

**To the Presidents and Liaison Officers of
national EULAR member organisations
of People with Arthritis/Rheumatism in
Europe (PARE)**

Kilchberg, 27 June 2016

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Annual
European Congress
of Rheumatology

**London, United Kingdom
8–11 June 2016**

Madrid, Spain
14–17 June 2017

EULAR launches EDGAR STENE PRIZE COMPETITION 2017

Dear colleagues and friends,

We are delighted to inform you about the launch of the 2017 Edgar Stene Prize Competition. At the Opening Plenary Session of the forthcoming European Congress of Rheumatology in Madrid, Spain, on 14 June 2017, the Edgar Stene Prize will be awarded to the winning essay on the topic

**“Time is joint - Joints over time”
“Early diagnosis and access to care in rheumatic
and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) - the ideal
world and the reality - my personal story”**

For many people with RMDs it can be an odyssey from doctor to doctor until they finally receive their diagnosis. For several RMDs valuable time is lost and damage to the body can be irreversible. For those who live in daily pain over a long time the situation can become unbearable. Early diagnosis and access to optimal care and treatment are therefore vital for people affected by RMDs.

We invite people with RMDs to write about their personal experience - how long did you wait until your diagnosis was confirmed and how did you cope with the uncertainty, pain and fear during that period? Would an early diagnosis have made a difference from how you are feeling now?

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Do you have access to care and optimal treatment and management of your disease? What would an ideal situation look like and what is your reality?

As in the past, we encourage our national EULAR member organisations of PARE to organise national competitions for people with a rheumatic or musculoskeletal disease (minimum 16 years of age). Competitors should be invited to submit an essay not exceeding 2 pages (A4) in their own language to their national EULAR member organisation by 31 December 2016.

Each national jury should select and submit the best entry from their country (only one entry) by email to the EULAR Secretariat by 20 January 2017. A more detailed outline of the rules is attached to this letter for your information.

A EULAR Jury will select the 2017 overall Stene Prize winner, to be announced by 15 March 2017. The jury's decision is incontestable. Information about the 2017 EULAR Jury will also be posted in the following months on www.eular.org

The Stene Prize winner will be invited to attend the Opening Plenary Session of the EULAR Congress in Madrid and is awarded a prize of € 1 000. EULAR provides the winner with travel to Madrid and hotel accommodation in Madrid for up to 4 nights as well as an invitation to the Congress Dinner. In addition the second ranking essay will be awarded with € 700 and the third ranking essay with € 300.

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Thank you so much in advance for supporting this exciting and important competition in your country. If we can help with any questions please do not hesitate to contact the EULAR secretariat. The 2017 Edgar Stene Prize Jury looks forward to receiving many entries from all over Europe!

With kindest regards,



Dieter Wiek, Chairperson, EULAR Standing Committee of PARE
Marios Kouloumas, Vice President, EULAR, representing PARE