OARSI – Discussion Group Activity

Towards the development of international classification criteria for Spinal Osteoarthritis

When: 25/04/2025 at 12.30 pm

Duration: 90 minutes

Chairs: Prof Chris Little and Prof Manuela Ferreira

Low back pain (LBP) and joint pain from osteoarthritis (OA) are highly prevalent and poorly managed clinical presentations. In the absence of an identified and specific source of pain (e.g. fracture, cancer, axial spondyloarthritis), most patients are told they have non-specific spinal pain, possibly resulting in feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. This label is also often thought to drive the current 'one size fits all' treatment approach of non-specific? LBP. One of the outcomes of the 2024 OARSI Spinal OA Discussion Group meeting was identifying the need to reliably detect subgroups of patients with LBP who might respond better to specific treatments, and whose symptoms and signs would align with those of peripheral joint OA. It was decided that an International Steering Committee of experts in OA, LBP, imaging, criteria development methodology, as well as consumer representatives, would be assembled with the goal of developing international classification criteria for spinal OA. This Committee initiated some work in 2024 and decided that the initial focus should be on the development of **symptomatic and structural** classification criteria for **research purposes**. At a later stage, classification/diagnostic criteria would be developed for clinical purposes. The 2025 OARSI Spinal OA Discussion Group will host the first face to face meeting of our International Steering Committee, when the next steps in developing classification criteria for spinal OA will be discussed.

The guided panel discussion will be preceded by 3x10-minute presentation of existing classification criteria developed by other groups followed by 5-minute Q&A. This will be followed by a brief discussion of the main specific challenges in developing classification criteria for Spinal OA. One invited speaker will introduce the initial plans (with their relative challenges) to develop classification criteria for spinal OA, while the other two invited speakers will discuss their experiences in the development of classification criteria for peripheral joints OA.

1. Towards the development of the international spinal OA classification criteria. Presenter: Dr Alessandro Chiarotto
2. The Development of the OARSI Early-Stage Knee Osteoarthritis classification criteria. Presenter: Prof Lauren King
3. The Development of the EULAR Hand Osteoarthritis classification criteria. Presenter: Prof Ida Haugen – bilateraterally and structural vs clinical

The presenters will then be joined by the following panellists to hold a guided and moderated discussion (40 minutes):

1. Prof Chris Little
2. Prof Sita Bierma-Zeinstra
3. Prof Jeff Katz
4. Prof Mohit Kapoor
5. Prof Raja Rampersaud
6. Prof Amanda Nelson

7. Prof Manuela Ferreira
8. Dr James Young
9. Dr Mesa Teraguchi
10. Prof Felix Eckstein
11. Prof Frances Williams (online)
12. Prof Nadine Foster (online)
13. Prof Fabianna Moraleida (online)

Meeting closing and final remarks: Prof Manuela Ferreira and Prof Chris Little (5 minutes).