

Fundacion Española de Reumatolgia (FER)

The Research Unit of the FER (UIFER) was established in 2003. Previous to the UIFER, three people had been contracted to carry out research projects in the field of the Epidemiology of Rheumatic Diseases. From 2003 until now, up to 8 people working full-time are devoted to the design, implementation, analysis, and dissemination of research, to support members of the Spanish Society of Rheumatology in their research projects, and to give advice to many other partners. The UIFER is recipient of governmental grants and also receives funding from private organisations to develop studies. All studies are related to the field of the Rheumatic Diseases, mainly epidemiological but also qualitative research for consensus or clinical practice guidelines development. The team is multi-disciplinary, including rheumatologists, an epidemiologist, a statistician, a psychologist, three programmers and computer-system developers, a librarian and secretarial staff.

Key Staff

Loreto Carmona (26/10/1965) is the head of the unit. She is rheumatologist and was trained in epidemiology at the University of California (San Francisco). She has published more than 100 research papers in rheumatology and Clinical Epidemiology. She is member of the Standing Committee of Epidemiology of EULAR and she is responsible for a repository of research databases through Europe. She works full-time for the UIFER.

Estibaliz Loza (21/07/1976) is rheumatologist, and did a post-doctoral fellowship at the UIFER and was contracted by the FER in January 2009, after a 6 month stay at NICE (UK), where she was be trained in Quality Research Methodology. She is attending a master in quality of care and patient safety of the Instituto Europeo de Salud y Bienestar Social. She has published more than 20 papers on rheumatic diseases and quality related issues.

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