Prologue: 2018 Annual Meeting of the Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA)

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ABSTRACT. The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and was attended by rheumatologists, dermatologists, and representatives of biopharmaceutical companies and patients. As in previous years, GRAPPA members held a symposium for trainees to discuss their research in psoriatic disease with experts in the field. Other subjects featured during the annual meeting included GRAPPA-Collaborative Research Network's second annual meeting; the association between psoriatic disease and cardiovascular events; updates from working groups in International Dermatology Outcome Measures (IDEOM) and Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT); a 2016 study that benchmarked care in psoriatic arthritis (PsA); the genetic contribution to PsA and strong need for genome-wide association studies on patients with PsA; the GRAPPA Ultrasound Working Group's goal to optimize the evaluation of enthesitis in patients with PsA using ultrasound through the development and validation of new instruments; and an update on GRAPPA's research and educational projects. In this prologue, we introduce the papers that summarize the meeting. (J Rheumatol Suppl. 2019 June;95:1–3; doi:10.3899/jrheum.190112)

Key Indexing Terms:

PSORIASIS
OMERACT

PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS
IDEOM

GRAPPA
OUTCOME MEASURES

The 2018 annual meeting of the Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) was held in July in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and was attended by investigators in rheumatology and dermatology, representatives of biopharmaceutical companies, and patient

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research partners (PRP; Table 1 and Table 2) who discussed individual and collaborative research and educational initiatives in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis (PsA). Currently, there are 951 worldwide GRAPPA members, including investigators in rheumatology and dermatology (n = 650), representatives of biopharmaceutical companies (n = 207), PRP (n = 12), and other members (n = 82). Reports of previous yearly meetings have been published elsewhere^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9}.

A Trainees Symposium was held prior to the annual meeting in which rheumatology and dermatology researcher-trainees from Europe, North America, and South America who are current GRAPPA members or who were nominated by GRAPPA members presented and discussed their studies with experts in the field. A total of 54 abstracts were submitted and ranked by a committee of reviewers. Five trainees with the highest-scored abstracts were invited to deliver oral presentations; all trainees presented posters that outlined key aspects of their research. Dr. Christopher T. Ritchlin (rheumatologist, Rochester, New York, USA) and Dr. Wolf-Henning Boehncke (dermatologist, Geneva, Switzerland) co-chaired the symposium in which GRAPPA members discussed the findings presented by trainees and suggested how trainees might further their current research projects¹⁰.

The GRAPPA-Collaborative Research Network (CRN) held its second annual meeting following the GRAPPA 2018 annual meeting. The GRAPPA-CRN intends to launch and

Table 1. GRAPPA 2018 annual meeting attendance.

Participant Type	Total, n
Dermatologist	24
Rheumatologist	112
PRP	10
Trainees	23
Industry	52
Total	221

GRAPPA: Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis; PRP: Patient research partner.

Table 2. GRAPPA executive and steering committee membership.

Executive Committee	Position
Kristina Callis Duffin	President
Oliver FitzGerald	Vice president and president-elect
Philip S. Helliwell	Immediate past president
Arthur Kavanaugh	Co-treasurer
Philip Mease	Co-treasurer
Alice B. Gottlieb	Member at-large
Publications Committee	Position
Dafna D. Gladman	Co-chair
Alice B. Gottlieb	Co-chair
Niti Goel	Co-chair
Steering Committee	City, Country
Ade Adebajo	Sheffield, UK
April W. Armstrong	Los Angeles, CA, USA
Kristina Callis Duffin	Salt Lake City, UT, USA
Alberto Cauli	Cagliari, Italy
Vinod Chandran	Toronto, ON, Canada
Laura C. Coates	Oxford, UK
Atul A. Deodhar	Portland, OR, USA
Oliver FitzGerald	Dublin, Ireland
Amit Garg	Manhasset, NY, USA
Dafna D. Gladman	Toronto, ON, Canada
Niti Goel	Durham, NC, USA
Alice B. Gottlieb	New York, NY, USA
Philip S. Helliwell	Leeds, UK
Elaine Husni	Cleveland, OH, USA
Arthur Kavanaugh	La Jolla, CA, USA
Philip Mease	Seattle, WA, USA
Joseph F. Merola	Boston, MA, USA
Peter Nash	Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Alexis Ogdie	Philadelphia, PA, USA
Ana-Maria Orbai	Baltimore, MD, USA
Denis O'Sullivan	Dublin, Ireland
Christopher T. Ritchlin	Rochester, NY, USA
Jose Scher	New York, NY, USA
Stefan Siebert	Glasgow, Scotland, UK
Evan Siegel	Rockville, MD, USA
Enrique Soriano	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Vibeke Strand	Portola Valley, CA, USA
Diamant Thaçi	Lubeck, Germany

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

secure funding for 3 pilot projects related to psoriatic disease, i.e., PsA and cutaneous psoriasis (PsC). The first project will aim to identify biomarkers that predict treatment response in PsA and PsC. The second, the PsA Biomarkers for Joint Damage (BioDAM) project, will seek to determine the independent predictive ability of serum biomarkers for joint damage in PsA. The third project will aim to identify predictors of the development of PsA among patients with PsC. These pilot projects will prompt the development of clinical protocols to operate across participating centers, lead to the development of standard operating procedures for the collection and transport of biosamples across international borders, and begin to establish administrative and managerial structures for the CRN¹¹.

In a symposium on the association between psoriatic disease and cardiovascular (CV) events, several GRAPPA members discussed recent data about the association between psoriasis and vascular inflammation, the use of coronary angiogram to investigate CV outcomes, new approaches for CV risk stratification, and the shared pathomechanisms of psoriasis and atherosclerosis¹².

The International Dermatology Outcome Measures (IDEOM) Psoriasis Working Group presented an overview of its efforts to enhance clinical care and research in both the clinical setting as well as in clinical trials for psoriasis. The group discussed the results of a Delphi survey conducted in collaboration with the American Academy of Dermatology to agree on a unique physician-reported global assessment to measure the quality of care delivered to patients with psoriasis and other chronic inflammatory dermatoses. The group then summarized its efforts to select outcome measures for "PsA Symptoms" and "Treatment Satisfaction," 2 of the domains of the psoriasis core domain set that were established by IDEOM. Last, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Clinics Multicenter Advancement Network (PPACMAN) presented an update on its clinical, educational, and research missions to foster the development of combined clinics for psoriatic disease to increase disease awareness and accelerate management¹³.

The GRAPPA-Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT) PsA Working Group reported at the 2018 GRAPPA annual meeting on the outcome of the OMERACT 2018 Conference in Terrigal, Australia. The working group presented the endorsement of the 66/68 joint count for the assessment of peripheral arthritis and the provisional endorsement of the PsA Impact of Disease 12 questionnaire for the assessment of PsA-specific health-related quality of life in PsA randomized controlled trials and observational studies. The group plans to seek OMERACT endorsement for outcome measures that address the domains of physical function and structural damage following the OMERACT Filter 2.1 methodology¹⁴.

In a symposium discussing a 2016 study that benchmarked care in PsA that was conducted by GRAPPA and KPMG LLP,

a key finding was that centers do not usually have processes in place to measure the effect of improved quality of care. During the symposium, several GRAPPA members presented an initial set of concise indicators for best practice in PsA resulting from an integrative literature review, electronic survey, and consensus discussions among an international panel of dermatology and rheumatology experts. These preliminary indicators can serve as benchmarks for delivering quality care in the clinical setting and may enhance the care of patients with psoriatic disease worldwide¹⁵.

In a symposium on the genetic contribution to PsA, several GRAPPA members discussed the strong need for genome-wide association studies on patients with PsA, including PsA-weighted or specific variants, and a need for a better understanding of the relevance of HLA alleles in disease expression¹⁶.

In a symposium on the GRAPPA Ultrasound Working Group's recent work, the group discussed how ultrasound (US) could improve the accuracy of clinical enthesitis assessment. The group set a goal to optimize the evaluation of enthesitis in patients with PsA using US through the development and validation of new instruments that use a combined data-driven and expert opinion-driven approach¹⁷.

Members received updates on several ongoing educational and research efforts. Among them were updates on GRAPPA's PRP; educational initiatives; research efforts, including the trainee symposium, pilot research grants, and the CRN; treatment recommendations; and additional efforts related to advancing the understanding of disease aspects, including the axial project, early PsA systematic literature review, and imaging¹⁸.

At the conclusion of the GRAPPA meeting, members discussed future action items in a business meeting. The next annual meeting will be held in Paris, France, in July 2019.

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