



EULAR Congress – a celebration of European rheumatology

Barcelona has already said goodbye to the last guests of this year's Congress, which gathered several thousand rheumatologists mainly from European countries, but not only. Dozens of lectures, meetings of experts, and EULAR committees and workshops. Numbers such as 18,000 participants from 130 countries are impressive.

These few days of the year are the moment that many of us wait for, expecting to see our works included in the book of abstracts, to be able to present our scientific achievements directly to the audience, to listen to experts from whose works and books we learn and quote in our manuscripts. It is also a chance to meet colleagues from various clinical centres from all over Europe, but also from our own countries, to discuss plans for the future, which often results in further cooperation. There was also the voice of patients and their organizations, as well as international organizations active in the field of rheumatic diseases, such as the European Reference Network of Rare Diseases with ReCONNET (Rare and Complex Connective Tissue and Musculoskeletal Diseases) and the Rare Immunodeficiency, Autoinflammatory, and Autoimmune Diseases Network (RITA), or groups/associations dedicated to specific diseases such as Sjögren's disease or systemic sclerosis. Societies from outside Europe could also present themselves. The European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology is evolving before our eyes, reaching for technological achievements, data transfer methods, and presenting information in an attractive way in the media at various levels, e.g., a newsletter for participants or posts on social media. Participants could use a beautifully prepared application that allowed them to find their way around the place, with the time and subject of each presentation, workshop, and meeting with an expert. Having the opportunity to talk to those who participate for the first time in the Congress, I felt their admiration for the organization, the transfer of information to participants, and above all for the scientific and clinical level of the presentation. My short summary cannot reflect the huge effort that was put into organizing the Congress, so I merely express my thanks and positive impressions, already waiting for the next year.

I think the current issue of the Reumatologia also proves once again how multifaceted rheumatology is as a field of medicine and how much there is still to discuss and discover.



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