Five Years of Experience with the Lupus Academy:

Abstract #THU0584

An Effective Model for Building a Robust Community of Practice for Geographically Diverse Learners

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THE PROBLEM

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a complex and multifaceted yet low prevalence disease. Without a community of lupus specialists to establish consensus and guide best practices, rheumatologists have limited opportunities to develop skills and maintain competence in SLE care.

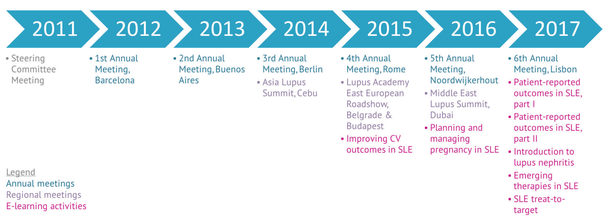
THE SOLUTION: THE LUPUS ACADEMY

The Lupus Academy (http://lupus-academy.org) was established in 2011 as an independent continuing medical education (CME) initiative led by a Steering Committee of international experts in SLE.[1] Developed as a long-term initiative, the Lupus Academy is committed to improving patient outcomes in SLE and allied diseases by meeting multiple objectives:

- Create an independent community of practice of physicians interested in the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management of patients with SLE and related conditions
- Share insights and practical guidance for implementing evidence-based care in routine practice
- Develop needs-driven CME relevant to different levels of clinical expertise through annual meetings, regional meetings, meeting toolkits, and e-learning activities
- Promote collaboration models with publishers to create space for dialogue and community building
- Involve patient advocacy groups to steer physician education and incorporate the patient voice into educational activities

LUPUS ACADEMY: EXPERIENCE TO DATE

As of June 2017, the Lupus Academy has grown to a global community of more than 2,500 committed learners with an interest in SLE. The Steering Committee has guided the development and delivery of six 2.5-day annual meetings; four 1-day regional meetings; a meeting toolkit for learner-advocates to host meetings in their home regions; and multiple e-learning courses.



Educational Design

Activities are designed around unmet clinical needs identified by the Steering Committee, learner survey data, and feedback from patient advocacy groups (including Lupus Europe). A blended learning approach incorporates live events and online learning to maximise educational effectiveness. By providing a highly interactive educational forum, the Lupus Academy is dedicated to sharing best clinical practice through the dissemination and discussion of cutting edge scientific and clinical research.

Learner Reach

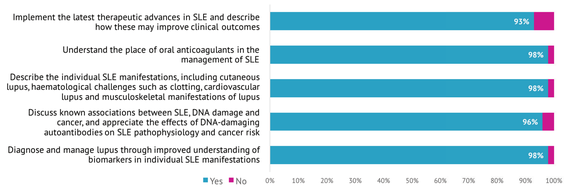
Delegates from more than 30 countries have attended live Lupus Academy events, and learners worldwide have access to e-learning modules.

OUTCOMES SNAPSHOT: 6TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LUPUS ACADEMY

The 6th Annual Meeting of the Lupus Academy (5-7 May 2017) hosted 134 attendees and 20 faculty experts from Europe, North and South America, and Asia.

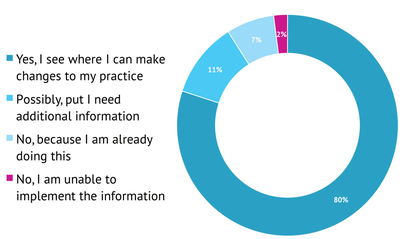
Learning Objectives

Nearly all learners (93% to 98%) reported that the educational objectives of the 6th Annual Meeting were met.



Impact on Practice

Most learners (80%) reported a commitment to implementing changes in their clinical practice based on information from the meeting, 7% reported that the Lupus Academy content reinforced their current practice, and 11% reported a willingness to modify their current practice with additional training.

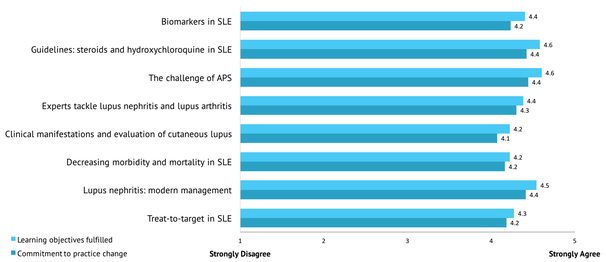


OUTCOMES SNAPSHOT: LUPUS ACADEMY MIDDLE EAST SUMMIT CONFERENCE

The most recent regional meeting was the Lupus Academy Middle East Summit Conference (9-10 December 2016). The meeting welcomed 153 attendees and 17 faculty from 13 countries.

Learning Objectives and Impact on Practice

All learners (100%) agreed that the educational objectives of the meeting were fulfilled. Further, 100% of learners reported that the educational content of the meeting will help them to improve their clinical practice and support evidence-based patient care. Across several topic areas, delegates ranked the extent to which they agreed that the learning objectives were met and practice changes would be implemented, on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).



CONCLUSIONS

The Lupus Academy serves as an effective model for building a consortium-led, evidence-based educational resource and community of practice for rheumatologists, other physicians with an interest in SLE, and patient advocacy groups.

LupusAcademy
Communicate. Educate. Treat.

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REFERENCE: 1. Ball J, Cervera R, Elzebroek N, Levy RA, Pozniak E. J Euro CME. 2013;2:37-44.

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