

Osteoarthritis Patients and Professionals unite for World Osteoarthritis Day – September 17th to raise awareness of the disease

Leading Global Associations Join Forces to discuss Pain Management and Mobility Improvement Initiatives for OA Patients

Barcelona, 17th of September 2023

The **OA Task Force**, an international alliance of patients, medical and expert organisations in the field of osteoarthritis and rheumatology, led by the Osteoarthritis Foundation International (OAFI) and the Arthritis Foundation, come together this **September 17th** to vindicate the **World Osteoarthritis Day**, a global initiative orchestrated by the group. This year, various prominent associations, including **AECOSAR, AFLAR, APMARR, The Arthritis Foundation, Arthrose Forum Austria, Fondation Arthrose, LPCDR, OAFI, PANLAR and ReumaNederland**, have come together to raise awareness about osteoarthritis, a debilitating joint condition affecting millions of people worldwide, and its pain management.

World Osteoarthritis Day – a patient initiative

Osteoarthritis, commonly referred to as OA, is a degenerative joint disease that can cause pain, stiffness, and decreased mobility. It affects individuals of all ages and backgrounds, making it a significant global health concern. It is estimated to affect over **500 million people worldwide**. These influential organizations have united their efforts to address the challenges posed by OA and to promote understanding of the condition.

World Osteoarthritis Day serves as an essential platform to shine a light on a condition that affects millions, emphasizing the need for continued research, advocacy, and support for those living with osteoarthritis. As we approach September 17, the global community is reminded of the importance of solidarity in addressing this common and challenging health issue.

Prevention and pain management – a global discussion at #OAFICongress23

On October 25th, 2023, these associations inside the OA Task Force will convene at the **#OAFICongress23**, the leading patient congress on the field of OA and joint health, organised by OAFI. In this key event, they will discuss various aspects of OA management. The primary focus of the event will be on how to effectively manage pain associated with OA and the development of initiatives aimed at enhancing mobility and functionality for OA patients.

Representatives from each participating association will share insights into their unique approaches and strategies for alleviating pain and improving the quality of life for individuals living with OA. By collaborating on a global scale, these organizations aim to foster innovation, awareness, and understanding of OA, ultimately working towards a future with better outcomes for OA patients.

In summary, the joint effort of prominent associations in the upcoming World OA Day and the **#OAFICongress23** marks a significant step in the fight against osteoarthritis. By pooling their resources and expertise, these organizations aim to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those affected by OA and bring much-needed attention to this condition on World Osteoarthritis Day.

For more information about World Osteoarthritis Day and the **#OAFICongress23** event, visit the official websites of the participating associations and stay tuned for updates on their initiatives and discussions.

17th September, 2023

About OAFI

Osteoarthritis Foundation International (OAFI) is the first and only non-profit foundation exclusively for people with osteoarthritis worldwide. Since 2016, it has been leading the fight against osteoarthritis by promoting education, prevention, treatment and research into all aspects of joint health and providing solutions for people suffering from the disease

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