**Newsletter June 2018**

*METEOR aims to improve the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis worldwide, to demonstrate the value of regularly measuring the disease course and to compare results through access of aggregated anonymized data.*

**Recent publications**

Recently, several METEOR articles have been published.  
Bergstra et al (*Arthritis Res Ther* 2017 22;19:258) investigated the short term clinical response to initial treatment with high versus low dose methotrexate in mono- and combination therapy in early RA patients and found no clinical benefit after 3 to 6 months of a high (≥15 mg/week) versus a low (≤10 mg/week) methotrexate dose.  
In a different article of Bergstra et al. (*RMD Open* 2017; 3(2):e000568), the joint distribution at disease presentation of patients with RA in the Netherlands, India, Mexico and South-Africa was compared. It was found that the swollen joint distribution differed, with more knee synovitis in Mexico, South-Africa and India compared with the Netherlands (37%, 36%, 30% and 13%) and more elbow (29%, 23%, 7%, 7%) and shoulder synovitis (21%, 11%, 0%, 1%) in Mexico and South-Africa compared with India and the Netherlands.  
Torrente-Segarra et al. (*Scand J Rheumatol* 2018 23:1-4) investigated current smoking status and its relationship to ACPA as a predictor of worse response to biological therapies in RA patients and found that in daily practice, non-smokers respond better than smokers to biological therapy, but this does not result in better drug survival.

Links to all recent publications are also published at our website: [www.meteorfoundation.com](http://www.meteorfoundation.com)

**METEOR SpA-database**

We are pleased to announce that we are setting up a METEOR Spondyloarthritis cohort. In October, we will have a kick-off meeting with a selection of METEOR users, to discuss the database content and possibilities.  
The database will be an anonymised research database, to which patients will be added through upload. This can be an upload from existing registries or electronic health record systems or an upload using predefined forms. Similar to the RA database, there will be research possibilities for active contributors.  
If you regularly see spondyloarthritis patients in your clinic and you are willing to follow-up these patients longitudinally, you can contribute to this new database and help us to improve the treatment of spondyloarthritis patients worldwide. For more information, please contact Sytske Anne Bergstra: [s.a.bergstra@lumc.nl](mailto:s.a.bergstra@lumc.nl).

**METEOR upload**

Anonymized data regarding the treatment of RA patients is currently entered to the METEOR research database in two ways: through the free online METEOR tool and through upload of data.  
For hospitals that currently use the METEOR tool next to an existing electronic health record system or register, it may be interesting to switch from tool use to upload. This prevents a double entry burden.

If you want to switch from tool to upload, you will receive a standardised XML-file, together with a reference guide and additional documentation. Using this information, data can be converted from your local register into the correct format for upload into the database. During this process, a METEOR IT-expert is available for assistance. Once the process of data conversion has been established, data can be easily uploaded into the METEOR database on a regular basis. If you are interested in switching from tool to upload, please contact Sytske Anne Bergstra: [s.a.bergstra@lumc.nl](mailto:s.a.bergstra@lumc.nl).

**EULAR 2018**

During EULAR, 4 abstracts including METEOR data will be presented: 1 oral presentation, 1 poster tour and 2 posters.

Bergstra et al. Disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis patients is influenced by countries’ socioeconomics: results from the METEOR registry. OP0297, 15-6-2018, 10:20, E106/E107

Dekkers et al. Autoantibody status is not associated with early treatment response to first-line methotrexate in patients with early rheumatoid arthritis. FRI0643, 15-06-2018, 12:20, poster area, poster tour: searching for outcome measures.

Courvoisier et al. The impact of seropositivity on the effectiveness of abatacept versus TNF inhibitors in rheumatoid arthritis. Real life data from several European registries (the PAN-ABA Study). FRI0110, 15-06-2018, 11:45, poster area.

van der Pol et al. Window or no window: earlier is better when treating rheumatoid arthritis. SAT0096, 16-06-2018, 10:30, poster area.

All abstracts can be found at the EULAR website:   
<https://b-com.mci-group.com/AbstractList/EULAR2018.aspx>

**GDPR**

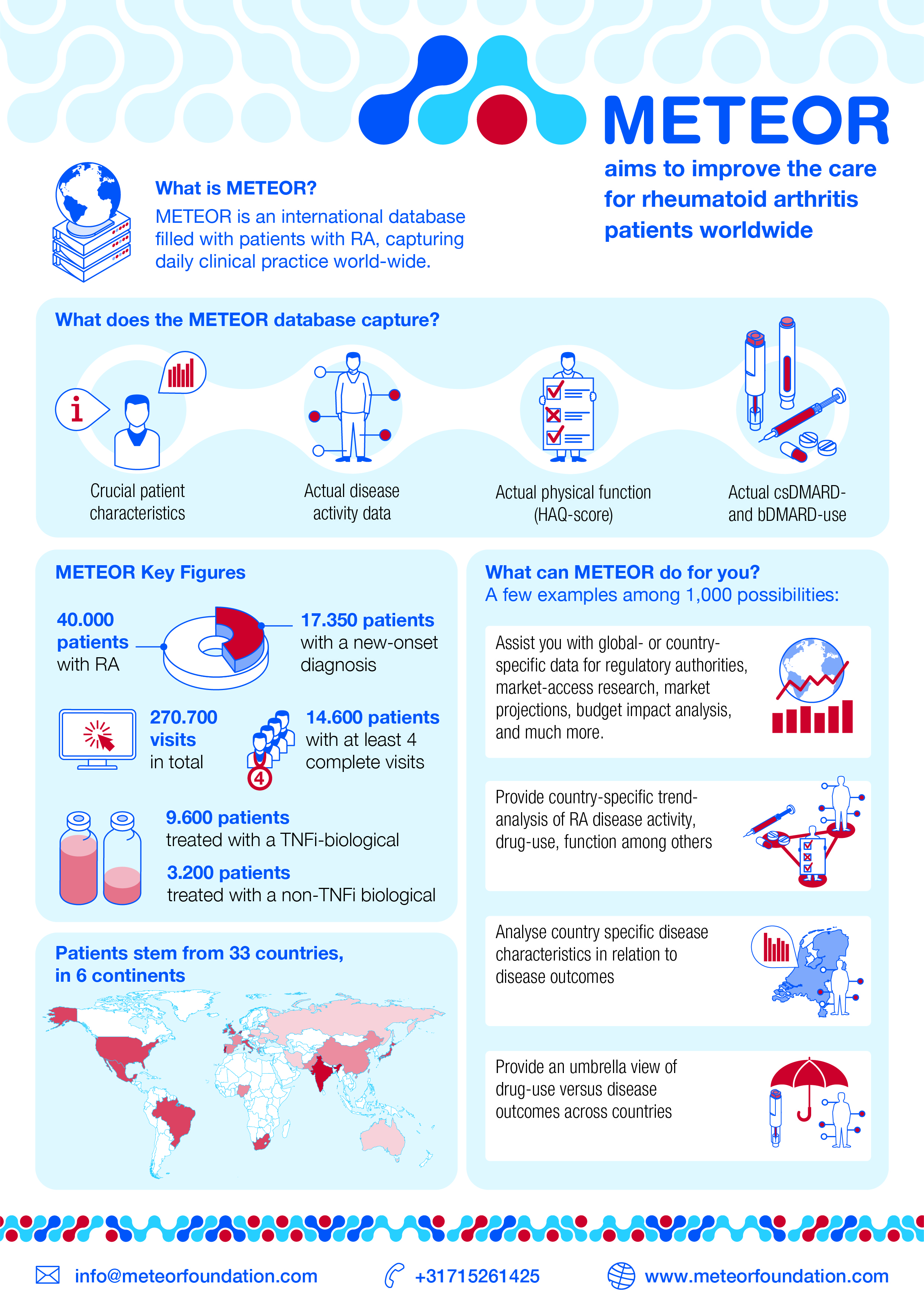
At 25 May the European General Data Protection Regulation has been enforced. All patient data in METEOR is fully anonymised, therefore we adhere to all GDPR guidelines. Furthermore, of each contributing hospital contact details are saved, which will be only used for individual contacts with that hospital. If you want to receive more information about this, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can unsubscribe from this newsletter by clicking the link below this newsletter.

**Request for research proposals**

Data that is entered into the METEOR research database is available for research for all actively contributing centres. You can now send in research proposals with a request for funding (max. €25.000 for projects with a duration of 1 year) before 1 August 2018.  
Proposals without a request for funding can be submitted during the year and will be assessed within one month by our Executive Scientific Committee on relevance, ethical considerations and feasibility. If you would like to receive the format for research proposals or if you have any questions regarding performing research in the METEOR database, please send an email to Sytske Anne Bergstra: [s.a.bergstra@lumc.nl](mailto:s.a.bergstra@lumc.nl).

**Infographic**

An infographic regarding METEOR and its opportunities for research is now available and can be found below. Please feel free to spread the infographic and to use this to communicate about the possibilities of METEOR.

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