



GRAPPA 2024

Wrapping Up the Year and Exploring Future Directions

In this year-end newsletter, discover key highlights from 2024, including an interview with Y-GRAPPA Chair André Ribeiro, updates from Y-GRAPPA subgroups, abstract deadlines, and pearls from 'Psoriasis: from Gene to Clinic'. Let's wrap up the year and look ahead to 2025!



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Spotlight Interview: André Ribeiro, Chair of Y-GRAPPA

Our newsletter team interviewed André Ribeiro, Chair of Y GRAPPA, with Flavia Sunzini leading the discussion. We asked him about his journey, goals, and vision for the group. Here are some key questions and a summary of his thoughtful responses. If you'd like to watch the full interview, you can find it [here](#).



Why did you choose to focus on psoriatic arthritis?

"I've always felt PsA was overlooked, with much of the knowledge extrapolated from other diseases like ankylosing spondylitis or rheumatoid arthritis. It's such a complex and impactful disease that deserves its own spotlight, and it's exciting to see it gaining more attention in recent years."

What's the most exciting advance or challenge in PsA research today?

"I'm fascinated by advances in "omics" and the role of ultrasound in improving treatment and understanding of the disease. A major challenge remains addressing all domains of PsA simultaneously, which is still difficult to achieve."

How do you feel about stepping into a leadership role?

"I'm thrilled! This role allows me to push some of my ideas and bring visibility to low-income countries to encourage greater participation. At the same time, I feel some pressure because my predecessor, Fabian, did an excellent job. My main goal is to expand GRAPPA's global presence and foster more collaboration."

Your advice to Young GRAPPA members?

"Stay curious. As Einstein said, 'A mind open to new ideas never returns to its original size.' Keep asking questions and learning to drive progress."



Updates from Y-GRAPPA Subgroups



Research group

The Y-GRAPPA research group is dedicated to involving our members in various research projects within the GRAPPA community. Recently, several Y-GRAPPA members have actively contributed to projects like the Difficult to Treat (D2T) initiative, showcasing the importance of your engagement in these efforts. In addition to this ongoing involvement, we are excited to announce that **we are taking the first steps to establish our own research project focused on global usage and preferences regarding PsA disease activity assessment tools**. This questionnaire-based study aims to explore the differences in the use of assessment tools across various regions. We will keep you updated on our progress and look forward to your contributions and insights. Stay tuned for more information!

Michelle Mulder

Membership group

Y-GRAPPA has announced a reorganization to enhance member benefits and engagement, introducing **eight specialized committees**: Membership, Education, Networking, Website, Research, Social Media, Newsletter, and the Derm-Rheum Committee.

This new structure features four members per committee serving three-year terms, fostering leadership development and networking with experts. Committee members will take on responsibilities like covering GRAPPA congress highlights and contributing to Y-GRAPPA initiatives, with opportunities to transition between committees annually for diverse experiences. Members will gain **priority access to GRAPPA publications, eligibility for projects, and preferential consideration for Annual Meeting attendance**. Stay tuned for the announcement of new committee members!

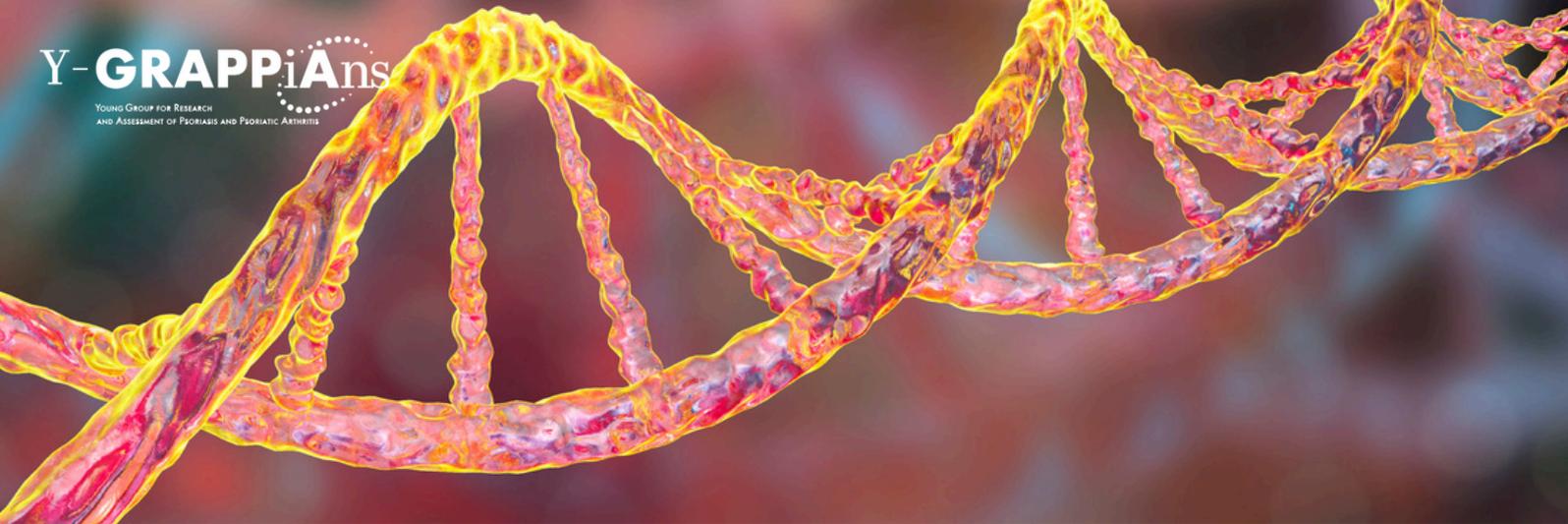
Vincenzo Venerito



SoMe group

The Y-GRAPPA social media group has played a crucial role in enhancing GRAPPA's online presence across platforms such as LinkedIn, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and Facebook. **This year, we are thrilled to introduce two key initiatives**: the **#GRAPPA Spotlight** series, which will feature 90-second videos to showcase Y-GRAPPA initiatives and committee activities, and **#GRAPPA InDepth**, which will highlight important publications on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Additionally, we will continue to share educational content, provide coverage of major congresses, and collaborate with committees to engage the community and strengthen connections within the GRAPPA network.

Daniela Tovar



Pearls From “Psoriasis: from Gene to Clinic”

Dr. Ahmet Uğur ATILAN

Assistant Professor of Dermatology

Pamukkale University, Denizli, Türkiye (Turkey)

In the last month of the year, an exceptional congress on psoriatic disease took place in London, “Psoriasis: from Gene to Clinic”. I would like to briefly share two exciting studies from this seminal event, where groundbreaking advances in psoriasis science were discussed.

The first study, presented by Blandine Caël et al. from France (Abstract citation ID: ljae360.008 FC08 Characterization of plasmacytoid dendritic cells-targeted CAR-T cells from patients with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases), explored the innovative use of CAR-T cells in psoriasis and other immune-mediated chronic inflammatory diseases (1). Following the successful application of CAR-T cell therapy in systemic lupus erythematosus, the potential for this transformative therapy in other autoimmune diseases is now coming into focus (2). Plasmacytoid dendritic cells, which exhibit high expression of CD123, play a vital role in the pathogenesis of psoriasis by releasing significant amounts of IFN-I (3).



This study aimed to unveil the phenotypic and functional prowess of CD123 CAR-T cells in vitro, utilizing T cells from patients with various chronic inflammatory diseases such as psoriasis, systemic sclerosis, hidradenitis suppurativa, and systemic lupus erythematosus. T cells were collected from the peripheral blood of both patients and healthy controls and were later transformed to express a third-generation CD123 CAR (CAR123). Both patient-derived and healthy control-derived CAR123 effectively lysed autologous plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs), showcasing sustained in vitro cytotoxic activity. They also demonstrated their remarkable ability to secrete Th1-type cytokines such as IFN- γ and TNF- α after engaging with their targets. These preliminary results are significant as they represent an important first step toward translating CAR-T cell therapy into the management of psoriatic disease.

Cell-based therapies are showing significant promise for psoriasis patients resistant to current treatment options.

Another critical study I would like to discuss was presented by Su Mar Lwin et al. from the United Kingdom (Abstract citation ID: ljae360.009 FC09), which explored the clinical and immunomodulatory effects of mesenchymal stromal cells in patients facing biologic-refractory psoriasis (4).

Mesenchymal stromal cells (MSCs) are recognized for their immunomodulatory and hypoimmunogenic properties, showing potential in treating chronic inflammatory diseases (5). While many psoriasis patients can achieve effective results with the new treatment armamentarium, some still face resistance to all current therapies.

In this study, researchers administered allogeneic umbilical cord-derived MSCs (UC-MSCs) intravenously to three patients, all resistant to at least five different biological therapies. The treatment was not only well tolerated but also brought about noteworthy changes; in addition to the improvement in PASI scores with UC-MSC administration alone, two patients achieved a PASI response of over 90% after switching to previously ineffective biologic therapies, and this response was maintained for more than a year. Flow cytometry of peripheral blood mononuclear cells revealed significant shifts in regulatory T cells, monocytes, and pathogenic T cells. This pivotal study underscores the promise of cell-based therapies as a beacon of hope for psoriasis patients.

More details of these studies and abstracts from hundreds of other inspiring studies can be found in the British Journal of Dermatology, Volume 191, Supplement 3, December 2024. The ever-evolving field of psoriatic science fuels our excitement, bringing us closer to a future free from the burden of psoriatic disease. See you in the next newsletter!

- 1.FC08 Characterization of plasmacytoid dendritic cells-targeted CAR-T cells from patients with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases. British Journal of Dermatology. 2024;191(Supplement_3).
- 2.Mougiakakos D, Krönke G, Völkl S, Kretschmann S, Aigner M, Kharboutli S, et al. CD19-Targeted CAR T Cells in Refractory Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. N Engl J Med. 2021;385(6):567-9.
- 3.Wang A, Bai Y. Dendritic cells: The driver of psoriasis. The Journal of dermatology. 2020;47(2):104-13.
- 4.FC09 Clinical and immunomodulatory effects of mesenchymal stromal cells in multiple biologic-refractory psoriasis. British Journal of Dermatology. 2024;191(Supplement_3).
- 5.Paganelli A, Tarentini E, Benassi L, Kaleci S, Magnoni C. Mesenchymal stem cells for the treatment of psoriasis: a comprehensive review. Clinical and Experimental Dermatology. 2020;45(7):824-30.

Share Your Research at GRAPPA 2025!

Call for Abstracts

July 10-12, 2025 | Bogotá, Colombia

 Abstract Submission Deadline: 10 January- 2 March 2025

Abstract Categories:

- Basic Research
- Translational Research
- Clinical Research
- Systematic Literature Review

Opportunities to Participate:

- Oral Presentations: Up to 5 trainees will be selected to present their research in 8-10 minute sessions, followed by discussion.
- Poster Presentations: Up to 20 trainees will have the opportunity to present and discuss their findings during designated sessions.

 More Information and Abstract Submission:

[Abstract Submission Platform](#)
[Official Call for Abstracts \(PDF\)](#)

ANNUAL MEETING
& TRAINEE SYMPOSIUM 2025

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA
JULY 10-12

Key Dermatology Conference Submission Deadlines

| Annual Meeting | Abstract Submission Date | Location | Date of the Event |
|---|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| 2025 AAD Annual Meeting | Deadline for Late-Breaking Research Abstracts: 08.01.2025 | Orlando, Florida, USA | 7-11 March 2025 |
| 10th INDERCOS | Deadline: 30 March 2025 | İstanbul, Türkiye | 17-20 April 2025 |
| EADV Spring Symposium | 11 December 2024- 6 February 2025 | Prague, Czech Republic | 22-24 May 2025 |
| ICD 2025 | 15 February - 29 October 2024 | Rome, Italy | 18-21 June 2025 |
| 104th Annual Meeting of the British Association of Dermatologists | Deadline: 10 January 2025 | Glasgow, Scotland, UK | 1-3 July 2025 |
| 2025 AAD Innovation Academy | Registration will open in March 2025 | Chicago, Illinois, USA | 10-13 July 2025 |
| EADV Congress | Abstract submission are not open yet | Paris, France | 17-20 Sept. 2025 |

Key Rheumatology Conference Submission Deadlines

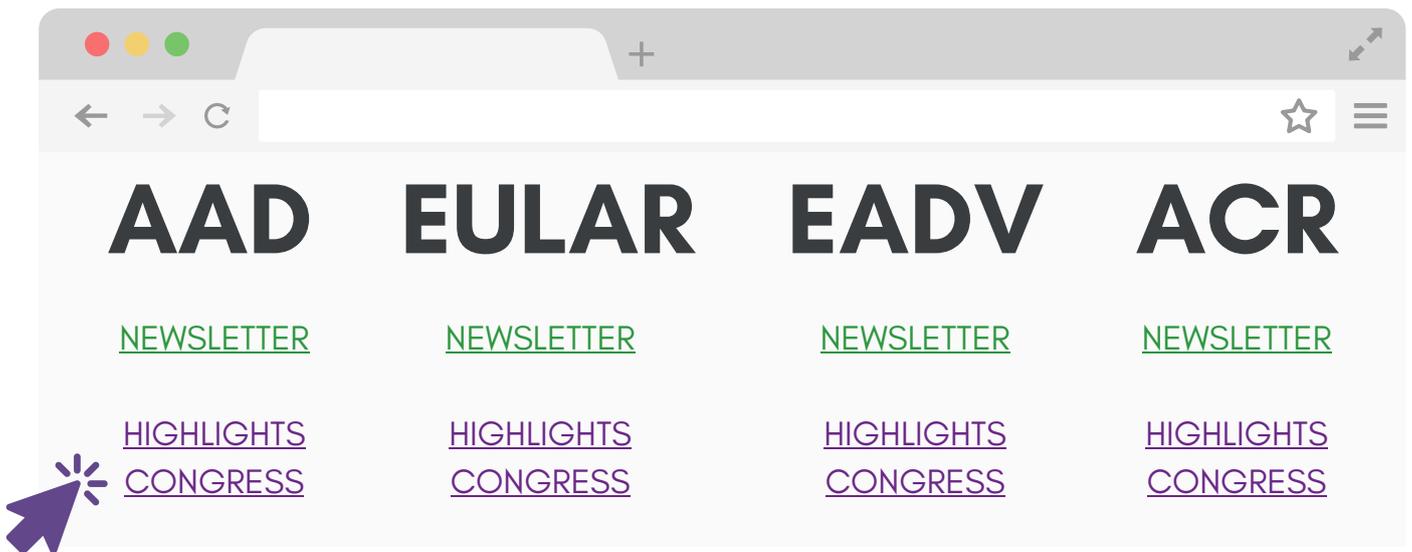
| Annual Meeting | Abstract Submission Date | Location | Date of the Event |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| PANLAR 2025 | Deadline: 30 December 2024 | Mexico City, Mexico | 23-26 April 2025 |
| EULAR 2025 | 1 October 2024-15 January 2025 | Barcelona, Spain | 11-14 June 2025 |
| APLAR 2025 | 21 August 2024-28 March 2025 | Fukuoka, Japan | 3-7 September 2025 |
| ACR Convergence 2025 | To Be Announced | Chicago, USA | 24-29 October 2025 |





Year-End Recap: Highlights and Resources from **Y-GRAPPA**

As we end the year, we invite you to revisit key moments from 2024. Check out the links to congress highlights and newsletters from Young GRAPPA to stay informed about psoriatic disease developments



ANNUAL MEETING

The **GRAPPA Annual Meeting and Trainee Symposium** was packed with engaging discussions and valuable insights into psoriatic disease. From keynote addresses on challenges and opportunities in psoriatic disease to debates on clinical enthesitis indices and practical workshops on managing cardiovascular issues and GLP-1 agonists, the meeting offered something for everyone. Don't miss the chance to revisit these **sessions on demand** and explore the latest updates in the GRAPPA **Newsletter**, featuring highlights from the trainee symposium, pilot research grants, election results, and more



Thank you for being part of the Young GRAPPA community. Together, we're shaping the future of psoriatic disease research and care

See you in 2025 for more exciting initiatives and collaborations!

Y-GRAPPiAns
YOUNG GROUP FOR RESEARCH
AND ASSESSMENT OF PSORIASIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS

