

## Medizinische Universität Wien (MUW)

The MUW-Division of Rheumatology comprises an out-patient clinic, a day center, an in-patient ward and a research laboratory; it has been named Center of Excellence by EULAR. The patients seen in the clinic include about 1000 with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) whose data are entered into a database allowing to make informed treatment decisions while seeing the patients. Research activities focus on basic sciences, experimental arthritis, outcomes and translational research. More than a decade ago an early arthritis clinic was founded. An international study, Stop Arthritis Very Early (SAVE), has recently been successfully completed. New tools for assessment of disease activity have been developed and validated. In addition, a clinic was started where patients with very early arthritis are seen within two days of requesting an appointment. The Division is also actively engaged in the implementation of the international classification of function (ICF) of the WHO.

### Key Staff

**Josef Smolen**, MD, received his MD from Medical School, University of Vienna (now Medical University of Vienna, MUV). He is now Professor of Internal Medicine and Chairman of the Division of Rheumatology, Medical University of Vienna, and Chairman of the Center for Rheumatic Diseases, Hietzing Hospital. He has held several positions in the boards of scientific societies including Presidency of the EULAR. He is the current Chair of the Austrian chapter of the Bone and Joint Decade (BJD). He has co-edited the 3rd and 4th editions of Rheumatology (Mosby). He has done over 300 publications.

**Daniel Aletaha**, MD, MS, A research fellow at the National Institutes of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal, and Skin Diseases, NIH, Bethesda, MD 2004-2006, he was awarded a MS in Clinical Health Sciences by Duke University, Durham, NC in 2006, when he returned to MUV and became Associate Professor of Medicine in July 2006. 2007 and 2008 he chaired EULAR tasks forces for reporting clinical trial results and developing classification criteria of rheumatoid arthritis. He has done more than 50 publications.

**Tanja Stamm**, MA, MBA, PhD, trained originally as occupational therapist and started her career in outcomes assessments as head biometrician of the Division of Rheumatology, MUV. She acquired a Masters degree, and a PhD degree at the University of Munich. In 2007 she became Associate Professor of Public Health at MUV. She is General Secretary of the Austrian Chapter of the BJD. She has received a call as Chairwoman of the EULAR Standing Committee for Health Professionals starting in 2009. She is engaged in the evaluation of the international classification of function (ICF) and in studying tools for outcomes in rheumatic diseases. She has co-developed clinical databases widely used at the Division. She has also achieved collaboration among European Centers to improve assessment. She has done more than 40 publications.

**Michaela Stoffer**, OT, is health professional and worked in the field of orthopedics before. Michaela is currently studying for her MSc degree in Vienna. She started to work at the MUV at the rheumatology department in June 2010.

### Contacts

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