

## OMERACT COMPOSITE MEASURE DEVELOPMENT OR VALIDATION WORK PLAN

### WORKING GROUP:

*OMERACT has established a structured "OMERACT Pathway" for developing or validating composite measures, guiding working groups through the process and ensuring alignment with OMERACT guidelines. While we encourage adherence to these methods, any group choosing to deviate must provide a detailed protocol, ensuring that all modifications are documented before proceeding with the research.*

### **Please select one of the following two options:**

1. Our working group has reviewed the methods described in the OMERACT Composites Working Group publications and will follow the OMERACT approach, including:
  - **Defining the Target Concept.**  
Clearly define the health-related concept the composite outcome will measure, such as disease activity or flare. This involves conducting inductive research, like qualitative interviews, and engaging key collaborators—PRPs, clinicians, and researchers—to capture all relevant domains and ensure a comprehensive understanding.
  - **Identifying Domains/Components.**  
Identify the domains/components and their detailed definitions that should be included in the composite.
  - **Identify Instruments for Each Domain.**  
Select a good quality instrument for each domain.
  - **Weight the Domains.**  
Assign a weight to the individual components of the composite outcome to reflect their relative importance. Use structured methods such as discrete choice experiments, Delphi panels, or conjoint analysis to determine the weights. Perform weighting exercises involving collaborators to reach a consensus on the relative importance of each domain. Analyze the variability in domain weights to understand the impact on the composite score
  - **Put it through the OMERACT Filter.**  
Ensure the composite measure meets OMERACT's criteria for truth, discrimination, and feasibility.
  - **Endorsement.**  
Present the composite and validation results to the OMERACT community.
2. Our working group has reviewed the methods described in the OMERACT Composites Working Group publications and has decided to follow something other than those described. We will submit our modified plans to be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Group.

Date of Submission