

General Project Information

Project overview

Project name	Maximising Impact of Prescription Drugs in Rheumatoid Arthritis
Acronym	SQUEEZE
Grant Agreement No.	101095052
Funding Programme	Horizon Europe
Instrument	RIA (Research and Innovation Action)
Project start	1 December 2022
Duration of the project	60 Months (end date: 30 November 2027)
Total budget	€ 8,602,316.25 Mio EUR

About the project

SQUEEZE is funded through the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and has a budget of EUR 8 million over five years. SQUEEZE is coordinated by MUW Medical University of Wen.

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic immune-mediated disease with enormous health-related quality of life and socioeconomic impact. A broad choice of DMARDs with different targets is up to date available in clinical care, however without sufficient markers indicating the best choice for a particular patient, treatment strategies can be ineffective, cumbersome and expensive.

The overarching objective of SQUEEZE is to advance the clinical application of biomarkers to improve benefit, safety, and value of approved DMARDs. SQUEEZE utilizes models from data science, clinical trials, translational science, and behavioural science to engage in a complementary, synergistic, and non-overlapping manner addressing the use of biomarkers to improve the ability to select the DMARD with the highest likelihood of fitting the immunophenotypic and clinical profile of the patient, to optimise dose and route of existing DMARDs; and to inform an innovative model of care focusing on patient's preferences and needs to increase adherence to prescribed drugs. Through nine dedicated work packages SQUEEZE integrates to validate clinical, laboratory, molecular, digital and behavioural biomarkers to enable the recognition of patients with high likelihood of response to treatment and the selection of the drug with highest chance of benefit for an individual patient; and as

such improve efficacy and safety of existing therapies (by squeezing the most out of existing drugs) in synergy with other EU-wide activities.

The SQUEEZE consortium consists of 13 partners from 7 EU countries and 2 non-EU countries UK and Switzerland. SQUEEZE brings together leading academic centres, patients, and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) across Europe to work with regulators and other authorities to develop a collaborative programme aiming to improve the biomarker use for making existing RA treatments better, more efficient, and safer. As a consortium, SQUEEZE is scientifically not confined to a single hypothesis, but takes a comprehensive approach towards the topic put forward by the European Commission. While it brings together centres that have highly specialised expertise in specific types of research and strong track record in their respective fields and beyond, the truly added value of the consortium comes from the several sources.