

Prologue: Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) 2024 Annual Meeting

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ABSTRACT. The Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) 2024 annual meeting was held from July 11 to July 13, 2024, in Seattle, Washington, USA, and was attended by 256 rheumatologists, dermatologists, trainees, patient research partners, patient organization representatives, industry partners, and others. The meeting featured several workshops on various topics including epidemiology, new educational initiatives, use of artificial intelligence for both education and clinical management of disease, use of magnetic resonance imaging in the diagnosis and management of psoriatic disease (PsD), and many more. Young-GRAPPA held a workshop and business meeting about their projects, and many of the young GRAPPAiAns contributed as coauthors of the articles in this supplement. Debates focused on whether clinical enthesitis indices reflect true enthesitis and whether they should be discontinued, and whether musculoskeletal symptoms in PsD should be managed by dermatologists or rheumatologists. Here we provide an overview of the features of the GRAPPA 2024 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 of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) held its annual meeting July 11 to July 13, 2024, in Seattle, Washington, USA. The meeting was attended by rheumatologists, dermatologists, radiologists, representatives from the biopharmaceutical industry, trainees, patient research partners, representatives from patient organizations, and others (Table).

Reports from the various sessions and main topics are presented in this supplement of *The Journal of Rheumatology*. Of note, Young-GRAPPA (Y-GRAPPA) members coauthored several of the manuscripts as an opportunity for manuscript writing under the supervision of the senior authors.

Prior to the beginning of the formal meeting, an “introduction to epidemiology” course taught by GRAPPA members was provided. In addition, Y-GRAPPA members met to review the activities of their group, such as updating the GRAPPA slide library, providing virtual highlights from major rheumatology

and dermatology meetings that took place throughout the year, boosting GRAPPA’s media presence, and participating in all GRAPPA activities.¹ The International Dermatology Outcome Measures (IDEOM) group met and presented updates from working groups focused on measuring musculoskeletal symptoms, connective tissue diseases, and patient satisfaction with clinical care and outcomes.² At the industry research collaboration meeting, attendees heard from Dr. Signe Holm Nielsen on using soluble biomarkers in drug development for diagnostic, prognosis, and predictive purposes. She discussed collagen degradation products being investigated as biomarkers in psoriatic disease (PsD).³

The following 3 concurrent workshops were offered on the first day of the formal meeting: (1) an ultrasound workshop, where preliminary analyses of the GRAPPA Diagnostic Ultrasound Enthesis Tool (DUET) were presented⁴; (2) a psoriasis (PsO) outcomes for rheumatologists workshop, which reviewed skin disorders commonly mistaken for PsO and discussed outcome measures best suited for clinical practice⁵; and (3) a workshop discussing the diagnosis and management of eye conditions in PsD (no accompanying report).

The annual trainee symposium organized by Drs. M. Elaine Husni and Lihi Eder included 5 oral presentations and 16 posters. The poster session took place during the lunch hour.⁶

The keynote presentation focused on challenges and opportunities in PsD research from the perspectives of a rheumatologist, Dr. Iain McInnes, and a dermatology researcher, Dr. Nicole Ward.⁷ This was followed by a debate on whether clinical enthesitis indices reflect true enthesitis and whether they should be discontinued. Dr. Sibel Aydin argued for discontin-

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Table. Groups of attendees at the GRAPPA 2024 annual meeting, Seattle, Washington, USA.

Participant Type	Participants, n
Dermatologist	39
Rheumatologist	118
Patient research partner	10
Trainee	21
Industry	44
Other	24
Total	256

GRAPPA: Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis.

using clinical indices, whereas Dr. Atul Deodhar argued against their discontinuation.⁸ An update on the primary outcome of the Axial Involvement in Psoriatic Arthritis (AXIS) study was presented by Drs. Denis Poddubnyy and Dafna Gladman. The study has completed recruitment, and the initial results suggest that imaging evidence of inflammatory changes in the sacroiliac joints or spine is an important factor in the diagnosis of axial psoriatic arthritis (PsA).⁹

The concept of a World Café to set priorities for GRAPPA was introduced by Dr. Stephen Pennington. The session took place after lunch. Attendees split into 10 groups to discuss unmet needs that GRAPPA should prioritize over the next 5 to 10 years.¹⁰ The main themes that emerged included research into novel biomarkers, addressing the transition from PsO to PsA, cross-specialty education, and administrative priorities.

Drs. Claudia Schainberg and Cheryl Rosen discussed how rheumatologists and dermatologists can manage cardiovascular (CV) issues in a busy clinic. They concluded that routine CV assessment should be performed in patients with PsD and suggested that time constraints are prohibitive for including this in a fast-paced clinical environment.¹¹ The role of glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) as a therapeutic modality in PsD was discussed in the subsequent presentation.¹² Drs. Wilson Liao and Dennis McGonagle then discussed several mechanisms by which MHC-1 molecules increase PsO susceptibility.¹³

Advances in GRAPPA projects were presented in the late afternoon, including presentations by the Collaborative Research Network (CRN) and Health Initiatives in Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Consortium European States (HIPPOCATES), and an update on a project to develop better management of complex and difficult to treat PsA. Finally, an update on GRAPPA educational slide library was given.¹⁴

A second debate addressed who should manage musculoskeletal symptoms in patients with PsO. Dr. Fabian Proft argued that rheumatologists should lead PsA management and Dr. Laura Savage emphasized the pivotal role of dermatologists, who are often first to assess patients with PsO.¹⁵

The next day of the GRAPPA annual meeting began with another 3 workshops. One was the annual magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) workshop, during which Drs. Walter Maksymowych and Mikkel Østergaard presented interactive case studies to illustrate the practical application

of MRI in the assessment of both the peripheral and axial manifestations of PsA.¹⁶ Another workshop dealt with innovation in education, presented by Husni, McInnes, and Dr. Philip Mease. During this workshop, attendees explored the skills necessary to design learning objectives, optimize use of artificial intelligence (AI) in education, and employ interactive teaching techniques.¹⁷ During the third workshop, Pennington and Ward discussed the effect of recent multiomics and AI technologies on PsD.¹⁸

Two hot topics were presented next. The first topic covered the transformative role of AI in diagnosis and diagnostic accuracy of PsO and PsA, assessment of disease activity, and prediction of therapeutic response in PsD, presented by Drs. April Armstrong and Poddubnyy. For the second topic, Dr. Liv Eidsmo discussed the phenomenon of inflammatory memory, which is sustained by both immune and nonimmune cells.¹⁹

A newly developed mouse model for PsA and study of the underlying immune pathomechanisms was presented by Dr. Bahram Razani.²⁰ The Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT) working group presented an update on composite outcome measures for PsA, including the findings of a systematic literature review of the psychometric properties of composite measures and future plans for a Delphi exercise for patient research partners (PRPs) for domain match and feasibility.²¹

An update on GRAPPA-supported major projects was presented.²² The projects discussed included the Biomarker Project, presented by Dr. Vinod Chandran; the Axial Psoriatic Arthritis Molecular and Clinical Characterization study, presented by Mease; the DUET study by Eder, Aydin, and Dr. Gurjit Kaeley; the Sex- and Gender-based Analysis of the Effectiveness of Advanced Therapies in Psoriatic Arthritis (SAGE-PsA) study by Eder; the Early Recognition of PsA study (COMPOSITION) by Poddubnyy; and the GRAPPA treatment recommendations update by Drs. Arthur Kavanaugh, Enrique Soriano, Laura Coates, Ennio Lubrano, Ying Ying Leung, Suzanne Grieb, and Lourdes Perez-Chada.

The PRP group provided an update on a membership survey aimed at identifying their group's key strengths and gaps in order to enhance its global representation. They identified the need for greater diversity and geographic representation among their membership and plan to actively expand their membership in the coming months.²³ The final presentation of the meeting was by past GRAPPA research pilot awardees, including Dr. Akihiro Nakamura mentored by Chandran, Dr. Lyn Ferguson advised by Drs. Stefan Siebert and Naveed Sattar, Anaïs Makos mentored by Drs. Oksana Kehoe, Jan Herman Kulper, and Roshan Amarasena, and Giovanni Adami with guidance from Drs. Paolo Gisondi and Maurizio Rossini.²⁴

CONCLUSION

The GRAPPA 2024 annual meeting ended with closing remarks from the President, Dr. Oliver FitzGerald, and was followed by a business advisory meeting and a PRP meeting. The GRAPPA meeting covered wide ranging scientific discovery and debate in the field of PsD, including translational medicine, precision medicine, patient involvement, and clinical hot topics. The next meeting will be in Bogota, Colombia, July 10-12, 2025. This will be the first time the GRAPPA annual meeting is held in Latin America.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

DDG received consulting fees from AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Eli Lilly, Galapagos, Gilead, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB; and research grants from AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB. WBM received consulting and speaker fees from Novartis, Pfizer, Janssen, Biopas, Amgen, Eli Lilly, AbbVie, and GSK. DP received research support from AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB; consulting fees from AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Greywolf, Janssen, Merk, Moonlake, Novartis, Pfizer, and UCB; speaker fees from AbbVie, Canon, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Medscape, Novartis, Peerveoice, Pfizer, and UCB; and he serves as a member of steering committee of GRAPPA. WT has received research grants from AbbVie, Amgen, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Pfizer, and UCB; and consulting or speaker fees from AbbVie, Amgen, BMS, Celgene, Eli Lilly, GSK, Janssen, MSD, Novartis, Ono, Pfizer, and UCB. ABG has received research/educational grants from BMS, Janssen, Moonlake, and UCB (all paid to Mount Sinai School of Medicine until May 1, 2025); and has received honoraria as an advisory board member and consultant for BMS, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Novartis, Sanofi, Sun Pharma, Takeda, Teva, and UCB.

ETHICS AND PATIENT CONSENT

Institutional review board approval and patient consent were not required.

PEER REVIEW

As part of the supplement series GRAPPA 2024, 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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