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Rheumatological education at the university level

European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) educational initiatives, thanks to the activity of the Education Committee, allow for wider access to educational standards and access to current practical and theoretical knowledge in Europe. Live and online courses and training materials provide the possibility of continuing medical education (CME). The initiative already mentioned in the *Reumatologia* journal, the Emerging EULAR Network (EMEUNET), represents the activity of the young generation of rheumatologists, who, as a community, were included in EULAR in 2009. Developing a network of young European rheumatologists, willing to expand their knowledge but also to undertake independent scientific work, has become one of our important goals.

The question remains of how to encourage future physicians to choose rheumatology, as a dynamically developing field of medicine, which is constantly moving forward with the development of immunological, genetic, and biotechnological knowledge. As rheumatologists involved in clinical work and science, we stand up to the challenge of showing the face of this specialisation as early as at the stage of pre-graduate education. Scientific circles/clubs/societies at research institutes or clinics will be, in my opinion, very important, first places shaping/forming the awareness of future choices, indicating the advantages and the future of rheumatology as a clinical field of science. Conferences of medical universities in various regions of Europe provide opportunities to present the activities of scientific circles, their supervisors, and individual future physicians. An example of such a conference is the recent 20th Warsaw International Medical Congress (WIMC) (11–13 April 2025) organised by the Student Scientific Society of the Medical University of Warsaw.



Photo from the WIMC closing ceremony by M. Mękarska (Students Scientific Society Medical University of Warsaw).

More than 370 participants from 21 countries took an active part in the congress, which included expert lectures, discussion panels, and 32 scientific sessions, during which more than 400 abstracts with positive reviews were presented. One of the media patrons of the congress was the journal *Reumatologia*. In addition, three members of the rheumatological Student Science Club *Rheumaticus WUM* operating at the Early Arthritis Clinic of the National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology, and Rehabilitation under my supervision were qualified to make a presentation during the scientific sessions. Two presentations of rheumatological case descriptions prepared by students Izabela Staniszewska and Krzysztof Bieliński were awarded third place in the dermatological case reports session and in the internal diseases case reports session. This is certainly not an isolated example of such opportunities, and it serves as a suggestion for the direction of early rheumatological education.

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Editor-in-Chief