

Strategic plan

British Society for Rheumatology



2014 - 2017

The voice of rheumatology



Foreword

The increasing prevalence of chronic disease in the UK and across Europe accounts for 70% to 80% of healthcare costs.¹ This trend threatens both the quality of life of individuals and the ability of the healthcare systems to cope with their demands.

Rheumatic diseases, arthritis and other diseases of the muscles, joints and bones number over 200 conditions. The spectrum is broad – inflammatory and autoimmune rheumatic disease can be severe, causing joint and organ destruction, severe pain, disability and even death.

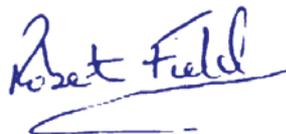
Innovative practice in rheumatology and musculoskeletal services, based on robust evidence, must be embedded throughout the NHS in order to address the significant challenges currently facing the service. In a climate of financial constraint, service reconfiguration and revolutionary drug advances have already begun to transform the treatment and care of rheumatic conditions.

At the heart of meeting these challenges and helping people along the entire spectrum of rheumatic disease management are rheumatologists and the multidisciplinary team. Rheumatologists are experts in diagnosis, complex drug treatment and care for common and rare conditions and, where appropriate, the referral of patients to other health professionals.

The British Society for Rheumatology² works with these clinicians to promote excellence in the treatment and management of people with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, and acts to transform healthcare across borders to deliver safe, patient-centred and co-ordinated care through new ways of working, new technology and world class clinical leadership.



Dr Chris Deighton, BSR President



Mr Robert Field, BHPR President



Mrs Laura Guest, BSR Chief Executive

¹ European Public Health Alliance

² Further information about BSR's work, along with background information on arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, can be found at www.rheumatology.org.uk

About us

The British Society for Rheumatology is a professional, multi-disciplinary, clinically led society representing healthcare professional members in rheumatology and musculoskeletal services in the UK and across the globe. Our members, following the integration with British Health Professionals in Rheumatology, include consultant rheumatologists, trainees, GPs and allied health professionals (AHPs). BSR has a regionalised structure, with elected members across the UK, who work with commissioners to inform service design. Our activities include:



Guidelines and education

- Setting and monitoring standards of care through the production of NICE accredited guidelines
- Hosting a national conference
- Providing e-learning and educational courses

BSR Biologics Register

- Promoting research, including through ownership of the largest rheumatoid arthritis biologics register in the world
- Overseeing the ankylosing spondylitis register, launched in 2012

International journal

- Publishing a leading international journal – *Rheumatology* – overseen by an independent editorial team

HQIP national audit

- Managing the implementation of the HQIP national audit in rheumatoid and early inflammatory arthritis, a three-year project working with the Medical Research Council, aiming to deliver improved outcomes for patients

Influencing stakeholders

- Campaigning for early diagnosis and treatment, advising government and parliament, and taking part in national debates on medical, clinical and health professional issues

Rheumatology Commissioning Support Alliance

- Offering support and tools to commissioning bodies, along with advice and guidance to medical organisations and providers, through this collaboration between BSR, National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society and Arthritis Care.



Our vision

A world in which arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions are diagnosed early, treated effectively, and prevented where possible

Our mission

To promote excellence in the treatment of people with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions and to support those delivering it

Our core values

Professionalism

We are committed to supporting our members in their work by providing them with high-quality professional services.

Service to members

We approach our work with enthusiasm and take pride in achieving consistently high standards in everything we do.

We are:

- **Transparent** - We work openly, honestly and independently
- **Innovative** - We look for new ways of doing things and challenge the status quo
- **Collaborative** - We share and disseminate knowledge and best practice
- **Patient driven** - We work in partnership with patients
- **Passionate** - We believe we can make a difference
- **Ethical** - We work with integrity



Our strategic aims

To improve awareness and understanding of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions and highlight the role played by the multi-disciplinary rheumatology team in delivering high quality care to patients

Build a clear identity for rheumatology, through targeted campaigns to raise the profile of the specialty and our members as clinical experts

Promote and enable primary prevention, and secondary prevention through early diagnosis and treatment

Support patient organisations in providing accessible information to patients

Support primary care to improve the training and education of general practitioners in musculoskeletal medicine

To make it easier for patients, clinicians and policy makers around the world to obtain the depth and quality of information they need on rheumatology

Create a multi-faceted learning and education hub to firmly establish BSR as the first-choice destination for everything to do with rheumatology, in the UK and across the world

Develop and promote a range of services, including the journal, peer review scheme, clinical guidelines, biologics register, research and national audit, to enable clinicians, researchers and others in the UK and abroad to improve patient outcomes

Develop and promote our evidence-based policy advice

To develop and promote standards of excellence to transform patient care and improve outcomes

Highlight and disseminate leading edge service models and patient focused pathways, based on robust research

Develop clinical measurements and standards best suited for chronic, complex care

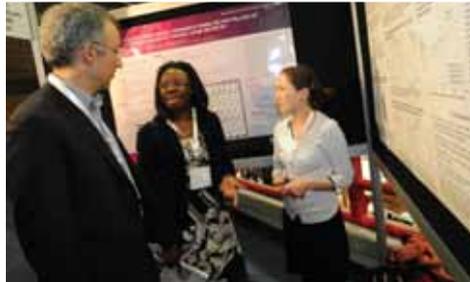
Support national indicators as the basis for continuous quality improvement

To support our members in continually developing their professional effectiveness to improve outcomes for patients

Enhance our network by growing our medical, AHP and international memberships and strengthen localisation through the development of our regional structures

Continually improve the range and accessibility of our information services (networking, conferences and events)

Promote clinical leadership and actively build relationships between commissioners, managers and clinicians





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