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New Physician Network Will Help Patients Access Faster, Better Gout Treatment

The Gout Specialists Network, from the Gout & Uric Acid Education Society, Will Provide Education to Medical Professional Members from Recognized Gout Specialists

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 9, 2017 – In a recent, independent survey, many patients with gout—the most common form of inflammatory arthritis—reported that their disease was first misdiagnosed, and that it took time to receive proper care¹. The Gout & Uric Acid Education Society (GUAES) stepped up to the challenge of helping all patients access faster, better treatment by launching the Gout Specialists Network (GSN)—an online physician and medical professional locator and educational resource.

Through GoutSpecialistsNetwork.org—an extension of the Society's GoutEducation.org website—patients will be able to search the GSN locator by zip code to find a rheumatologist or primary care physician who is close to home and treats gout according to the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Guidelines for the Management of Gout.

With the introduction of the GSN, physicians can register to join the network for two years, with no cost the first year while the network is established. In subsequent years, physicians will be offered low-cost memberships. After selecting a membership package, physicians can customize their profile—which includes a description of their medical specialty, a short bio and links to published works—to offer patients relevant background as they search for a gout specialist. Along with the important patient benefit, the GSN will serve as a forum for medical professionals to access new information and research on gout, and consult with other gout specialists through professional education.

“We receive numerous requests from patients who are searching for relief and don’t know where to turn. With only 10 percent of gout patients receiving the proper care, the Gout Specialists Network makes an important connection between patients and physicians—helping to give gout patients access to better care, faster,” said Dr. N. Lawrence Edwards, a rheumatologist and chairman and CEO of the Gout & Uric Acid Education Society. “Through this platform, we’re working to better serve patients by identifying medical professionals who have a special interest in gout and will take the time to facilitate discussion to educate their patients.”

Over the next few months, GUAES will promote the platform for medical professionals through a digital and event marketing campaign, entitled “Kick Gout in the Acid.” It aims to encourage specialists to step up to give patients the treatment they deserve by joining the GSN. Once there is significant network membership, GUAES will launch its website for patient use in early 2018.

In addition to direct marketing and advertising, GUAES will exhibit at the ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting, November 5-7, 2017, in San Diego. Attendees can visit booth #2418 to obtain free gout materials and resources, and learn about the GSN special offer available to ACR attendees.

To become a member of the GSN, visit GoutSpecialistsNetwork.org/Registration. For additional information and resources about gout, visit GoutEducation.org.

About GUAES

The Gout & Uric Acid Education Society is a nonprofit organization of health care professionals dedicated to educating the public and health care community about gout—the most common form of inflammatory arthritis—and the related consequences of hyperuricemia. Learn more at gouteducation.org. Twitter: [@GoutEducation](https://twitter.com/GoutEducation) Facebook: [Gout Education](https://www.facebook.com/GoutEducation)

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¹ *Online survey of 1,000 nationally representative Americans ages 18+, with an oversampling of 103 interviews of adults who have been diagnosed with gout. Conducted April 11-18, 2016 by Wakefield Research on behalf of the Gout & Uric Acid Education Society.*