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Gils stands up the first Scleroderma Units in Italy

The board and members of Gils, in agreement with the scientific committee, with some hospitals and Institutions will get some Scleroderma Units off the ground.

These Units, already working in UK and USA, offer a skill network to patients in need of diagnosis and therapeutic knowledge, within just one Centre highly specialized and able to make a team Unit.

The aims of all the Scleroderma Units have been shared and will be the same for all. The first step is to create a highly specialized Scleroderma practice, both for diagnosis and Scleroderma care. Next steps expect to:

- Improve scleroderma patients assistance, from every angle.
- Deepen the prevention on the one hand, and optimize the treatments for the disease on the other hand, through a skilled network managed by the scleroderma practice.
- Create an “opinion leader”, whose leadership is due to continuing education courses and World Congresses. The “opinion leader” puts into practice the experience gained.
- Enable patients to join clinical trials, to let the scientific community increase the knowledge on the disease and/or have access to ground-breaking treatments.

Services will depend on the resources, but they should offer:

- Reserved entrance to Immunology or Rheumatology clinic and short waiting time for early diagnosis.
- Second level clinic for digital ulcers, including bacteriological diagnosis and complex medications.
- Pulmonary hypertension clinic with six minutes walking test.
- Psychological counseling.
- Infusion of biological drugs - if recommended - as outpatient treatment.
- New MAC, complex outpatient activity (ex DH) for infusions with reserved nurses. During the MAC blood tests and RX will be possible.
- Joint scan.



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- Fast track to instrumental examinations: Echocardiography, Ultrasound Scan, GUT Endoscopy, RX (including High Resolution TC), Spirometry with DLCO, Intestinal motility test.
- Fast track to specialized equipes: Cardiology, Hand surgery, Dermatology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Gynecology and Infertility service for the pair, Nephrology, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Pneumology, Feed Science. Cooperation with other Immunologic or Rheumatologic centers for ground-breaking treatments if not provided by a single Unit.

Gils will actively contribute with € 20.000 for each Unit to let Scleroderma Unit Projects start up in the following highly skilled centers:

- **Milano, Immunologia Clinica Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico**
- **Torino, Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria San Luigi Gonzaga di Orbassano,**
- **Genova, UOC di Medicina Interna e Immunologia Clinica, IRCCS AO Universitaria San Martino,**
- **Roma, Az. Univ. Policlinico Umberto I, UOC Immunologia Clinica B.**
- **Legnano, dell'UO di Medicina Interna dell'AO Ospedale Civile:** a medical and nurse device for early diagnosis of SSc will be enhanced. No costs for Gils.

The Scleroderma Unit Project, supported by Gils, will start in 2014 and will last one year. Gils identifies the figures that control and supervise the Project.

The Scleroderma Unit Project is the result of 20 years efforts, trying to put the patient in the middle, involving all the members of Gils, in agreement with the scientific committee, hospitals and Institutions.