

Prologue: Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) 2023 Annual Meeting

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ABSTRACT. The Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) 2023 annual meeting was held on July 13 to 15, 2023, in Dublin, Ireland, and was attended by 285 rheumatologists, dermatologists, trainees, patient research partners (PRPs), representatives of patient organizations, and industry partners. The 20th anniversary of GRAPPA was celebrated with a special presentation and archival video. Ahead of the meeting, the PRP Network met, a workshop was held by the International Dermatology Outcome Measures (IDEOM) group, and there was a workshop in which researchers discussed advancing ultrasound use to improve the management of psoriatic disease (PsD). Young-GRAPPA also held a workshop and business meeting. Multiple presentations highlighted important topics currently influencing PsD, including ensuring that patients are included in advancing research, the role of depression in PsD, the use of magnetic resonance imaging for spinal lesions, and animal models of PsD, among others. Debates focused on whether biologics should be used for mild psoriasis, whether methotrexate should remain the first-line treatment for PsD, and whether PsD is really a primary enthesitis driving joint synovitis. Here we provide an overview of the features of the GRAPPA 2023 annual meeting and introduce the manuscripts published together in this supplement as a meeting report.

Key Indexing Terms: education, GRAPPA, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, research

The Group for Research and Assessment for Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) 2023 annual meeting was held in July in Dublin, Ireland. The meeting was attended by rheumatologists, dermatologists, representatives of several biopharmaceutical companies, as well as patient research partners (PRPs) and representatives of patient organizations (Table 1). The meeting focused on individual and collaborative research as well as educational initiatives led by GRAPPA members (see Table 2 for list of presentations). This supplement in *The Journal of Rheumatology* provides publications describing the various topics discussed at the meeting.

On the day prior to the formal GRAPPA annual meeting,

workshops were held by several groups of GRAPPA members. These included a meeting of the GRAPPA PRP Network, in which 9 PRPs attended and discussed the relationship between the PRP Network and GRAPPA,¹ and an International Dermatology Outcome Measures (IDEOM) workshop that discussed several aspects of the assessment of patients with psoriasis (PsO).² Young-GRAPPA also held a workshop and business meeting.³

The GRAPPA Collaborative Research Network (CRN), under the auspices of the Research Committee, addressed the progress of several projects and heard from Dr. Dan Webster, who discussed digital tools for the measurement of PsD.⁴

As part of the supplement series GRAPPA 2023, this report was reviewed internally and approved by the Guest Editors for integrity, accuracy, and consistency with scientific and ethical standards.

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Table 1. GRAPPA 2023 annual meeting attendees.

Participant Type	No. of Participants
Dermatologist	36
Rheumatologist	159
Patient research partner	10
Trainee	34
Industry partner	31
Other	15
Total	285

The official meeting began on Friday, July 14, 2023, with 2 concurrent sessions: an imaging workshop on magnetic resonance imaging of spinal lesions in PsD led by Drs. Walter Maksymowych and Mikkel Østergaard,⁵ and a basic science workshop addressing animal models for PsD led by Dr. Kurt de Vlam.⁶

GRAPPA members were then welcomed to the meeting by GRAPPA co-Presidents, Drs. April Armstrong and Oliver FitzGerald. GRAPPA celebrated its 20th anniversary with a commemorative video and a presentation on GRAPPA's growth by Drs. Dafna Gladman, Philip Mease, and Philip Helliwell.⁷ The presentation highlighted GRAPPA's accomplishments since its inception in 2003.

Each year, trainees from both rheumatology and dermatology are encouraged to submit their work to be presented at the GRAPPA trainee symposium, and at this year's meeting, it took place on the first day.⁸ Almost 50 abstracts were submitted, of which 5 were accepted for oral presentations and an additional 21 were accepted for poster presentations. The topics presented orally by either rheumatology or dermatology trainees included genome-guided proteomic analysis for the conversion from PsO to psoriatic arthritis (PsA), pharmacogenetic variants for predicting response to therapy in PsA, single-cell sequencing of skin and synovial tissue in PsA, and the regulatory role of Janus kinase signaling on keratinocytes and synovial cells in PsD. Posters presented by trainees were available for review during the meeting's opening reception.

A discussion regarding the use of biologics for mild PsO followed with point-counterpoint presentations by Drs. Alice Gottlieb and Brian Kirby.⁹

Several hot topics were discussed, including connections between PsD and depression and anxiety presented by Dr. Christine Lindsay on behalf of Drs. Niti Goel and Elizabeth Wallace.¹⁰ This was followed by a presentation and discussion of a musculoskeletal tool by Gottlieb and Dr. Lourdes Perez-Chada.¹¹ The final hot topic was on a treatment satisfaction instrument for PsO presented by Armstrong.¹¹

During lunch, members reviewed posters and networked with colleagues. A breakout session on collaborative care of patients with PsD by dermatologists and rheumatologists took place immediately following lunch.¹²

Next, 2 PRPs, Drs. Suzanne Grieb and Maarten de Wit, discussed how to involve patients in GRAPPA research.¹³

An update of GRAPPA major projects was subsequently provided. This included brief reports on the Axial Involvement

in PsA (AXIS) cohort (Gladman), the axial PsA pilot study (Mease), the Diagnostic Ultrasound Enthesitis Tool (DUET; Dr. Lihi Eder), the Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis of Effectiveness of Advanced Therapies (SAGE-PsA; Eder), and the Health Initiatives in Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Consortium European States (HIPPOCRATES; Dr. Steven Pennington and FitzGerald). The GRAPPA slide library update was described by Drs. Gizem Ayan and Fabian Proft. An update on GRAPPA treatment recommendations was presented by Drs. Laura Coates, Enrique Soriano, and Artie Kavanaugh.¹⁴

Two presentations on unintended consequences of therapy were provided. The first was on enthesitis complicating treatment of patients with dupilumab, presented by Dr. Bruce Kirkham, and the second was on paradoxical PsO by Dr. Elizabeth Wallace.¹⁵

The first day ended with a combined executive and steering committee meeting, followed by a reception and awards dinner at which GRAPPA members were entertained by Irish dancers.

The second day of the meeting, July 15, began with 3 concurrent workshops, including an update on GRAPPA US projects by Eder, Dr. Sibel Aydin, and Dr. Gurjit Kaeley¹⁶; an update on biomarkers in PsD by de Vlam, Pennington, and Dr. Stefan Siebert¹⁷; and a workshop on palmoplantar pustulosis, neutrophilic dermatoses, chronic nonbacterial osteomyelitis, and SAPHO (synovitis, acne, pustulosis, hyperostosis, and osteitis) syndrome by Helliwell, Dr. Kristina Callis Duffin, and Dr. Hok Bing Thio.¹⁸

An Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT) report was presented by Drs. Katy Leung, and William Tillett presented an update of the 3 and 4 visual analog scales.¹⁹

A basic science symposium moderated by Dr. Vinod Chandran included a presentation on targeting the chemokine receptor CCR6 in PsD by Dr. Samuel Hwang and a presentation on novel pathways and potential biomarkers of cardiovascular comorbidity in PsA by Drs. Elaine Husni and Unni Chadrasekharan.²⁰

A presentation on difficult-to-treat and manage PsA and how to unravel the conundrum of treatment failures in PsA was given by Mease, Lindsay, and Proft (no publication resulted). This was followed by 2 debates, the first presented by Tillett and Dr. Joseph Merola over whether methotrexate should be the first systemic therapy used in PsD,²¹ and the second on targeted small molecules vs biologics as first-line systemic therapy after conventional therapy with Callis Duffin and Dr. Wilson Liao.²²

Two new projects were presented. One was by Dr. Denis Poddubnyy on early recognition of PsA, and the second was a proposal by Dr. Gary Macfarlane for an epidemiology training session, which was accepted for the GRAPPA 2024 annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, USA.²³

Following lunch, several poster tours were led by GRAPPA members. At the next session, the co-chairs of the Research Committee, Chandran, de Vlam, and Liao, announced the winners of the 2023 Pilot Research Grants.²⁴ Previous award recipients presented updates on their projects.

Dr. Denis McGonagle and Kirkham then debated the enthesitis hypothesis: After 25 years, is PsD really primarily enthesitis, which drives joint synovitis?²⁵

Table 2. GRAPPA 2023 annual meeting agenda and speakers.

Presentation	Presenter(s)	Affiliation
Welcome	April Armstrong Oliver FitzGerald	University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA Conway Institute, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
PRP Network meeting ¹	PRPs	NA
IDEOM workshop ²	Members of IDEOM	NA
Young-GRAPPA meeting ³	Young-GRAPPA members	NA
GRAPPA CRN Research Committee		
Digital tools for measurement of PsD ⁴	Dan E. Webster	AbbVie, North Chicago, Illinois, USA
MRI workshop for imaging spinal lesions in PsD ⁵	Walter Maksymowych Mikkel Østergaard	University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Basic science workshop on animal models for PsD ⁶	Kurt de Vlam	University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
GRAPPA at 20 ⁷	Dafna Gladman Philip Mease Philip Helliwell	University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada Swedish Medical Centre Providence St. Joseph Health University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA University of Leeds, Leeds, UK
Trainee symposium ⁸	Numerous trainee presenters	NA
Point-counterpoint: Use of biologics for mild PsO ⁹	Alice Gottlieb Brian Kirby	Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai, New York City, New York, USA St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland
Hot topic: Depression and anxiety in PsD ¹⁰	Christine Lindsay Niti Goel Elizabeth Wallace	Prosper, Texas, USA Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina, USA Cherry Hills Dermatology, Englewood, Colorado, USA
Hot topic: Measuring MSK symptoms and new treatment satisfaction instrument ¹¹	Alice Gottlieb Lourdes Perez-Chada April Armstrong	Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai, New York City, New York, USA Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA
Breakout session: Collaborative care of patients with PsD by dermatologists and rheumatologists ¹²	Multiple	NA
How to involve patients in GRAPPA research ¹³	Suzanne Grieb, PRP Maarten de Wit, PRP	USA The Netherlands
GRAPPA major projects		
AXIS cohort	Dafna Gladman	University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Axial PsA pilot study	Philip Mease	Swedish Medical Centre Providence St. Joseph Health University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA
DUET and SAGE-PsA	Lih Eder	University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
HIPPOCRATES	Steven Pennington and Oliver FitzGerald	Conway Institute, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
GRAPPA slide library	Gizem Ayan Fabian Proft	Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey Charité University Hospital, Berlin, Germany
Update on GRAPPA treatment recommendations ¹⁴	Laura Coates Enrique Soriano Artic Kavanaugh	Oxford University, Oxford, UK Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina University of California San Diego, San Diego, California, USA
Unintended consequences of PsO therapy ¹⁵	Bruce Kirkham Elizabeth Wallace	Guys Hospital and St. Thomas NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK Cherry Hills Dermatology, Englewood, Colorado, USA
Update on GRAPPA US projects ¹⁶	Lih Eder Sibel Aydin Gurjit Kaeley	University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada University of Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, USA
Biomarkers in PsD ¹⁷	Stephen Pennington Stefan Siebert	Conway Institute, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK
PPP, CNO, and SAPHO ¹⁸	Philip Helliwell Kristina Callis Duffin Hok Bink Thio	University of Leeds, Leeds, UK University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
OMERACT report and update of 3VAS and 4VAS ¹⁹	Katy Leung William Tillett	Singapore General Hospital/Duke NUS Medical School, Singapore University of Bath, Bath, UK
Basic science symposium		
Targeting CCR6 in PsD	Samuel Hwang	University of California Davis, Davis, California, USA
Novel pathways and potential biomarkers of CV comorbidity in PsA ²⁰	Elaine Husni and Unni Chadrasekharan	Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Debate: Should MTX be the first systemic therapy used in PsD ²¹	William Tillett Joseph Merola	University of Bath, Bath, UK UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, USA
Debate: Targeted small molecules vs biologics as first-line systemic therapy after conventional therapy ²²	Kristina Callis Duffin Wilson Liao	University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA University of California, San Francisco, California, USA

Table 2. Continued.

Presentation	Presenter(s)	Affiliation
New GRAPPA projects: Early recognition of PsA	Denis Poddubnyy	Charité University Hospital, Berlin, Germany
Epidemiology training at the next GRAPPA meeting ²³	Gary Macfarlane	Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health, Aberdeen, UK
Pilot projects ²⁴	Vinod Chandran	University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
	Kurt de Vlam	University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
	Wilson Liao	University of California, San Francisco, California, USA
Debate: The enthesitis hypothesis after 25 years, is PsD really primarily enthesitis which drives joint synovitis? ²⁵	Denis McGonagle	University of Leeds, Leeds, UK
Governance report	Bruce Kirkham	Guys Hospital and St. Thomas NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK
2023 election results	Oliver FitzGerald	Conway Institute, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
Treasurer's report	Adi Adebajo	University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK
	Philip Mease	Swedish Medical Centre Providence St. Joseph Health University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

AXIS: Axial Involvement in PsA; CNO: chronic nonbacterial osteomyelitis; CRN: Collaborative Research Network; CV: cardiovascular; DUET: Diagnostic Ultrasound Enthesitis Tool; GRAPPA: Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis; HIPPOCRATES: Health Initiatives in Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Consortium European States; IDEOM: International Dermatology Outcome Measures; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; MSK: musculoskeletal; MTX: methotrexate; NA: not applicable; NHS: National Health Service; OMERACT: Outcome Measures in Rheumatology; PPP: palmoplantar pustulosis; PRP: patient research partner; PsA: psoriatic arthritis; PsD: psoriatic disease; PsO: psoriasis; SAGE-PsA: Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis of Effectiveness of Advanced Therapies; SAPHO: synovitis, acne, pustulosis, hyperostosis, and osteitis syndrome; US: ultrasound; VAS: visual analog scale.

The GRAPPA 2023 meeting ended with a governance report presented by FitzGerald, a presentation of the 2023 election results by Dr. Adi Adebajo, and the treasurer's report by Mease. The meeting was very productive and successful. The next GRAPPA meeting will be held on July 11-13, 2024, in Seattle, Washington, USA.

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