

## *OMERACT Post-Event Press Release*

### **OMERACT 9 CONFERENCE ON OUTCOME MEASURES IN RHEUMATOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS**

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OTTAWA, Canada Opinion leaders, clinicians, patients, and researchers came together for OMERACT 9, which was held from 27 – 31 May 2008 in Kananaskis, Canada, to discuss a myriad of conditions and methods that relate to Outcomes Measures in Rheumatology.

Twelve different research groups presented their findings and in the true spirit of OMERACT strove to improve endpoint outcome measurement through a data driven, iterative alignment process. OMERACT was once again characterized by a commitment to the interactive development of a majority alignment across relevant stakeholder groups on determining relevant health outcome domains and endorsing valid, responsive, feasible health outcome measures/scales in patients with musculoskeletal conditions.

A total of 215 participants from a wide range of disciplines, including Rheumatologists, Allied Health Professionals, Psychologists, and Biostatisticians, attended OMERACT 9. In addition to the Clinicians and Researchers in these fields, we also had a valuable contingent of Patient Participants representing three continents with diseases including Fibromyalgia, Gout, Psoriatic Arthritis, Vasculitis, and Rheumatoid Arthritis. The Fellows Program was once again a rousing success and we look forward to the future research these bright young researchers will undertake. Input from all these stakeholder groups into the wide range of topics that were discussed was invaluable. Topics included both Disease-Specific issues, such as Fibromyalgia, Gout, and Vasculitis, as well as Methods-Specific issues such as The Patients Perspective, Worker Productivity, Soluble Biomarkers, Single Joint Response, Ultrasound, Synovial Tissue, Flares in Rheumatoid Arthritis, and MRI in Inflammatory Arthritis.

The proceedings of this Consensus Conference will be published in the Journal of Rheumatology in early 2009. The results from the consensus voting will also be used to inform future outcomes measures and research agendas.

OMERACT is a group of more than six hundred researchers, patients and clinicians from the non-profit, business, and academic communities around the world who are interested in Outcome Measures in Rheumatology. For more information visit our website at [www.omeract.org](http://www.omeract.org) or e-mail [omeract@uottawa.ca](mailto:omeract@uottawa.ca)