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## Best Practice & Research Clinical Rheumatology

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## Preface

This volume on Practical Competencies in Rheumatology is based on the realization that learning, teaching and evaluation of rheumatological skills is very much based on competencies. In this volume we aim to first explain what a rheumatologist is/does and how to achieve and enhance professionalism in rheumatology. Then the framework that may help in developing the necessary competencies is described, based on the framework of the European Board of Rheumatology (UEMS, section of rheumatology) including the seven roles of the rheumatologist according to the CanMed's scheme.

After these introductory chapters the following chapters give practical guidelines to trainees and established rheumatologists who want to gain or perform certain skills.

First, some medical expert competencies that are very specific for rheumatology are dealt with in detail, with emphasis on "how to do". These chapters include:

- How to perform joint aspiration and injection and analyze synovial fluid
- How to perform soft tissue injections
- How to perform and analyze synovial biopsies
- How to perform and analyze biopsies in relation to connective tissue diseases
- How to become a musculoskeletal ultrasonographer
- How to perform ultrasonography guided injections

Of note: how to perform capillaroscopy was recently covered in *Best Practice & Research Clinical Rheumatology* Vol. 22, No. 6, Chapter 9.

Some other competencies are more broad and generic, such as:

- How to keep up with medical literature
- How to perform a critical analysis of a published Randomized Controlled Trial.

We are very grateful to the skilled teachers that have provided us with very concise, clear chapters that you will undoubtedly enjoy reading.

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