

New European Rheumatology Curriculum

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The aims, structure, methods and educational experiences employed in the training of rheumatologists vary widely from one national program to another due to traditions, rules and resources. Mutual recognition of titles, the free movement of labour and the strive for common high quality standards in medical care within Europe demand that significant efforts and progress are made in assuring that similar competencies are achieved by different programs.

The European Rheumatology Curriculum Framework, recently developed by the European Board of Rheumatology, is meant to provide a reference framework to the development, harmonization and benchmarking of national curricula for the specialist training of rheumatologists.

The European Rheumatology Curriculum Framework is competency-based, ie it defines competencies that are expected to be mastered the end of training instead of simply offering lists of knowledge or technical skills.

The CanMeds seven roles were adopted as a structure (See box 1) in order to organize and cover the vast arrays of areas of expertise involved in medical practice today, from technical skills to critical appraisal, management and communication.

Each of the seven competencies is described by a *definition* and an *extended description* in the context of rheumatology training. *Key elements, specific training requirements, teaching and learning methods* and *assessments methods* are listed (Box 2).

The European Rheumatology Curriculum Framework does not prescribe or require a specific educational strategy, as different curriculum designs can be used to reach similar goals. Such decisions and adaptations must take place at the National level. However, it has been provided with a contextualized review of good practice in curriculum planning and development – the European Board of Rheumatology Educational Guide.

The European Curriculum Framework for Rheumatology Training has now been endorsed by scientific and educational bodies from 18 member countries.

It is hoped that it will be used as a source of guidance by both curriculum planners and trainees in our common endeavour to foster the way of rheumatology training and practice to the highest possible standards of quality.

You can find the curriculum framework and the educational guide text on www.uems-rheumatology.net.

Comments and suggestions are welcome at XXX (Either UEMS-Rheum Office or National delegates e-mail)

Box 1

Can Meds The 7 Roles of the Practicing Physician

- Medical Expert
- Communicator
- Collaborator
- Manager
- Health Advocate
- Scholar
- Professional

Box 2

Structure of the European rheumatology curriculum framework - Each of the seven roles has a section

Structure of a section

- Definition
- Description
- Elements
- Key competencies
- Specific training requirements
- Teaching and learning
- Assessment methods

Content

- A short definition of the role
- The nature of the role in the perspective of the Rheumatologist
- A listing of the key elements for the specific role
- Competencies deemed necessary for accomplishing the role by the end of the training
- A description of training requirements within the competencies
- Suggestions on appropriate teaching and learning
- Assessment methods for each competencies presented