

Terms of Reference:

Patient Research Partner Support Team

PURPOSE: The OMERACT Patient Research Partner (PRP) Support Team is a volunteer led committee that serves as an integral part of OMERACT, providing guidance and support to patient research partners involved in the organization. The team is responsible for promoting meaningful patient engagement, enhancing communication and collaboration, and ensuring that the perspectives of patient research partners are effectively represented within OMERACT. The PRP Support Team is composed of 5 group members including the chair who sits on the OMERACT Management Group.

TERM: The members on the PRP Support Team serve on the team for a maximum of 6 years (3 OMERACT biennial conferences). The members shall rotate off the team after 6 years, the rotation shall be established in 2024 by consensus of the team.

MEMBERSHIP: The team will consist of patient research partners who have actively participated in OMERACT activities and demonstrated a commitment to patient-centered research. Membership will be based on a selection process that ensures international representation, diversity, and expertise across relevant areas.

MEETINGS: The team will convene regular meetings to discuss ongoing initiatives, share experiences, and provide support to patient research partners. The frequency of meetings will be determined based on the needs and availability of the team members.

ACCOUNTABILITIES:

1. Develop strategies and initiatives that promote effective patient engagement and contribute to the overall goals of OMERACT.
2. Provide guidance and support to patient research partners participating in OMERACT activities, ensuring their meaningful engagement and involvement throughout the process.
3. Facilitate communication and collaboration among patient research partners, fostering a supportive network that encourages knowledge sharing and mutual learning.
4. Advocate for the perspectives and needs of patient research partners within OMERACT, ensuring their voices are heard and valued in decision-making processes.
5. Contribute to the development and implementation of training and educational resources for patient research partners, aimed at enhancing their skills and understanding of research processes.
6. Maintain open lines of communication with OMERACT members and collaborators to address any concerns, identify opportunities for improvement, and provide recommendations for action.
7. Uphold the principles of the Spirit of OMERACT, fostering a respectful, inclusive, and collaborative environment for all members.

DELIVERABLES

1. On an annual basis, the PRP Support Team will call a meeting to review the activities of the previous year and develop a report and prepare a plan for activities for the coming year
2. Collaborative initiatives and projects that enhance patient engagement within OMERACT.
3. Documentation of best practices and resources for patient research partners.
4. Contributions to OMERACT reports and publications, ensuring the perspectives of patient research partners are appropriately represented.

PROPOSED EXPECTED ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINES (to be developed)

- 1-hour monthly calls

Note: These Terms of Reference are a guide and may be reviewed and updated as needed to ensure that the Patient Research Support Team remains effective in fulfilling its responsibilities.