



Figure 1. Participants at OMERACT 9, May 27–31, 2008.

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 Dennis Ang, United States
 Aslam Anis, Canada
 Lesley Arnold, United States
 Sibel Aydin, Turkey
 Marina Backhaus, Germany
 Susan Bartlett, United States
 Jennifer Barton, United States
 Joan Bathon, United States
 Dorcas Beaton, Canada
 Jean-Claude Becker, United States
 Norma Biln, Canada
 Clifton O. Bingham, United States
 Paul Bird, Australia
 Julius Birnbaum, United States
 Maarten Boers, Netherlands
 John Bomalaski, United States
 Claire Bombardier, Canada
 Annelies Boonen, Netherlands
 Cornelia Borkhoff, Canada
 Pernille Boyesen, Norway
 David Boyle, United States
 Laurence Bradley, United States
 Barry Bresnihan, Ireland
 Peter Brooks, Australia
 Sait Burak Erer, Turkey
 Vivian Bykerk, Canada
 Loreto Carmona, Spain
 David Cella, United States
 Eliza Chakravarty, United States
 Ernest Choy, United Kingdom
 Robin Christensen, Denmark
 Mary Cifaldi, United States
 Daniel J. Clauw, United States
 Laura Coates, United Kingdom
 Bernard Combe, France
 Philip Conaghan, United Kingdom

Omar Dabbous, United States
 Maria Antonietta D'Agostino, France
 Nicola Dalbeth, New Zealand
 Cesar Diaz-Torne, Spain
 Rozalina Dimitrova, United States
 Maxime Dougados, France
 Anne Duer-Jensen, Denmark
 Kim Dupree Jones, United States
 N. Lawrence Edwards, United States
 Bo Jannik Ejbjerg, Denmark
 Maria Elf, Sweden
 Hani El-Gabalawy, Canada
 Reuben Escorpizo, United States
 Robert Evans, United States
 Oliver FitzGerald, Ireland
 Jane Freeston, United Kingdom
 Daniel Furst, United States
 Frederique Gandjbakhch, France
 Michael Gauthier, United States
 R. Michael Gendreau, United States
 Danielle Gerlag, Netherlands
 Dafna Gladman, Canada
 Jennifer Glass, United States
 Duncan Gordon, Canada
 Rebecca Grainger, New Zealand
 Diane Guinta, United States
 Espen Haavardsholm, Norway
 Alison Heald, United States
 Karen Herlyn, Germany
 Sarah Hewlett, United Kingdom
 Meilien Ho, United Kingdom
 Joanne Homik, Canada
 Ben Horgan, Australia
 Jos Houbiers, Netherlands
 Xingyue Huang, United States
 Rod Hughes, United Kingdom
 Annamaria Iagnocco, Italy
 Leanne Idzerda, Canada
 Fredrick Joshua, Australia
 Gurjit Kaeley, United States
 Richard Kay, United Kingdom

Helen Keen, Australia
 Dorothy Keininger, Belgium
 John Kirwan, United Kingdom
 Jean Claude Lacasse, Canada
 Liz Lacasse, Canada
 Chinglin Lai, United States
 Robert Landewe, Netherlands
 Britta Laslo, Canada
 Amye Leong, United States
 Isabelle Logeart, France
 Kathy Longley, United Kingdom
 Angeles Lopez-Olivo, United States
 Raashid Luqmani, United Kingdom
 Anne Lyddiatt, Canada
 Patricia MacDonald, United States
 Alfred Mahr, France
 Yves Mainguy, France
 Walter Maksymowych, Canada
 Michael Maldonado, United States
 Lyn March, Australia
 Susan Martin, United States
 Juan Antonio Martinez Lopez, Spain
 Lynne Matallana, United States
 Iris Maurstad, Canada
 James May, United States
 Fiona McQueen, New Zealand
 Philip Mease, United States
 Peter Merkel, United States
 Patricia Minnock, Ireland
 Girish Mody, South Africa
 Ingrid Moller Parera, Spain
 Pamela Montie, Canada
 Jessica Morea, United States
 Erin Morris, Canada
 Shephard Mpofu, Switzerland
 Esperanza Naredo, Spain
 Jonathan Nelsen, United States
 Tuhina Neogi, United States
 Stanton Newman, United Kingdom
 Joanna Nicklin, United Kingdom
 Annette O'Connor, Canada

Ewa Olech, United States
Richard Osborne, Australia
Mikkel Ostergaard, Denmark
Robert Palmer, United States
Susanne Juhl Pedersen, Denmark
Fernando Perez-Ruiz, Spain
Charles Peterfy, United States
Michael Peterman, United States
Carlos Pineda, Mexico
Christoph Pohl, Germany
Oana Purcaru, Belgium
Emilia Quattrocchi, United Kingdom
Daniel Radecki, United States
Tamara Rader, Canada
Anne-Christine Rat, France
Alan Reynolds, United Kingdom
Pamela Richards, United Kingdom
Daniel Riddle, United States
Christopher Ritchlin, United States
Terence Rooney, United States
Philip Rudge, United Kingdom
I. Jon Russell, United States
Lesley Ann Saketkoo, United States
Tessa Sanderson, United Kingdom

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Naomi Schlesinger, United States
Wolfgang Schmidt, Germany
Marieke M.J.H Scholte-Voshaar, Netherlands
H. Ralph Schumacher, United States
Philip Seo, United States
John Sharp, United States
Michael Shipley, United Kingdom
Jeffrey Siegel, United States
Stuart Silverman, United States
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Jasvinder Singh, United States
Francisca Sivera Mascaro, Spain
Josef Smolen, Austria
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OMERACT 9 — 9th International Consensus Conference on Outcome Measures in Rheumatology Clinical Trials

OMERACT is an informal international network of health professionals interested in outcome measurement across the spectrum of rheumatology intervention studies. OMERACT strives to improve endpoint outcome measurement through a data-driven, iterative consensus process involving relevant stakeholder groups, who work together on task forces and meet at international gatherings.

The term OMERACT was originally established in 1992 to mean “Outcome Measures in Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinical Trials.” Since then the OMERACT initiative has turned into an international informal network. The acronym has been broadened to now stand for “Outcome Measures in Rheumatology.” Since the first OMERACT meeting was held in The Netherlands 16 years ago, we have circled the globe 8 times and achieved successes that were previously only dreamed of. This year’s conference at the secluded Rocky Mountain Lodge, Kananaskis Village, Alberta, provided the perfect atmosphere for the collegial, interactive, and lively discussions that have characterized OMERACT from its inception (Figure 1).

The OMERACT Executive is delighted at the growth and respect that OMERACT has gained over the years. However, with this unyielding expansion has come the need for creative solutions to the rapid growth caused by this success. One such change is the expansion of the leadership to include a 25-member Steering Group who consult regularly with the executive on difficult issues such as the future structure of OMERACT. Based on their recommendations, OMERACT 9 was restructured to include one module, 4 workshops, and 7 special interest groups meeting at the conference. In addition to these groups, another 7 special interest groups working parallel to the conference presented an update on their progress over the past 2 years.

OMERACT 9 also saw an interesting blend of methods and conditions:

A. Methods

OMERACT Core Sets relevant to more than one condition:

1. Biomarkers and Surrogate Endpoints
 - a. Soluble Biomarkers
 - b. Synovial Tissue Markers
 - c. Imaging
 - i. MRI
 - ii. RA Radiographic Repair / Joint Space Narrowing
 - iii. Ultrasound
2. Economic Evaluation: Indirect Estimates of QALY’s
3. Hip and Knee Arthroplasty
4. International Classification of Function

5. Item Response Theory and Computer Adaptive Testing
6. Patient Perspective
 - a. Fatigue
 - b. Psychosocial Measures
 - c. Sleep
 - d. Effective Consumer Scale
7. Single-joint Response
8. Virtual Total Articular Replacement
9. Work Productivity
10. Drug Safety

B. Disease/Condition-specific:

1. Fibromyalgia Core Set
2. Flares in Rheumatoid Arthritis
3. Gout Core Set
4. Systemic Sclerosis Core Set
5. Vasculitis Core Set

With the support of both the European League Against Rheumatism and the American College of Rheumatology, the immensely successful fellows program was able to run a third time. We expanded this program at OMERACT 9 to provide young researchers with more new and exciting opportunities to get involved, including a special preconference training day on outcome measurement, poster presentations, and daily fellow discussion forums. These fellows are the future of OMERACT researchers and we are very impressed by their enthusiastic contributions.

Apart from researchers and clinicians, end-user groups are also an integral part of the OMERACT family. From very early on the contributions of both industry and patients in the process were seen as invaluable. Industry supports OMERACT financially through a contribution to the Business Advisory Committee, which serves as a consultation platform; however, the program for OMERACT meetings is decided by the Steering Group. It is hoped that through the productive engagement with industry, outcome measures and concerns raised by the working groups will be taken up in trial design by our industry partners. Patients have been actively involved in OMERACT activities since 2000. Their input is essential to decide on the right measurement tools, and their dedication to the process is an example for us all.

OMERACT 9 was another great success thanks to the hard work and dedication of all involved, especially the group leaders who worked relentlessly to put it all together.

We invite you to read the conference proceedings, which will be published in 3 instalments in the coming issues of *The Journal*, and will also be freely accessible via the OMERACT Website at www.omeract.org

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OMERACT 9: International Consensus Conference on Outcome Measures in Rheumatology

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