ASIF Newsletter: September 2026

Message from the President

Dear friends,

As we look ahead to the ASIF Council Meeting 2026 in Athens, I am delighted that so many representatives from across our growing global community will be joining us. With our federation now representing almost 60 member organisations worldwide, this year's theme, Collaboration in Action, perfectly reflects what lies at the very heart of ASIF: sharing our collective knowledge, strengthening our national societies, and working hand-in-hand to improve the lives of everyone living with axial spondyloarthritis.

I am particularly looking forward to hearing our members' progress reports, learning from our interactive workshops, and finally having the opportunity to build and renew relationships in person. These face-to-face conversations are where new ideas and partnerships are sparked, and I hope everyone attending will return home feeling inspired, supported, and more deeply connected to our international family. I also want to extend our warmest thanks to our Greek host member, ELEANA, for their superb work in helping us prepare to welcome everyone to Athens, and I encourage you to read about their inspiring World AS Day activities featured below.

This newsletter is filled with examples of this collaboration already delivering a real-world impact. More than 20 European countries have now committed to the first phase of our International Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis (IMAP). By bringing patient organisations, researchers, and clinicians together, we are building an unassailable evidence base to drive global advocacy and secure better care. Alongside this, you will find stories from members sharing highly innovative approaches to awareness, education, and support, alongside critical updates in global research and treatment guidelines.

Thank you, as always, for your tireless dedication, collaboration, and advocacy. I cannot wait to see many of you in Athens as we work together to turn our shared vision into life-changing action.

Best wishes,

Zhikvo Yankov
Chair of ASIF

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ASIF's Programmes

IMAP Gains Momentum as More Than 20 Countries Confirm Participation

Emily Kirkpatrick, Project Coordinator, ASIF

More than 20 countries across Europe have already agreed to participate in the first phase of the International Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis and Psoriatic Arthritis (IMAP), a major new ASIF project designed to understand the lived experience of people with axSpA or psoriatic arthritis (PsA).

Built on the priorities of the ASIF community, IMAP aims to understand the experience of people with axSpA or PsA, including the journey to diagnosis, unmet needs, and the overall burden of the disease. It explores the real-world impact of both conditions from the patient perspective. For many participating countries, this will generate a first-of-its-kind national evidence base on the patient experience.

As IMAP moves closer to launch, I am pleased to have joined the ASIF team in June as Project Coordinator, working alongside Jo Lowe to support the project's day-to-day delivery and collaborate closely with participating patient organisations.

To date, we have spoken with teams in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the

Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the UK, who have all confirmed their involvement. We would like to thank everyone we have spoken with for your enthusiasm and commitment.

We also extend our thanks to both our Scientific Committee and Steering Committee for their invaluable expertise and guidance in shaping the direction of the study and the IMAP questionnaire. Together, these committees have played a critical role in ensuring that IMAP is both scientifically robust and delivers value for patients and patient organisations. The Steering Committee has helped to ensure that patient perspectives remain at the heart of decision-making, while the Scientific Committee has provided expert guidance to strengthen the content and design of the questionnaire. We continue to benefit from the expertise and guidance of both committees as the project progresses.

While setup across Europe continues to progress well, our ultimate goal is to build a global picture. We are actively seeking opportunities to expand IMAP into additional countries and regions worldwide. Gathering harmonised data across diverse healthcare systems presents an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen the research landscape, global advocacy, improve awareness, and advance care for people living with axSpA and PsA.

If your patient organisation or clinical network is interested in collaborating with us to bring IMAP to your country, please contact me at Emily.kirkpatrick@asif.com. We look forward to working closely with teams in all participating countries to support successful recruitment, drive engagement, and ensure that IMAP is a resounding success!

ASIF Council Meeting

Collaboration in Action

We are delighted to welcome members to the ASIF Council Meeting 2026, taking place in Athens, Greece, from 7-10 October 2026.

This year's theme, Collaboration in Action, reflects our shared commitment to strengthening organisations, improving support for people living with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA), and creating lasting impact across the global ASIF network.

The Council Meeting is an important opportunity for ASIF members to meet face-to-face, build relationships and develop international partnerships. This year, over 40 delegates from more than 25 countries have registered to attend, bringing together a global community of patient advocates and leaders.

The programme will encourage members to exchange knowledge and experiences, explore shared challenges and identify practical opportunities to work together. Its objectives include inspiring stronger organisations, sparking new collaborations and strengthening relationships across the ASIF network.

Speakers will share their expertise on patient involvement in research, strategic partnerships, fundraising, emerging therapies and artificial intelligence. Through presentations, discussions and practical workshops, members will gain ideas and insights that they can take back to their organisations.

A highlight will be the ASIF Members' Reports, presented in three sessions during the meeting. Member organisations from around the world will share their achievements, challenges and innovative work. Member posters will also be displayed throughout the event, providing another opportunity to showcase projects, celebrate successes and learn from one another.

Alongside the formal sessions, there will be plenty of time to connect informally, including welcome drinks, networking activities and shared dinners. These conversations can be the starting point for valuable new partnerships and lasting connections across the ASIF community.

ASIF thanks our sponsors for their generous support in making the Council Meeting possible. Their contributions help members from around the world come together to learn, exchange ideas and strengthen the global axSpA community.

The conference pack, including the full programme will be sent to registrants in early September. If you haven't registered but would still like to attend, please contact jo.davies@asif.info. Information regarding online attendance will be shared soon.

Pain Unpacked: Understanding Different Types of Pain and Their Impact

As part of Pain Awareness Month, ASIF is hosting a Webinar on the important topic of pain for our our members and other key stakeholders.

Pain Unpacked: Understanding Different Types of Pain and Their Impact

The session will be presented by Nadia Malliou, ASIF Trustee, President of Pain Alliance Europe, cognitive and experimental psychologist, and volunteer with EULAR PARE, the Hellenic League Against Rheumatology, and the Federation for Rare Diseases Greece. This interactive webinar will explore the different types of pain, how pain is experienced, and why understanding pain is so important for people living with axSpA and PsA. There will be opportunities for discussion and questions.

To make the webinar accessible across different time zones, Nadia will deliver the session twice:

- **21 September 2026 at 17:00 CEST**
- **23 September 2026 at 08:00 CEST**

To register, click here: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/QeCtECEGMD

Member Spotlight

ELEANA: Giving a Voice to People Living with Axial Spondyloarthritis in Greece

For more than 45 years, the Hellenic League Against Rheumatism (ELEANA) has been dedicated to improving the lives of people living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases in Greece. Today, the organisation supports more than 10,000 patients and their families, promoting patient education, awareness, advocacy and equal access to healthcare.

As the Greek member of the Axial Spondyloarthritis International Federation (ASIF), ELEANA has made supporting people living with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) one of its key priorities. Our mission is to improve awareness of the disease, encourage earlier diagnosis, empower patients through education and strengthen collaboration between patients, healthcare professionals and researchers.

Throughout the year, ELEANA develops educational initiatives to help patients and the wider public better understand axial spondyloarthritis and its impact on everyday life. Through evidence-based information published on our website and social media channels, we raise awareness of inflammatory back pain, the importance of timely referral to a rheumatologist and the benefits of early diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

One of the organisation's most important annual initiatives is its campaign for World AS Day.

For World AS Day 2026, ELEANA launched one of its most ambitious awareness campaigns to date under the central message: “It’s not just back pain – it’s the fear of tomorrow.”

The campaign highlighted that axial spondyloarthritis is much more than chronic back pain. It affects mobility, employment, mental health, relationships and quality of life, while many of its consequences remain invisible to those around us.

A key element of the campaign was the participation of acclaimed Greek actress Maria Papacharalambous, who lives with axial spondyloarthritis and collaborated with ELEANA as the World AS Day 2026 Campaign Ambassador.

Through a dedicated awareness video created exclusively for the campaign, she shared her personal experience, helping to humanise the disease and encourage more people to recognise its symptoms and seek specialist care.

The campaign combined educational social media content, patient stories, dedicated website articles and a national press campaign. Across Facebook alone, 19 campaign posts generated more than 233,000 views, a cumulative reach of over 166,000, almost 2,200 interactions, 271 shares and more than 6,400 link clicks, demonstrating strong public engagement with the campaign’s messages.

The media campaign further amplified its impact. ELEANA’s press release was reproduced by 39 national and regional media outlets, generating 112 references to axial spondyloarthritis and reaching a potential audience of more than 24.7 million unique visitors, while all recorded media coverage was positive.

Supporting people with axSpA extends well beyond awareness campaigns. ELEANA actively promotes peer support through the public Facebook community “Living with Chronic Pain,” coordinated by Board Member Nadia Malliou. The group offers a welcoming environment where people living with chronic pain—including individuals with axial spondyloarthritis—can exchange experiences, access reliable information and support one another throughout their journey.

ELEANA also believes that the patient voice should be present wherever decisions about care and research are being discussed. For several years, the organisation has been consistently invited to participate in the Hellenic Symposium on Spondyloarthritis, a biennial scientific meeting dedicated exclusively to axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis. The symposium brings together rheumatologists, researchers and healthcare professionals, while recognising the importance of integrating the patient perspective

into scientific dialogue. Its latest edition also welcomed international participation, further strengthening its scientific profile.

Beyond Greece, ELEANA actively contributes to the international rheumatology community through its participation with ASIF, EULAR PARE and other European collaborations. We strongly believe that sharing knowledge, exchanging good practices and working together across borders enables patient organisations to create greater impact and improve the lives of people living with axial spondyloarthritis.

At ELEANA, we believe that informed patients, strong partnerships and an active patient voice are essential to improving outcomes for everyone living with axSpA. Together with our national and international partners, we remain committed to building a future where earlier diagnosis, better care and equal opportunities become a reality for every person affected by axial spondyloarthritis.

We look forward to welcoming our ASIF colleagues to Greece this October and to continuing our shared commitment to improving the lives of people living with axial spondyloarthritis around the world.

Member Spotlight

Spondycast: Conversations That Matter

Living with spondyloarthritis (SpA) comes with a lot of questions. From understanding a diagnosis to managing symptoms, finding the right treatment, staying active, or balancing work and family, there is always something new to learn.

That's why the Spondylitis Association of America (SAA) created Spondycast.

Since launching Spondycast in 2023, SAA has produced more than 135 podcast episodes so far, featuring conversations with rheumatologists, researchers, therapists, mental health professionals, patients, caregivers, and other experts. The goal is simple: to give people living with SpA more tools for their toolbox.

Every episode is designed to help listeners better understand their disease and prepare for conversations with their healthcare team. The podcast is not meant to replace medical advice. Instead, it helps people ask better questions, understand their options, and become active partners in their care.

Spondycast has welcomed leading experts from a variety of disciplines to discuss different aspects of living with spondyloarthritis. Dr. James Rosenbaum has explained how SpA can affect the eyes and why early treatment of uveitis is so important, while Dr. Daniel Clauw has helped listeners better understand chronic pain. Episodes on family planning and pregnancy have featured Dr. Christina Chambers and Alfred Romeo from MotherToBaby, a trusted service that provides evidence-based information about medications, exposures and health conditions during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Occupational therapist Dr. Kathleen Matuska has offered practical strategies for managing fatigue and conserving energy, and physical therapist Angelo Papachristos has shared ways to improve mobility and stay active.

Other episodes have covered sleep, nutrition, mental health, workplace challenges, caregiving, family planning, and complementary approaches such as yoga, Pilates, the Feldenkrais Method, breathing techniques, massage therapy, and mobility training. The podcast also keeps listeners informed about the latest research, emerging treatments, and practical strategies that empower them to become active partners in their care.

Some of the most inspiring episodes feature people living with SpA sharing their own stories. Listeners have met American Ninja Warrior Lisa Hair, who talks about competing at the highest level while living with ankylosing spondylitis, and Alicia Graf Mack, former Alvin Ailey dancer and Dean of Dance at The Juilliard School, who shares how SpA shaped her career and strengthened her resilience. Team USA rower Jenifer Forbes reflects on her long journey to diagnosis and finding a new purpose after elite athletics, while entrepreneur Sarah Louden, world traveller and advocate Carrie Kellenberger, and fitness professional John Frazier offer honest conversations about balancing work, family, advocacy, and everyday life with a chronic disease. These stories remind listeners that while everyone's journey is different, people with SpA can continue to pursue their passions, overcome obstacles, and support one another along the way.

Through its first three seasons, Spondycast has explored topics ranging from fatigue, sleep, pregnancy, nutrition, cardiovascular health, and the latest research to intimacy, caregiving, healthy aging, workplace challenges, and complementary therapies. As SAA prepares to launch Season 4, upcoming episodes will continue to explore topics of interest to the SpA community, including a special podcast series focused on psoriatic arthritis.

Whether you're newly diagnosed or have been living with SpA for years, Spondycast offers reliable information, practical ideas, and real conversations that can help you feel more confident as you work with your healthcare team.

Ready to Start Listening?

Browse the latest episodes: Spondycast Podcast Page https://spondylitis.org/podcasts	Explore the complete library: Spondycast Episode Directory https://spondylitis.org/podcast-directory/

Spondycast is free to listen to on the SAA website and major podcast platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, and YouTube.

International News

New International axSpA Classification Criteria: Why They Matter to Patient Organisations

Researchers from the Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS) and the Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network (SPARTAN) have developed revised classification criteria for axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). First presented at ACR Convergence 2025 and highlighted again at EULAR 2026, the new criteria represent an important development for the global axSpA community.

These revised classification criteria are designed for research, rather than for diagnosing patients in the clinic. They help researchers identify people with axSpA for clinical studies and trials.

The original ASAS classification criteria were published in 2009 and have been widely used internationally for more than 15 years. However, during that time, concerns were raised that some people without axSpA could potentially meet the criteria and be included in research studies. Because chronic back pain is common in the general population and can lead to a mis – or 'over' - diagnosis, ASAS and SPARTAN undertook a comprehensive review to improve the accuracy of patient selection for research.
The revised criteria were developed using data from the international CLASSIC study, which involved more than 1,000 people with undiagnosed chronic back pain suggestive of axSpA. Compared with the previous criteria, they place greater emphasis on imaging findings, particularly MRI evidence of inflammation and structural changes in the sacroiliac joints, alongside key clinical and biological features associated with the disease. The result is improved specificity while maintaining good sensitivity, helping researchers identify more clearly defined study populations.

At first glance, classification criteria may seem like a technical topic with limited relevance to patients. However, they play an important role in shaping the research evidence that ultimately influences future diagnosis, treatment and care.

So why should patient organisations care?

Because the criteria used in research influence the evidence base that shapes future care. More accurate classification criteria can help ensure that clinical trials include people who genuinely have axSpA, leading to more reliable findings about treatment effectiveness, disease progression and unmet patient needs. Better research today can contribute to better care tomorrow, and avoid people being wrongly diagnosed.

Most importantly, patient organisations have a vital role in ensuring that future research focuses on outcomes that matter to people living with axSpA, including pain, fatigue, quality of life, mental wellbeing, work participation and access to effective treatments.

The revised criteria are a reminder that our understanding of axSpA continues to evolve. Through collaboration between researchers, clinicians and patient organisations, the goal remains the same: generating better evidence and improving the lives of people living with axSpA worldwide.

References

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2. EULAR 2026 Congress. Updated ASAS-SPARTAN Classification Criteria for Axial Spondyloarthritis and Updated Recommendations on Imaging in Spondyloarthritis. Presented at EULAR Congress 2026, London.
3. Maksymowych WP. Redefining the Diagnosis of Axial Spondyloarthritis: The ASAS-SPARTAN 2025 Classification Criteria. Conference interview and discussion of the rationale, methodology and implications of the revised criteria. touchIMMUNOLOGY, 2025.
4. Assessment of SpondyloArthritis International Society (ASAS). ASAS Classification Criteria for Axial Spondyloarthritis (2009). Original classification criteria on which the revised criteria were based. (Referenced in discussions of the 2025 revision.)

What Do axSpA Treatment Guidelines Mean for People Living with axSpA?

Two important sets of treatment guidelines are shaping care for axSpA: the ASAS-EULAR recommendations, published in Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases in 2023, and the 2025 guideline from the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR). The ASAS-EULAR recommendations provide international guidance on managing axSpA, while the BSR guideline focuses specifically on the use of biologic and targeted synthetic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, known as b-DMARDs and tsDMARDs, in adults with axSpA. It does not cover all aspects of axSpA care, but sits alongside broader guidance on overall disease management.[1,2]

Developed through expert review processes involving clinicians, researchers and patients, these evidence-based recommendations are designed to guide treatment decisions and improve standards of care. For patient organisations, they are useful not only as clinical documents, but as tools for advocacy, education and identifying gaps in care.[1,2]

The guidelines reflect significant advances in understanding axSpA and the growing number of treatment options now available. Importantly, they emphasise that treatment is not only about controlling inflammation. The goal is also to improve quality of life and help people participate fully in work, family life and everyday activities.[1,2] The recommendations recognise that axSpA affects people in different ways. While inflammation of the spine and sacroiliac joints remains a key feature, many people also experience fatigue, pain, stiffness, mental health challenges, and related conditions such as uveitis, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel disease. As a result, healthcare professionals are encouraged to take a holistic approach that considers the whole person, not just inflammatory symptoms.[1,2]

One of the most significant developments is the expansion of available treatments. While non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) remain an important first-line option, several biologic and targeted therapies are recommended for people with persistent disease activity. The guidelines support a personalised approach to care, often described as delivering the right treatment to the right person at the right time. They also recognise that if one treatment is not effective or causes unacceptable side effects, switching to another option should be considered.[1,2]

The recommendations place strong emphasis on shared decision-making. Treatment choices should be made jointly by patients and healthcare professionals, taking into account individual goals, preferences, lifestyle factors, and the potential benefits and risks of different therapies.[1,2]

Importantly, the guidelines acknowledge that medication alone is often not enough. Exercise, physiotherapy, education, self-management, pain management and emotional support all play an important role in living well with axSpA. This broader view of care aligns with themes discussed at EULAR 2026, including patient-centred outcomes, quality of life, and equitable access to care, alongside disease control.[3]

Why Do These Guidelines Matter for Patient Organisations?

Although treatment guidelines are written primarily for healthcare professionals, they are also valuable tools for patient organisations.

They provide an evidence-based framework for advocacy, helping organisations make the case for earlier diagnosis, improved access to rheumatology services, multidisciplinary care, and wider availability of effective treatments.[1,2]

This is especially important because axSpA symptoms often begin in early adulthood, yet diagnosis can take several years. Many people still face delays in diagnosis, limited access to specialists, or restrictions on advanced therapies. By comparing local practice with international recommendations, patient organisations can identify gaps and advocate for meaningful improvements.[2]

The guidelines can also support patient education, helping people understand their treatment options and encouraging them to take an active role in decisions about their care.

Ultimately, these recommendations reinforce a message that patient organisations have championed for years: successful treatment is about more than controlling inflammation. Together, they point towards a future of more personalised care, greater treatment choice, and a stronger focus on the outcomes that matter most to people living with axSpA.

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2. Zhao SS, Harrison SR, Thompson B, et al. (2025). The 2025 British Society for Rheumatology guideline for the treatment of axial spondyloarthritis with biologic and targeted synthetic DMARDs. Rheumatology, 64(6), 3242-3254. [academic.oup.com], [research-p....uea.ac.uk]

3. Axial Spondyloarthritis International Federation (2026). EULAR 2026 Report. [asif.info]

Note: Treatment guidelines support healthcare professionals in making evidence-based decisions. People with axSpA should discuss treatment options with their healthcare team.

World IBD Day 2026: Building Global Partnerships to Improve Access to Care

Isabella Haaf
Global Engagement and Partnerships Lead, IFCCA

On 16 May 2026, the International Federation of Crohn's & Ulcerative Colitis Associations (IFCCA), in collaboration with the Crohn's & Colitis Society of Singapore (CCSS), brought together patient leaders, healthcare professionals and international partners in Singapore to mark World IBD Day. Under the theme "Access to IBD Care: Towards One Global Standard", the meeting combined an Asia-Pacific Networking Meeting with an International Roundtable, creating a platform for dialogue between patient organisations from across the region and the wider global IBD community.

The event formed part of IFCCA's ongoing commitment to strengthening international collaboration between patient organisations and promoting equitable access to quality care. Building on previous World IBD Day meetings in Mexico City and Brussels, this year's programme placed a particular emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region, where the incidence of IBD is rising rapidly while access to diagnosis, treatment and specialist care remains highly variable.

Representatives from 14 patient organisations across Asia-Pacific shared their experiences of supporting people living with IBD in very different healthcare settings. Despite differences in healthcare systems and resources, many of the challenges discussed were strikingly similar. Participants highlighted inequalities in access to specialist care and modern treatments, but also focused on issues that resonate across many chronic diseases, including stigma, mental health, social participation and the need for better communication between healthcare professionals and patients.

The afternoon International Roundtable broadened the discussion by bringing together speakers from patient organisations, academia and healthcare to explore how international cooperation can help address common challenges. Discussions emphasised that while healthcare systems differ considerably from one country to

another, people living with chronic diseases often face many of the same barriers, underlining the importance of sharing experiences, learning from one another and working collectively to influence policy and improve care.

A key outcome of the meeting was the continued development of the Global IBD Patient Charter, a patient-led initiative that seeks to define shared principles for quality IBD care while recognising the realities of different healthcare systems around the world. The discussions and recommendations from Singapore will help inform the next stage of this global advocacy initiative.

For IFCCA, the Singapore meeting once again demonstrated the important role that international patient organisations can play in connecting communities, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ensuring that patient perspectives are reflected in discussions about healthcare policy and research. While the meeting focused on Inflammatory Bowel Disease, many of the themes raised, equitable access to care, reducing stigma, patient empowerment and international collaboration, are shared across the wider community of chronic immune-mediated diseases.

You can read the full report here (https://static1.squarespace.com/static/67655bd780d58c0a9c531df4/t/6a5df329f1765c60b4ca32b5/1784541993613/Singapore+Report+Final.pdf).

The International Federation of Crohn's & Ulcerative Colitis Associations (IFCCA) is a global federation of 51 national patient associations working to improve the lives of people living with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) through advocacy, research, education, awareness raising and international collaboration. Learn more about IFCCA at www.ifcca-ibd.org

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EULAR Update: Looking Ahead to Berlin 2027

The next EULAR Congress will take place in **Berlin, Germany, from 9-12 June 2027**. The annual congress brings together thousands of delegates to share the latest scientific developments, discuss emerging challenges and explore new opportunities to improve care for people living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs).

If you are planning to attend, here are some key dates:

- Abstract submission opens: 1 October 2026
- Abstract submission closes: 15 January 2027
- Registration opens: 2 November 2026
- Early-bird registration deadline: 31 March 2027

For patient organisations, EULAR offers much more than a scientific congress. Through **EULAR PARE** (People with Arthritis and Rheumatism in Europe) and International PARE, representatives from patient organisations can participate in dedicated sessions focused on advocacy, patient involvement, healthcare access and organisational development. For ASIF and our members, the congress is a valuable platform to ensure that the voices and experiences of people living with axSpA are represented in discussions about research, treatment and healthcare policy.

EULAR PARE have just launched the ***Share Your Story: The Edgar Stene Prize 2027***. This year's essay competition invites people living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases to reflect on the theme: "80 years of progress: What do rheumatology advances mean for people living with RMDs today?". Participants are encouraged to share their personal experiences of how advances in treatment, care, diagnosis, support, and research have influenced their lives. Please encourage your community to submit an entry.

Visit the Stene Prize webpage for full eligibility criteria, submission guidelines, and key dates.

While we look ahead to Berlin, there is still time to revisit the highlights of EULAR 2026 in London. Delegates can continue to access presentations, scientific sessions and

educational content through **EULAR 2026 On-Demand**. If you weren't able to attend, EULAR offers upgrade options to myEULAR membership to gain extended access to congress recordings and educational resources. You can read our report on EULAR 2026 here (https://asif.info/eular-2026-report).

EULAR has announced an important milestone for its **RheumaFacts** initiative with the publication of its first paper in the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases (ARD). Titled "Mapping Inequalities in Rheumatology Care in Europe," the publication was developed through a collaboration of epidemiologists, patient representatives, health professionals and EULAR National Scientific Societies.

The publication provides valuable data on the burden of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), access to healthcare and inequalities in care across Europe. By identifying gaps and variations between countries and regions, RheumaFacts aims to provide a strong evidence base for advocacy and policy development. Ultimately, the initiative seeks to become the definitive, standardised source of information on RMDs

across Europe, helping patient organisations, healthcare professionals and policymakers work together to improve outcomes and quality of life for people living with these conditions. Read more here (https://ard.eular.org).

What's New with You?

Are you working on a new campaign? Have you had success with a new initiative? Is there some interesting research happening in your country? What would you like to read about in this newsletter?

If there is something that you think others around the world would be interested in hearing, let us know! Contact Jo de Bry (jo.debry@asif.info).

Dates for your Diary 2026

September 2026
3-5 15th International Congress on Spondyloarthritides, Belgium

October 2026
7-10 ASIF Council Meeting, Greece
12 World Arthritis Day
28-1 November APLAR, South Korea

November 2026
6-11 ACR Convergence, USA

For more dates, visit our events page (https://asif.info/events)

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axial-spondyloarthritis-international-federation

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AI was used in the preparation of this newsletter.