



## METEOR Newsletter

Number 4, August/September 2008

### In this Newsletter

The floor is to  
Country leads and  
Country coordinators

### Agenda

**October 24-29 2008,**  
METEOR demonstration during ACR  
in booth 1447  
Moscone Convention Center  
San Francisco

### METEOR Project

The METEOR project is supervised by the Merit Foundation. The Foundation and the members of its board and of the executive committee are guided by the principle of academic collaboration. The Foundation is an international organization without commercial interest.

### METEOR in Ireland

by Professor Douglas J. Veale

#### Introduction

The METEOR Programme has been established over the last year in the Republic of Ireland based at St. Vincent's University Hospital, which is now part of Dublin Academic Health Care, comprising of St. Vincent's University Hospital, The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and University College Dublin. Professor Douglas J. Veale is the country lead and Dr. Bernadette Lynch, a Clinical Research Fellow in Rheumatology is the local coordinator in St. Vincent's. We are currently recruiting a Country Coordinator who we hope will be appointed in September.

#### Going live

METEOR in Ireland went live at the end of March 2008. This followed a period of approximately six months of detailed consultation between hospitals IT and Anne Marie Korevaar, Coordinator METEOR Project in Leiden. We then had a short period of evaluation, including registration of the first patient online and the function of the METEOR database was validated centrally and locally. During this time the staff at the DAHC were given user names and passwords and eight staff, who are involved in the DAHC Early Arthritis Clinic, now have access to the METEOR database and enter patient data online. All of these doctors were trained on METEOR. This involved a training session using the online demonstration model of METEOR. In addition to all new RA patients being identified and registered on METEOR from our EAC, each patient has a METEOR summary sheet printed and placed in their case notes.

#### Going nationwide

We have had discussions with Rheumatology units across Ireland. There are four major teaching hospitals in Dublin, including St. James's, Beaumont Hospital and Tallaght Hospital and outside of Dublin the three major teaching areas are Cork University, Limerick Regional and Galway University Hospital. There is also one other unit in Sligo. These units cover the length and breadth of Ireland. All investigators have welcomed the availability of METEOR and hope to actively participate in the next three to six months. It is anticipated that the Ireland METEOR network will be fully established in the next nine to twelve months capturing all early arthritis patients in the Republic.

### Introduction new country coordinators

Stephan Pavy in France and Rosanne Koevoets in the Netherlands.

*Read more on the following page.*

### What's more in this Newsletter

- METEOR during Eular
- Country coordinators about METEOR
- What is an administrator?





**Stephan Pavy**  
**Rheumatologist and French country coordinator**

### National Coordinator of METEOR: an interesting part-time job full of opportunity

After more than six months as the national coordinator in France for the METEOR project, I experienced that this job offers great opportunities.

#### Meeting rheumatologists.

It is a great opportunity to meet rheumatologists from his country and get to know them better. These meetings can take place during national or international congresses, like the EULAR in Paris, or during meetings dedicated to the METEOR project.

#### Member of an international programme

It is also a great opportunity for a young rheumatologist to be part of the take-over of this international programme, which brings together European leaders of our specialism. Attending the international meeting regarding METEOR can forge links with various members of the project. This may be useful to a young researcher who would develop a collaborative work later.

#### Part time job

Moreover, there is the possibility to obtain additional resource which is useful if you, like me, are pursuing a master in science at the university and doing research at the same time. Many of the tasks of the national coordinator can be done at home in the evening or during the weekend. In line with professor Maxime Dougados, my national leader, I can plan in advance travels for the promotion and the implementation of the METEOR project in distant hospitals.

#### Computing skills

Being coordinator of the METEOR project in his country and assisting the national leader does not require specific computing skills. Nevertheless, the candidate must not be afraid of a mouse.

I was able to translate the software into French, so that it becomes easy to use for rheumatologists and patients in France.

#### Technical support

At any moment I can get technical support from the management team, especially from Anne Marie and Cédric.

#### Roll out

Now that technical and legal issues have been solved, I am certain that many French colleagues will be part of the « club METEOR » by the end of the year 2008.

### Dutch country coordinator

My name is Rosanne Koevoets and since august 2008 I am the new country coordinator of the Netherlands. This upcoming year my goal will be to include as much hospitals as possible in the Meteor project.

#### Visiting hospitals

In order to accomplice this I am going to visit hospitals in this region and to demonstrate METEOR and make them enthusiastic about METEOR.

I am very much looking forward to meeting a lot of rheumatologist from all over the country.

I think that contributing to the implementation in clinical practice of this program, which can assist both patients and doctors, is going to be a very enjoyable task for me.



**Rosanne Koevoets**  
**Dutch country coordinator**



**Cédric Lukas**  
**Rheumatologist and medical director of METEOR**

### EULAR meeting 2008 in Paris

The meeting at EULAR annual congress in Paris was a success for the Meteor application. At this meeting the new tool for the rheumatology community was demonstrated to every interested attendee. It was a great way to test the attraction of the software program.

It was clear that the audience was curious to see the real-time demonstration for the first time. Rheumatologists looked for ways to implement this tool in everyday practice. In the booth rheumatologists got the opportunity to test the program by themselves and they could ask about implementation and costs. The common feeling was extremely positive as the tool was considered very user-friendly and intuitive, not too time-consuming and comprehensive enough to ensure an appropriate follow-up of rheumatoid arthritis patients in everyday clinical practice.

Therefore, all efforts will now have to be focused on the communication about the availability of the tool for every interested rheumatologist, which should ineluctably -and hopefully- ensure the first steps in the worldwide dissemination of METEOR!





## Successful introduction of METEOR in Dutch hospitals

### Start with ups and downs

In January 2008, METEOR was launched in the Netherlands, starting in the Leiden University Medical Center. The introduction of a new method of evaluating treatment efficacy in daily routine had its ups and downs. In the LUMC, doctors don't have fixed offices to do their outpatient clinics. This meant that each doctor had to install the METEOR rheumatology module at each new workstation he or she worked on, which scared some of them away from using the program.

### Help of research nurses

To help overcome the perception that working with METEOR required extra time, we decided to help doctors in the initial stages integrate METEOR evaluations in the tasks of our nursing staff, who do joint assessments and collect patients reported outcomes for our Early Arthritis Cohort and the BeSt and IMPROVED studies. Patients first go into the nurse's office and afterwards into the doctor's office, who can then look at the current DAS that already had been filled in in METEOR and discuss the next treatment step with the patient. However, once acquainted with the METEOR module, most doctors find that they don't need this 'pre-visit' and they will do the evaluations and file them themselves. Nearly one thousand patients are now included in the database, and approximately 60 patients are added every month. As a next step, we will integrate the METEOR module in our hospital information system, behind a METEOR portal.

### Patients' enthusiasm saves time

Patients have embraced METEOR right from the start. To them, it makes perfect sense to start a visit to the rheumatologist with a calculation of the level of disease activity. The 'mannequin' page is very easy to understand, and many patients point at the screen to help fill in which joint was painful on examination and which not. Those who used to ask 'What was my ESR?' now ask 'What was my DAS?' And decisions to change the medication, or not, are readily accepted when shown in the context of the DAS limits for active disease, low activity or remission. Thus, working with METEOR often saves time.

### Exchange of experience

Our personal experience with METEOR has helped to introduce the program to other hospitals in the Netherlands. Initially we presented the program during the annual meeting of the Dutch Rheumatology Society, and we organized 2 other national meetings to demonstrate METEOR. This has resulted in the launch of METEOR in six other Dutch hospitals.

### Dutch country coordinator visits hospitals upon requests

Because we realize that doctors don't always have the time to come to our introduction meetings, we have decided to offer to come to them. Starting mid-August, a young colleague will, as METEOR country coordinator, visit doctors who are interested in METEOR and help them at a local level to get the program up and running to work with. We anticipate that in the 2nd half of 2008, 10 more hospitals will join the METEOR program.



Renée Allaart

Rheumatologist in Leiden University Hospital and Dutch Country lead



## METEOR asks every hospital to appoint an administrator

by Anne Marie Korevaar

### What is an administrator?

An administrator is a person within the hospital who serves as a link between the METEOR-office and the hospital.

### What does an administrator have to do?

He or she

- Will deploy the METEOR application in the hospital
- Will add users and supply all users with their log-in name, password and encryption key
- Serve as the point of contact for METEOR-users within the hospital
- Email Anne Marie should any issues arise (akorevaar@lumc.nl)

### Requirements of the administrator

- Someone who assumes responsibility for the deployment of METEOR in the hospital
- He or she is not required to be an IT expert, but curious and interested in new computer applications
- Someone with close connections to the rheumatology department in the hospital

### How much time will it take?

- The initial deployment itself will only take a few minutes
- To read the METEOR guide in order to be able to add profiles, groups and users will take 1-2 hours
- To supply all users with their log-in details will take a few minutes
- To get the "look and feel" of METEOR will take a few hours, depending on the ability of the administrator
- The time it will take to serve as a point of contact for users is different for each hospital, depending on the amount of users and help questions

### Does the administrator get help from METEOR?

Yes.

The administrator will receive a step-by-step guide with screenshots on how to deploy the METEOR application.

Although the deployment is outlined very straightforward extra help might be needed when adding profiles and groups.

It is important to know that there is always a possibility to get help by telephone during this process.

On the website [www.meteorfoundation.com](http://www.meteorfoundation.com) you can find the METEOR guide, the online help for users and the quick reference guide.

The administrator can get access to the test application on request in order to get used to METEOR.

The administrator can make an arrangement with the country coordinator to give users an on site training on METEOR.



Anne Marie Korevaar

Coordinator METEOR project

Please mail your reaction to:  
[akorevaar@lumc.nl](mailto:akorevaar@lumc.nl)

## How to apply

Interested in METEOR?

1. Appoint a METEOR administrator in your hospital.
2. Send an email to Anne Marie Korevaar (A.H.M.Korevaar-van\_Dam@lumc.nl) with
  1. The exact name of the hospital and
  2. The name and email address of the administrator
3. The administrator in close collaboration with Anne Marie will
  1. Deploy the METEOR application in your hospital
  2. Add users, groups and profiles
4. The administrator will provide all users their
  1. Log in name
  2. Pass word
  3. Encryption key

## Colophon

METEOR Newsletters will be published three times a year in April, August/September and December.

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