



# Jim Schrijvers

**2017 OARSI Collaborative  
Scholarship Recipient**



# Summary

The OARSI collaborative scholarship granted me the opportunity to visit the Joint Action Research Lab of Dr. Derek Rutherford at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada. Our gait research group (VU medical center, Amsterdam) and the research group of Derek Rutherford are collaborating since 2012 and are both performing similar (perturbed) gait studies in patients with knee osteoarthritis (OA).

The primary objective of this scholarship was to further align our knee OA gait investigations and understand the potential for cross institution research collaborations between the VUmc and Dalhousie University (DAL). To do this, we evaluated (during the visit) the comparison of 55 knee OA gait datasets from DAL with 40 knee OA gait datasets from VUmc previously collected at both laboratories. Systematic offsets were present between the laboratories, which may have implications for interpreting knee function in knee OA patients. Therefore we started with the harmonization of our gait analysis protocols. Currently we are collaborating on an article with the results of this scholarship, which will be published next year in a peer-reviewed journal. Besides this, we are also making future plans to further align our knee OA gait investigations, enabling the opportunity to merge gait data between our laboratories and maybe even perform an international multi-center study.

As a PhD student, it was a great experience to visit a different gait research lab. I have learned a lot from Derek and his team, for example I learned a new technique to analyze gait data (Principal component analysis) and collaborating on an international level. Besides this, living in a different country and working in different laboratory helps you to become a more independent researcher. Therefore, I definitely recommend anyone to go abroad to visit a different research group if they have the opportunity to do so.

All and all, I like to thank OARSI for giving me this opportunity. It really provided inspiration for my own PhD project and it helped in establishing a great collaboration with the research group of Dr. Derek Rutherford.



Jim Schrijvers at the Joint Research Lab and with the project team of Derek Rutherford

