

ERN on immunodeficiency, autoinflammatory and autoimmune diseases (ERN RITA)

ERN RITA brings together the leading European centres with expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of rare immunological disorders. These constitute potentially life-threatening conditions requiring multidisciplinary care using complex diagnostic evaluation and highly specialised therapies. The network divides these conditions into four sub-themes or work streams - primary immunodeficiency (PID), autoimmune disorders, paediatric rheumatological disorders and autoinflammatory disorders.

Immunological therapies are being discovered and implemented rapidly. Polyvalent immunoglobulin therapy has revolutionised the outlook for antibody deficient patients; specific anti-cytokine treatments have transformed the lives of patients with rare autoimmune and autoinflammatory conditions; and stem cell and gene-based therapies originally for PIDs are now applied to all the diseases covered by the network.

The network builds on the work of the existing European scientific societies which have developed patient registries, clinical guidelines, research collaborations, educational activities and links with patient organisations for all four disease streams.

ERN RITA strives to reduce inequalities in health care faced by patients seeking to access diagnostic testing and innovative treatments such as biologic therapies, immunoglobulin replacement and cellular therapies such as stem cell transplantation. It aims to link pre-existing registries; develop pan-European clinical guidelines; establish a task force of geneticists for quality control of next generation sequencing technology; agree a common tool for pharmacovigilance in these rare conditions; convene a task force for the correct use and monitoring of biologic treatments in immune-mediated diseases; bring together and improve stem cell therapies for patients; foster collaborations between patient associations; and bring together paediatric and adult specialists across the four themes.

NETWORK COORDINATOR

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