

University of Groningen

Living with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Benka, Jozef

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2012

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Benka, J. (2012). *Living with Rheumatoid Arthritis: do personal and social resources make a difference?*
s.n.

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

The publication may also be distributed here under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license. More information can be found on the University of Groningen website: <https://www.rug.nl/library/open-access/self-archiving-pure/taverne-amendment>.

Take-down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.

Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all patients that have participated in this study and shared their experience, thoughts and feelings regarding their everyday battle with rheumatoid arthritis. Without their willingness to participate and contribute, this research would not be possible.

I would like to express my gratitude to many people in the Netherlands and Slovakia that have made it possible for me to undergo the PhD program at the University of Groningen and provided a great deal of help with writing this thesis.

From the University of Groningen I would like to especially thank;

Prof. Johan W. Groothoff, my first promotor, for the great support and encouragement throughout my studies. For me, it has been a great privilege to undergo this PhD program with such supervision.

Prof. Jac J.L. Van der Klink, my second promotor, for his inspiring discussions and insightful remarks, which were very creative and helpful.

Associate prof. Jitse P. Van Dijk, my copromotor, for his incredible patience and absolute willingness to help with all possible problems within impossible deadlines.

I would also like to thank Dr. Berry Middel for his contribution to my articles. Furthermore, I would like to thank Dr. Roy E. Stewart for his statistical consultations and for great help with statistical analysis, Willem S. Lok Msc. in memoriam.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Manuscript Comitee: Prof. Theo P.B.M. Suurmeijer, Prof. Mariet Hagedoorn and Prof. Corry K. van der Sluis for the very valuable and constructive comments on my thesis.

Finally, I would also like to thank all the colleagues in Groningen, and while a few weeks per year is a very short time to become fluent in Dutch (I must confess I have not mastered it at all) the time spent in Groningen was always very enjoyable and I always felt very welcome.

From Slovakia I would like to express my thanks to;

Dr. Iveta Rajnicova, my copromotor, for support and great help with my articles throughout my studies and for all the critical remarks that are always hard to hear but at the end are the only way to improve.

Dr. Jaroslav Rosenberger for all help and especially suggestions and remarks which always arrived very quickly.

Assoc. prof. Zelmira Macejova for help with the medical content of the project.

Prof. Ivica Lazurova for help with the project.

Dr. Anka Dobrovicova, for great help and all those years which were

often very difficult but managed together.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all rheumatologists who participated in the project for their contribution especially to: Dr. Sona Tomkova, Dr. Karol Kohler, Dr. Lenka Visnovska, Dr. Maria Oetterova, Dr. Vlasta Vargova, Dr. Anna Sabova, Dr. Iveta Thotova, Dr. Anna Schlosserova, Dr. Daniela Spisakova, Dr. Katarina Gombosova, Dr. Danica Telepkova, Dr. Katarina Strakova and all other medical experts who have contributed to the project. I would also like to thank Monika Hazyova for great help with data collection.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Ladislav Mirossay, the Rector of the Safarik University, Prof. Pavol Sovak, the Vice-rector for Education and Prof. Jan Gbur, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts for supporting the collaboration with University of Groningen.

Also, a very special thank you to Prof. Olga Orosova, the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Dr. Beata Gajdosova, the Head of the Department of Educational Psychology and Health Psychology, for all formal and informal support and help during all years of my studies which I have really appreciated.

I would like to thank project managers Martina Sukenikova, Nicol Heindrichovska, Ivana Borysova, Janka Matova, Jarka Fristikova and Zuzka Riskova for great help with everything that needed to be done within the deadlines that I could never remember and with the forms that I always struggled to fill in correctly.

I would also like to thank all my present and past colleagues at the Safarik University:, especially: Dr. Zuzka Skodova, Dr. Martina Chylova, Dr. Tana Dubayova, Dr. Maria Majernikova, Maria Humenikova, Dr. Marika Sarkova, Dr. Zuzana Drakulincova, Dr. Zuzana Tomcikova, Dr. Peter Kolarcik, Lukas Pitel, Daniela Bobakova, Martina Mergescikova, Martina Behanova, Barbora Silarova, Dr. Silvia Kontirova, Katarina Rosicova, Gabriel Kolvek, Dr. Eva Havlikova, Matej Skovranek, Dr. Ivan Zezula, Dr. Daniel Klein, Radka Ghorbani Saedian, Dr. Zuzana Katreniakova, Dr. Andrea Madarasova Geckova, Pavel Mikula, Helena Vargova, Viktoria Kopunicova, Dr. Natalia Sedlak-Vendelova, Dr. Majka Bacikova.

A very special thanks goes to Lucka Prihodova, a great (fellow) PhD student and friend and to Dr Nando Salonna and Ondrej Kalina for never being bothered by my frequent presence in their office, stealing their books and being a fan of Slovan.

I would like to thank Andy J. Billingham and David Mclean for proofreading my articles and Stanislav Bacik for the graphical design of this thesis.

Finally, I would like to say thanks for all the support and love from my parents, both babkas, ujo, my brother David and Zuzka, my wife Hannah and little Tobi.

Kosice, 2012