aim, it was launched in the European Parliament Rheuma Map. Other priorities for 2017 were health and safety research through New Research Framework Program & Health and Safety at Work.

This year, EULAR also launched the „Do not delay connect today” campaign for a diagnosis and early treatment of rheumatic diseases aimed at reducing the people with disabilities related to rheumatic diseases, reducing retired people, absenteeism, loss workplace and finally reduce the cost of health care.

Rheumatology in Romania is aligned with the European one through the efforts of the Board of the Society, but also of all rheumatologists in Romania that are trying to harmonize with the European rheumatology.

Although I have done so, I also use this occasion to thank those who have been actively involved in developing treatment guidelines for the main rheumatic inflammatory diseases, supporting the Romanian Rheumatology Registry and organizing and conducting various postgraduate courses, Summer School, Congressional Course and Congress, but also all the rheumatologists who were with us supporting us in all these activities.

As you saw in the October 2017 congress, all the news in the field of rheumatology was found, plus a series of challenges encountered in clinical practice, sessions dedicated to treating rheumatic diseases or sessions dedicated to difficult cases. Also in the pre-congress course were reviewed the therapies used in rheumatology. The themes of the congress tried to include all the news of the year 2017 as rheumatology is one of the most dynamic specialties with remarkable progress in early diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory rheumatic diseases.

The Board of the Society has been actively involved in the continuous modernization of rheuma-

tology, trying to support the problems of the rheumatological community in our country.

Year 2018 is announced to be extremely active; I mention only a few events, in chronological order: courses organized by SRR aiming at extrarticular manifestations and comorbidities in rheumatic inflammatory diseases, rheumatic pregnancy and pathology, a course in collaboration with the Internal Medicine Society of Romania and Moldova held in Chisinau about gout at the borders between specialties, the launch of the EULAR “Do not delay connect today” campaign together with the Patient League and the Medical Assistants Association, the traditional Summer School, where young residents will benefit from outstanding speakers, and last but not least the Annual Rheumatology Congress. Details of these events will be found on our website along with information about other scientific events organized under the aegis of the Romanian Rheumatology Society.

At the end of the year 2017 I wish you a better 2018 to bring you everything you want. Happy New Year!

With friendship,
Prof. Ruxandra Ionescu
President of the Romanian Society of Rheumatology