

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS OMERACT 2027 PATIENT RESEARCH PARTNER (PRP) APPLICATION

### 1. ABOUT OMERACT AND THE PRP PROGRAM

#### WHAT IS OMERACT?

OMERACT (Outcome Measures in Rheumatology) is an international, consensus-driven initiative dedicated to improving how outcomes are identified, measured, and interpreted in rheumatology and musculoskeletal research. OMERACT brings together researchers, clinicians, Patient Research Partners (PRPs), industry representatives, regulators, and other stakeholders to ensure that outcomes are meaningful, valid, and relevant to people living with these conditions.

To learn more about OMERACT's mission, structure, and ways of working, visit the OMERACT website at <https://omeract.org/>. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to complete the OMER-ED learning module, *An Overview of What OMERACT Is and How We Work*, available at <https://omeract.org/elearning/>, as part of their preparation for participating in OMERACT activities.

#### WHAT IS OMERACT 2027?

OMERACT 2027 is an in-person international conference taking place **May 19–23, 2027 in Toronto, Canada** at the [Kingbridge Centre](#). The conference includes plenary sessions, Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings, and collaborative discussions focused on advancing outcome measurement science.

Further details about the OMERACT 2027 conference, including the venue, program overview, and key dates, can be found on the OMERACT 2027 conference website: <https://omeract.org/om2027/>

#### WHO IS AN OMERACT PATIENT RESEARCH PARTNER (PRP)?

A Patient Research Partner is an individual with lived experience of a rheumatic or musculoskeletal condition, or who represents patients in another formal capacity, and who actively collaborates as an equal partner in research discussions. PRPs contribute lived experience to ensure research priorities and outcomes reflect what matters most to patients.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY AND WHO SHOULD APPLY

#### WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications are welcome from individuals with lived experience of rheumatic or musculoskeletal conditions, individuals who care for someone with a rheumatic or musculoskeletal condition, experienced OMERACT PRPs, and those new to OMERACT who are ready to engage meaningfully.

#### DO I NEED PRIOR OMERACT EXPERIENCE?

No. Prior experience with OMERACT is not required. Applications are reviewed holistically, and readiness, motivation, and potential contribution are valued alongside experience.

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I'M NOT SURE I'M EXPERIENCED ENOUGH. SHOULD I APPLY?

Yes. The PRP cohort intentionally includes a mix of experience levels. Training, preparation, and mentorship are provided to support participation.

### 3. APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

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WHEN IS THE APPLICATION OPEN?

Applications are accepted from **March 1 to March 31, 2026** and will go live at <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/OM2027PRPApp>

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HOW LONG DOES THE APPLICATION TAKE?

The application takes approximately 30 minutes to complete and can be saved and resumed.

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WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED IN THE APPLICATION?

The application includes sections on:

- Background and representation
- PRP experience, motivation, and potential contribution
- Skills, strengths, and networks
- OMERACT involvement and preparation
- Letter of support
- Expectations and commitments

All sections are considered together as part of a holistic review.

### 4. REVIEW AND SELECTION

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WHO REVIEWS APPLICATIONS?

Applications are reviewed by a committee that includes the Chair of the OMERACT PRP Advisory Council and selected representatives from OMERACT leadership.

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HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

Applications are reviewed holistically. No single response, characteristic, or experience guarantees selection. Decisions consider both individual applications and the overall balance and needs of the PRP cohort, including diversity of geography, disease representation, and experience.

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## WHAT IF I AM NOT SELECTED?

Not being selected:

- Does **not** reflect a lack of merit
- Does **not** prevent future involvement with OMERACT

Due to limited resources, not all qualified applicants can be supported through central OMERACT funding.

## 5. FUNDING AND TRAVEL

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### DOES OMERACT PROVIDE FUNDING?

Some PRPs are supported through central OMERACT funding, which may cover registration, accommodation, meals, and eligible travel expenses. Funding is limited.

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### CAN I ATTEND IF I AM NOT FUNDED?

Yes. PRPs may still attend OMERACT 2027 through:

- Support from an OMERACT Working Group
- External funding or sponsorship
- Self-funding

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### WHO BOOKS TRAVEL?

For centrally funded PRPs, OMERACT books travel on their behalf in accordance with the PRP Travel Policy.

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### WHAT TRAVEL COSTS ARE COVERED?

Eligible expenses generally include:

- Economy or premium economy airfare (business class is not covered)
- Ground transportation related to conference travel
- One checked bag
- Visa and passport fees required for travel

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### WHAT EXPENSES ARE NOT COVERED?

OMERACT does not reimburse:

- Personal or non-conference-related expenses
- Airline lounges, loyalty program fees, or upgrades purchased with points
- Expenses related to companions or family members
- Fines, penalties, or personal entertainment
- Health insurance

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## CAN I COMBINE PERSONAL TRAVEL WITH OMERACT TRAVEL?

Yes, but reimbursement will only cover the portion related to OMERACT travel. This is assessed using airfare quotes obtained at the time of booking.

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## DO I NEED A VISA?

Visa requirements depend on citizenship and country of residence. PRPs are responsible for ensuring they meet Canadian entry requirements.

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## WILL OMERACT PROVIDE VISA SUPPORT LETTERS?

Yes. Selected PRPs may request an official invitation letter to support visa applications.

## 7. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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### IS A LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUIRED?

Yes. A letter of support is required as part of the OMERACT 2027 Patient Research Partner (PRP) application. Letters help the review committee understand your engagement with OMERACT, your contributions, and your readiness to participate in an in-person conference.

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### WHO SHOULD WRITE THE LETTER?

Letters are typically provided by an OMERACT Working Group Co-Chair relevant external organization may provide a letter if you are not yet affiliated with an OMERACT Working Group.

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### WHAT SHOULD THE LETTER INCLUDE?

The letter should confirm engagement, describe contributions and strengths, comment on readiness for OMERACT 2027, and clearly support the application.

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### WHAT DOES NOT NEED TO BE INCLUDED?

CVs, confidential health information, or repetition of the full application.

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### HOW IS THE LETTER SUBMITTED?

Letters may be uploaded in the application or emailed to [admin@omeract.org](mailto:admin@omeract.org) by March 31, 2026.

## 8. EXPECTATIONS AND COMMITMENTS

### WHAT AM I COMMITTING TO?

By applying, PRPs acknowledge and agree to:

- Complete pre-conference preparation and learning modules
- Participate actively in assigned conference sessions
- Engage respectfully and collaboratively
- Provide feedback and share learnings after the conference

You will be asked to formally confirm these commitments within the application.

### WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A PRP BEYOND ATTENDING SESSIONS?

PRPs play an active role in the research process. Responsibilities include:

- Bringing lived experience perspectives to discussions
- Collaborating respectfully with researchers and other PRPs
- Contributing to surveys, Delphi studies, and other research activities
- Supporting dissemination of findings through presentations, publications, or community sharing

PRPs are guided by principles of respect, confidentiality, inclusivity, and mutual support. Sharing lived experience honestly and courageously is encouraged, while remaining mindful of personal health and well-being.

### WHAT WILL THE CONFERENCE BE LIKE?

OMERACT conferences are full and engaging. Days can be long, and pacing yourself is encouraged. You will receive:

- A personalized program
- Pre-reading and preparatory materials
- Opportunities for networking and informal discussion

Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the OMER-ED learning module, *What to Expect at an OMERACT Conference*, available at <https://omeract.org/elearning/>, as part of their preparation for participating in OMERACT activities.

### DO I NEED TO ATTEND EVERY SESSION?

PRPs receive a personalized program highlighting required sessions. Flexibility is recognized, particularly for health or accessibility needs.

## 9. ACCESSIBILITY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING

### WHAT IF I HAVE ACCESSIBILITY OR HEALTH NEEDS?

OMERACT is committed to inclusive participation. Applicants will have opportunities to share accessibility needs, and the PRP Advisory Council works to provide accommodations where possible.

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## WHAT IF I FEEL OVERWHELMED DURING THE CONFERENCE?

If you feel overwhelmed or need to step away from a session, you are encouraged to inform a member of the PRP Advisory Council. Support, flexibility, and pacing are actively encouraged.

## 10. PREPARATION AND SUPPORT

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### WILL THERE BE PREPARATION BEFORE THE CONFERENCE?

Yes. Selected PRPs will receive:

- Pre-reading materials and videos
- Access to OMER-ED learning modules
- Orientation and guidance from the PRP Advisory Council

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### IS MENTORSHIP AVAILABLE?

Yes. Experienced PRPs mentor newer PRPs, and peer support is encouraged throughout the conference.

## 11. PRP APPLICATION Q&A SESSION

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### IS THERE AN INFORMATION SESSION?

**Date:** Tuesday February 17, 2026 **Time:** 2:30–3:30 PM (America/Toronto) [Find your local time](#)

Join us for an informal Q&A session for individuals interested in applying as a **Patient Research Partner (PRP)** for the OMERACT 2027 in-person conference.

During this session, members of the OMERACT PRP Advisory Council will:

- Walk through the PRP application process
- Explain what the review committee looks for in a strong application
- Clarify eligibility, expectations, and letters of support
- Answer questions from prospective applicants

This session is optional but strongly encouraged, particularly for first-time applicants or those new to OMERACT.

You can register for the session here: <https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/meeting/register/QuyP95xfT4eZWcDfL9yFZA>

## 12. TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

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### CAN I APPLY ON MY PHONE?

The application is designed for computer use. Mobile devices may cause technical issues.

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### WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

Please contact [admin@omeract.org](mailto:admin@omeract.org)