

7th EULAR Registers and Observational Drug Studies (RODS) Meeting 2026

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Thursday, 5 February 2026 – Friday, 6 February 2026



ORGANISATION & COMMITTEE

Scientific Organisers

- Elena Nikiphorou (United Kingdom)
- Katerina Chatzidionysiou (Sweden)

Faculty

- Angela Zink (Germany)
- Benjamin Fairfax (United Kingdom)
- Bente Grintborg (Denmark)
- Christophe Le Tourneau (France)
- Daniela Di Giuseppe (Sweden)
- Dirkian van Schaardenburg (Netherlands)
- Jennifer Humphreys (United Kingdom)
- Paco Welsing (Netherlands)
- Prodromos Sidiropoulos (Greece)
- Rachel Knevel (Netherlands)
- Ronald van Vollenhoven (Netherlands)
- Sam Norton (United Kingdom)

Organising Secretariat

EULAR Office
Seestrasse 240
CH-8802 Kilchberg (Zurich)
Switzerland
T: +41 44 716 30 43
F: +41 44 716 30 39
W: www.eular.org / esor.eular.org
E: education@eular.org

EULAR Committee

EULAR Education Committee, Live Courses & Meetings Sub-Committee

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The EULAR RODS (Registers and Observational Drug Studies) meeting has a tradition that extends back many years and has been enthusiastically received by participants over the years. This meeting aims to provide insights into practical and methodological aspects of registers and drug observational studies, data handling and analysis, promoting and facilitating collaborative work through a series of interactive lectures, debates, workshops and round table discussions.

The meeting structure and content builds on previous RODS experiences and direct feedback from participants and brings attention to novel aspects around future applications of registers. It incorporates innovative and complex methodology. Keynote lectures will touch on novel conceptual frameworks for studying rheumatic diseases, that can enhance our understanding of disease both from a biological and non-biological perspective.

In this unique course spread across two days, attendees will have an opportunity to network and have a one-to-one interaction with experts in the field, as well as to present their own ideas in the form of posters and oral presentations. Learning, evaluation and feed-back from participants and instructors will have many different formats including lectures, debates, workshops, round-table discussions.

Learning objectives

- To provide a pragmatic view of register establishment and maintenance from existing and new registers.
- To discuss and learn from examples of existing European registers and successful collaborative studies involving cross-country register analyses.
- To gain insights on new conceptual frameworks for studying rheumatic diseases, that bring together qualitative and quantitative methodologies.
- To enhance networking and interaction among young and established investigators and stimulate opportunities for collaborative work.
- To provide insights into appropriate methods (including basic and advanced statistical approaches) for analysing longitudinal data and appropriately interpreting outputs.
- To provide insights into big data analyses and artificial intelligence, pitfalls with data handling and analyses, challenges, and opportunities.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course venue

NH Amsterdam Zuid,
Van Leijenberghlaan 221,
1082 GG Amsterdam, Netherlands

Course dates

Thursday, 5 February 2026 – Friday, 6 February 2026

Official language

English

Maximum participants

50

Certification

Upon successful completion of the course, all participants will receive a certificate of attendance via their EULAR School user account.

Please note that full attendance (100%) is required to receive the certificate.

COURSE PACKAGE

300 EUR (VAT included), package includes:

Thursday, 5 February 2026

- Full access to the course.
- Coffee break.
- Lunch.
- Engagement dinner.

Friday, 6 February 2026

- Full access to the course
- Coffee break.

REGISTRATION

Application requirements / Target audience

No application requirements.

Course suitable for all health care professionals interested in clinical research related to RMDs, including rheumatologists, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other allied health professionals, as well as academics.

Registration process

Online: <https://esor.eular.org/course/view.php?id=518>

To register, log in to your EULAR School of Rheumatology user account, navigate to the appropriate course page, and complete the registration process by submitting the course fee payment.

An official confirmation email will be sent to you upon approval of your registration.

Registration deadline: Sunday, 7 December 2025.

* Early registration is advisable. Number of participants is limited.

BURSARY

Annually, EULAR offers bursaries to applicants aged 40 or younger from European countries to attend its rheumatology courses. These bursaries aim to foster the personal and professional development of researchers and clinicians in the field of rheumatology.

EULAR grants **10 bursaries** for the course, each with a value of **EUR 300**. The bursary amount will be applied as a deduction from the course fee.

Additionally, bursary recipients are eligible for reimbursement of **up to** EUR 120 per night for accommodation.

The following terms apply:

- Reimbursement is provided solely for nights that are directly associated with the course: Thursday, 5 February 2026 – Friday, 6 February 2026 (1-night, single occupancy).
- Reimbursement is not available for shoulder nights.
- Upon completion of the course, bursary recipients must submit the finalised reimbursement form, and accommodation receipts (only), and the EULAR Certificate of Attendance to education@eular.org.

Application process

Please apply with the following documents within the registration system:

- CV.
- A motivation letter, clearly outlining your interest in the course, along with the reasons for your desire to participate.
- A list of publications (if acceptable).

Abstract award: As part of the bursary application process, you may submit an abstract for possible presentation during the course. The **top 5** abstracts will be selected for presentation. The selected abstracts will be announced alongside the bursary results.

Additional considerations when applying for the bursary:

- All documents must be submitted in PDF format.
- Applications submitted via email will not be processed.

Bursary application deadline: Sunday, 2 November 2025.

Notification: end of November 2025.

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Day 1 – Thursday, 5 February 2026

Time	Type of session & Title	Speaker
10:00 – 11:00	REGISTRATION	
11:00 – 11:15	Welcome and Introduction	E. Nikiphorou
Collaboration and experience exchange <i>Chair: K. Chatzidionysiou</i>		
11:15 – 12:00	Abstracts Session: Acquaintance or registers, key learnings, and experiences from across Europe	
12:00 – 12:30	Keynote lecture: The value of collaboration	A. Zink
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH	
Learnings from established registers <i>Chair: E. Nikiphorou</i>		
13:30 – 13:50	Considerations in setting up a regional/national registry	P. Sidiropoulos
13:50 – 14:15	Participating in an international registry	K. Chatzidionysiou
Going beyond traditional epidemiology - The value of Social Epidemiology <i>Chair: E. Nikiphorou</i>		
14:15 – 14:40	Keynote lecture: The role of Social Determinants of Health in disease onset and progression	E. Nikiphorou
14:40 – 15:00	Keynote lecture: Public health interventions: how can registries and observational studies help?	B. Glintborg
15:00 – 15:30	COFFEE BREAK	
Trial and Observational studies - Using the best of both worlds <i>Chair: K. Chatzidionysiou</i>		
15:30 – 15:50	How can patient registries best support clinical trials?	R. van Vollenhoven

15:50 – 16:10	The emulated target trial (ETT) design	S. Norton
16:10 – 16:30	OPEN DISCUSSION	
Practical Session - Workshops		
<i>[Each participant can choose 2 parallel workshops to attend – 30 min each]</i>		
16:30 – 17:30	Comparative effectiveness research: how to obtain causal estimates of treatment response OR causal inference and simulation modelling	S. Norton
	Cofounding, bias, and interactions in epidemiology: how to best deal with this	P. Welsing
	How can we best capture social determinants of health in traditional epidemiological research	J. Humphreys
RODS Networking Event		
17:30 – 19:00	RODS 2026 Edition Game	E. Nikiphorou K. Chatzidionysiou
19:30 –	DINNER & GROUP PHOTO	

Day 2 – Friday, 6 February 2026

Time	Type of session & Title	Speakers
Collaboration and experience exchange <i>Chair: R. van Vollenhoven</i>		
09:00 – 10:00	Abstracts Session: Acquaintance of registers, key learnings, and experiences from across Europe	
Nutritional epidemiology <i>Chair: E. Nikiphorou</i>		
10:00 - 10:30	Keynote lecture: How can we come a step closer to personalized nutrition	D. Di Giuseppe

Practical session – Roundtable discussions		
10:30 – 11:30	Clinical trials or observational studies in the study of nutrition and disease?	D. van Schaardenburg
	Diet and other environmental factors and risk of RA: what we have learnt so far?	D. Di Giuseppe
	Mining real world (EHR) data – missingness, noise, bias, and the analytical opportunities and solutions	R. Knevel
11:30 – 12:00	COFFEE BREAK & review of boards presenting key roundtable conclusions	
RODS 2024 Keynote lecture - Digital and molecular epidemiology		
Chair: K. Chatzidionysiou		
12:00 - 12:30	Keynote lecture: Biobanks and value in registers	B. Fairfax
12:30 – 13:00	Keynote lecture: Challenges and opportunities in genetic epidemiology for clinical decision making	R. Knevel
RODS 2024 Keynote lecture - Precision Medicine		
Chair: E. Nikiphorou		
13:00 – 13:30	Rheumatology in the era of precision medicine: the global precision oncology registry example	C. Le Tourneau
13:30 – 13:50	CLOSING REMARKS	E. Nikiphorou K. Chatzidionysiou

Any changes to the scientific programme or to the list of speakers are possible until the date of course.