Background

- The Paediatric Task Force for Global Musculoskeletal Health was set up in 2017 as part of the Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health (G-MUSC) and acknowledges the importance of a 'life course approach' to optimising musculoskeletal (MSK) health in adulthood.
- We are a virtual global community and open to all: clinicians (doctors and allied health professionals), patient and consumer groups, professional societies, healthcare planners and policy makers, non-health professional groups, research consortia, industry (e-technology, pharma).
- There is great enthusiasm to 'work better together' to improve the lives of children through raising awareness amongst health care planners and policy makers that more needs to be done
- We work in partnership with G-MUSC, the Pediatric Rheumatology European Society (PReS) and the Paediatric Musculoskeletal Matters (PMM) learning e-platform.

Our Aims

- **To Raise Awareness**
  - about the many children and young people around the world with MSK problems
  - about the considerable long-term impact of untreated MSK conditions starting in early life: impact on young people, their families, carers and society
  - that many conditions are treatable; long term disability can be avoided thus reducing ‘cost’ to individuals and society

- **To Identify and Promote tangible solutions to better access to ‘right’ care**
  - models of clinical care and care pathways
  - education and training for the workforce
  - patient and public involvement and engagement

- **To Promote healthy joints and bones**
  - prevent obesity
  - reduce the risk of injury
  - reduce osteoarthritis and osteoporosis

Chair
Professor Helen Foster: Professor Paediatric Rheumatology Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia

Co-Chairs
Paediatric Rheumatology: Professor Christiaan Scott, Paediatric Rheumatologist, Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa
Paediatric Orthopaedics: Professor Stuart Weinstein: Ignacio V. Ponseti Chair and Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Iowa City, USA
Paediatric Orthopaedics: MSK Health promotion: Dr CarlJohan Tiderius, Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, Sweden

Pediatric Rheumatology European Association (https://www.pres.eu)
Paediatric Musculoskeletal Matters (http://www.pmmonline.org)

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Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/2255183164805036/?ref=share
Welcome to our July 2019 Newsletter to our expanding global community

Our Structure and Membership

- To date over 200 people from around the world have joined (map July 2019) and we have representation from many countries. There is a group email now set up – anyone can join. Please contact us through the social media contacts.
- We are building our Task Force with co-chairs from paediatric rheumatology, paediatric orthopaedics and MSK health promotion.
- We are seeking leaders from key regions of the world and aim to have representations from clinicians, allied health and parents. We have 3 co-chairs, representing paediatric rheumatology, paediatric orthopaedics and ‘preventative aspects’ to promote healthy diet, exercise and avoidance of injury.

The Paediatric Task Force continues to be engaged in a variety of activities

WORD-Day: The Paediatric Task Force strongly and actively supports WORD Day (WOrld young Rheumatic Diseases Day) to raise awareness of rheumatic diseases in children and young people. The first WORD Day in 2019 was a great success and 2020 is going to be even better!

Have a look at the WORD Impact report https://www.pres.eu/activities/word-day/about-the-word-day.html
Survey of paediatric rheumatology care in ASIA Pacific (ASIAPAC) countries.
- The survey is anonymous and includes questions about current models of care, education and training for the workforce and access to treatments.
- This work will inform priorities for action in ASIAPAC and will have transferable value to our work on a broader scale. The work is to be written up for publication as a collaboration with colleagues in Thailand.
- The link to the survey is as follows and is still open (respondents are asked for their country of work to assist with future analysis) https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PaedRheumCareSurvey

Launch of the PReS Global Initiative – Madrid 2019
- The symposium at EULAR PReS described many of the challenges in paediatric rheumatology around the world. The Paediatric Task Force works in partnership with PReS aims to address the global challenges in paediatric rheumatology.
- There was a Paediatric Task Force meeting at EULAR PReS Madrid and many people attended to express support and enthusiasm to work together.
- Group discussions were very informative. Building on the previous Task Force meeting at APLAR in April 2019, our discussions generated ideas and areas for priority to taken forward in our ‘call for action’.
- A proposal for a Task Force survey of training programmes was agreed as a first step to inform future discussions.

The Paediatric ‘call for action’ will be based on the following themes
- More information (data and evidence)
  - To describe global ‘burden’ (to help raise awareness about prevalence and impact on the lives of children, families and society), develop key messages for stakeholders (health and non-health care planners) and leverage change.
- Sharing and promoting great ideas:
  - There are many exemplars of innovative models of care and training from around the world. An open e-platform to collate, share and disseminate is needed.
- Addressing the workforce challenges:
  - Engage and involve the existing workforce (health and non-health care workers in the community, school and hospital care settings) to work better together to aid diagnosis, deliver care and facilitate referral / shared care.
- Education and training of the workforce
  - Capacity building with more specialists and training opportunities ‘fit for purpose’
  - Targeting the existing workforce to raise awareness, upskill and support (paediatricians, adult rheum, ortho, medical officers, allied health, medical students, and allied health)
  - Accessibility to (and affordability of), existing training resources including on-line courses, CME events and educational materials
  - Recommendations and ‘guidelines’ for care that are relevant to Low Resource Income Countries.

Next steps .... Towards a strategy
Future Paediatric Task Force meetings

**AFLAR Sept 2019** - [https://aflar.net/2018/01/15/about-mauritius/](https://aflar.net/2018/01/15/about-mauritius/) - paediatric rheumatology symposium

![AFLAR 2019 – Mauritius](image)

**PReS Basic Course Paediatric Rheumatology South East Asia** – Kuala Lumpur 2020 – registration open

*September 2019*