

Young-GRAPPA 2024: Progress, Achievements, and Strategic Developments

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ABSTRACT. The Young Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (Y-GRAPPA) was established in 2021. As of July 2024, the group consists of 152 members, featuring a balanced gender distribution and a 70/30 split between rheumatology and dermatology specialties. In the last year, Y-GRAPPA updated its major project—the GRAPPA slide library—to include translations in 5 new languages, continued to publish the “Do Not Miss” newsletters, and presented “Virtual Highlights” for major international conferences (American Academy of Dermatology [AAD] annual meeting, European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology [EULAR] annual congress, European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology [EADV] congress, and American College of Rheumatology [ACR] Convergence). Presently, Y-GRAPPA is boosting social media presence and refining its organizational structure and activities. This includes restructuring committees with new leaders to each focus on specific objectives, streamlined leadership, and proactive member recruitment and engagement. The key objective of Y-GRAPPA remains to ensure active participation in all GRAPPA activities through collaboration and communication between Y-GRAPPA and senior GRAPPA members.

Key Indexing Terms: GRAPPA, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, spondyloarthritis

Introduction

The Young Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (Y-GRAPPA) was established at the GRAPPA annual meeting and trainee symposium in 2021.¹ The group's mission is to familiarize younger GRAPPA members and emerging researchers and clinicians in the fields of psoriasis (PsO) and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) with GRAPPA procedures and projects. Y-GRAPPA also promotes internal networking and enhances collaborations with senior GRAPPA members and established GRAPPA projects. As of July 2024, Y-GRAPPA engages 152 members from 29 countries

(Figure 1) with a balanced gender distribution and a roughly 70/30 representation between rheumatology and dermatology specialties (Figure 2).

The GRAPPA 2024 annual meeting and trainee symposium prominently showcased Y-GRAPPA's activities and achievements during the Y-GRAPPA workshop and business meeting, with active discussion among the 8 subgroups (dermatology-rheumatology collaboration, education, newsletter, membership, networking, research, social media, and website), and summaries of their achievements were presented at the main meeting. Y-GRAPPA members, known as Y-GRAPPiAns, presented the updated GRAPPA slide library, actively participated in breakout sessions, and co-led poster tours. Additionally, a vibrant networking event provided a platform for collaboration, offering both the Y-GRAPPA and wider GRAPPA communities an opportunity to engage in dynamic discussions and brainstorm innovative ideas in an informal setting.

Looking forward, Y-GRAPPA aims to expand its social media presence, further organize its structure and activities, ensure continuous growth, and enhance collaboration within the GRAPPA community. This includes launching new research initiatives, increasing member engagement, and maintaining a strong presence at major conferences and events.

Dermatology-rheumatology collaboration update

Leader: Dimitri Luz (Dermatologist, Brazil)

The dermatology-rheumatology collaboration subgroup continues to make significant efforts to increase the number of dermatologists within Y-GRAPPA. Dermatologists actively participated with rheumatologists at the second GRAPPA international

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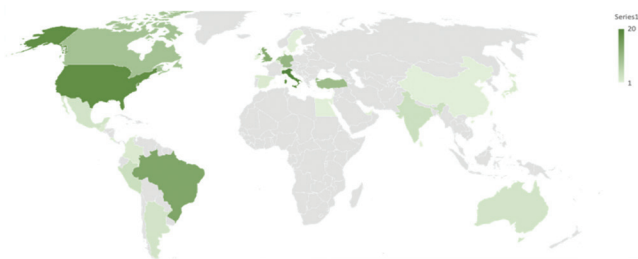


Figure 1. Distribution of Y-GRAPPA members around the world. Y-GRAPPA: Young Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis.

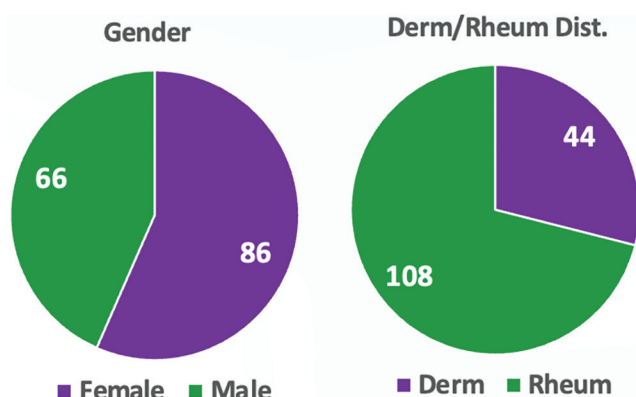


Figure 2. Gender and specialty distribution of individuals within Y-GRAPPA. Dist.: distribution; Y-GRAPPA: Young Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis.

meeting in Curitiba, Brazil, in 2024, strengthening teamwork between the 2 specialties. This subgroup contributed to various multidisciplinary GRAPPA initiatives, including developing and translating slides for the GRAPPA slide library, leading poster tours at the GRAPPA 2024 annual meeting, and collaborating on article reports. Future projects include compiling international data on joint dermatology/rheumatology clinics to assess their efficacy, reviewing combined clinics in low-income countries, facilitating case-sharing to support doctors in low-income countries, and engaging local GRAPPA members to identify regional needs.

Education

Previous Leader: Gizem Ayan (Rheumatologist, Turkey);

New Leader: Raphael Micheroli (Rheumatologist, Switzerland)

The education committee currently comprises 6 dermatologists and 11 rheumatologists from around the world. In our third year, we focused on enhancing the slide library, which was successfully launched at the GRAPPA 2023 annual trainee symposium. A dedicated group of Y-GRAPPIAns and GRAPPA members unveiled 5 new translations of the slide library at this year's annual meeting: Brazilian Portuguese, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, and Turkish.²

Throughout the year, the “Do Not Miss” (DNM) newsletters and the “Virtual Highlights” series continued in collaboration with the newsletter committee, providing coverage of

key conferences regarding psoriatic disease (PsD), such as the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Convergence, American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) annual meeting, Annual European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) annual congress, and the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) congress. The DNM newsletters, released before these events, offer previews of crucial presentations and posters, whereas the “Virtual Highlights” follows shortly after, providing in-depth discussions of major research projects presented at these conferences. Together, these initiatives keep the Y-GRAPPA community informed of the latest advances in PsO and PsA research and boost GRAPPA's visibility through increased social activity around these events.

Looking ahead, the education subgroup is launching 2 new initiatives: Journal Clubs, focused on discussing the strengths, limitations, and relevance of recent publications on psoriatic disease; and “Joint Rounds – Complex Cases,” designed to engage early career rheumatologists and dermatologists in the multidisciplinary discussion of challenging PsD cases, with the goal of enhancing clinical reasoning and management skills.

Newsletter

Leader: Hanna Johnsson (Rheumatologist, UK)

The newsletter group's most significant annual tasks are to collaborate with the education committee to produce the DNM newsletters and to compile and edit the GRAPPA newsletter following the GRAPPA annual meeting and trainee symposium.

Moving forward, we plan to publish 4 Y-GRAPPA newsletters annually. These newsletters will showcase the activities of various Y-GRAPPA groups, feature profiles of GRAPPA members, provide information on upcoming conferences and funding opportunities, and highlight the latest developments in PsD.

Membership

Leader: Vincenzo Venerito (Rheumatologist, Italy)

The “governance committee” was repurposed as the “membership committee,” with changes in responsibilities. This new committee will oversee all membership applications and promote campaigns to increase Y-GRAPPA membership. Additionally, it will aim to engage existing Y-GRAPPIAns in leadership roles for specific GRAPPA projects, such as co-coordinating international research collaborations or leading educational initiatives through targeted outreach by email, calls, and social media.

Networking

Leader: Arani Vivekanantham (Rheumatologist, UK)

The networking subgroup aims to foster connections between early career researchers and experienced professionals in the field of PsD, thereby enhancing collaborative opportunities and knowledge sharing within the GRAPPA community.

At the GRAPPA 2024 annual meeting in Seattle, the networking subgroup helped in organizing a key networking event that allowed Y-GRAPPIAns a valuable opportunity to connect face-to-face with senior GRAPPA members and

patient research partners, strengthening relationships across the GRAPPA community.

In addition to these larger events, the subgroup organizes mentor-mentee meetings (MMM) with established researchers in the field of PsD. These meetings provide Y-GRAPPAiAns with invaluable guidance and insight into academic and clinical careers. For example, successful MMMs were held with Prof. Laura Coates in September 2022 and Prof. Joseph Merola in December 2022. Most recently, in August 2024, Y-GRAPPAiAns heard from Dr. William Tillett about the successes and challenges of his clinical academic career, offering early career researchers 10 practical tips for navigating the field. The MMMs are recorded and remain available for viewing online.

Looking ahead, the networking subgroup is focused on recruiting more members and is actively planning additional networking events for the GRAPPA 2025 annual meeting. Plans are also underway for future MMMs, which will continue to provide Y-GRAPPAiAns with opportunities to engage with leading experts.

Research

Leader: Michelle Mulder (Rheumatologist, the Netherlands)

The research committee's primary goals are to ensure the involvement of at least 1 Y-GRAPPAiAn in all future GRAPPA research projects and to facilitate international research collaborations among early career GRAPPA members across different geographical regions and between rheumatology and dermatology. Before the formation of Y-GRAPPA and its dedicated research committee, younger GRAPPA members often faced challenges in securing opportunities for meaningful involvement in research collaborations. The establishment of this committee has significantly bridged that gap, enabling Y-GRAPPAiAns to actively contribute to key projects within GRAPPA, with several of these contributions already leading to published research.³

Over the past year, Y-GRAPPAiAns have played crucial roles in several pivotal projects. Notably, the Y-GRAPPAiAns have played key roles in the difficult-to-treat (D2T) project, which focuses on defining D2T PsA.^{4,5} Additionally, they are involved in the update of the GRAPPA guidelines, the GRAPPA–Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT) working group, and initiatives aimed at the early recognition of PsA in patients with PsO.

In 2024, Y-GRAPPAiAns took on a significant new responsibility by contributing to the writing of the GRAPPA annual meeting supplement for *The Journal of Rheumatology*. This task, championed by Dr. André Ribeiro, marks a key addition to Y-GRAPPA's role within GRAPPA and underscores the growing influence of Y-GRAPPAiAns in the broader research community.

Looking ahead, we aim to maintain this momentum by continuing to incorporate Y-GRAPPAiAns into GRAPPA research initiatives and to foster increased international collaborations. Our most ambitious goal for the upcoming year is to launch the first research project initiated and led by Y-GRAPPAiAns: a survey-based study designed to assess the global use of disease activity assessment tools in PsA clin-

ical practice. This project, born from exciting discussion at the recent Y-GRAPPA business meeting, represents a significant step forward in empowering early career researchers to lead and innovate in the field of PsD.

Social media

Previous Leader: Sebastián Herrera (Rheumatologist, Colombia); New Leader: Daniela Tovar (Rheumatologist, Venezuela/Peru)

The social media group, under the past leadership of Sebastián Herrera, significantly strengthened its presence across LinkedIn, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and Facebook over the past year. Y-GRAPPA manages these social media channels on behalf of GRAPPA to ensure that up-to-date information is readily available to both members and nonmembers interested in PsD. Through comprehensive coverage of major congresses, trainee symposia, activities from various groups, and collaboration between Y-GRAPPA and the larger GRAPPA community on the "Inside GRAPPA" podcast, we aim to increase member engagement and enhance educational outreach.

To achieve these goals, we are planning several key initiatives. We will introduce the #GRAPPAspotlight series, featuring 90-second videos to highlight the initiatives of Y-GRAPPA, including the roles and activities of the different committees. Additionally, we will focus on regularly publishing educational content through all GRAPPA channels. Our recurring activities will include efforts to increase the visibility of the Inside GRAPPA podcast and engage the community with content that generates curiosity and interaction. We will continue providing extensive coverage of major congresses and collaborating closely with other committees to amplify our outreach efforts, ensuring a cohesive and informed community.

Website

Leader: Roxana Coras (Rheumatologist, USA)

In early 2023, the website group launched the Y-GRAPPA section on the main GRAPPA website. This section offers comprehensive information about Y-GRAPPA and its subgroups, including the DNM newsletters and details on how to become a member. A key function of the website is to share information about events related to PsD with young clinicians and researchers, including information from GRAPPA meetings and conferences. Moving forward, we are committed to regularly updating the website and adding new features to cover upcoming GRAPPA and Y-GRAPPA projects. Our goal is to ensure the website remains a valuable and current resource for all members.

Conclusion

In the past 3 years, Y-GRAPPA has become an active and integral part of GRAPPA, now encompassing 152 members with a significant global presence, balanced gender distribution, and a 70/30 rheumatology to dermatology specialty representation. At the recent annual meeting, we saw a leadership transition with André Ribeiro introduced as the Chair of Y-GRAPPA, Fabian Proft rotated to Past Chair, and Gizem Ayan elected as new Chair Elect. We also reorganized and repurposed our

subcommittees, assigning new leaders and implementing clear, objective, and feasible action points for each annual meeting.

The reorganization included the formation of the membership group and an emphasis on the importance of social media to increase GRAPPA's visibility. Additionally, the research committee is spearheading a new survey-based research project to assess the global use of disease activity assessment tools in PsA clinical practice. This marks a milestone for Y-GRAPPA in taking the lead on research that could have a significant effect on the treatment of PsD.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding our group numbers and active projects, strengthening our representation in all GRAPPA initiatives, and improving communication between Y-GRAPPAiAns and senior GRAPPA members. We are excited about what lies ahead and eager to see the continued growth and effect of Y-GRAPPA in the field of PsD.

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ETHICS AND PATIENT CONSENT

Institutional/animal 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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