

## **BRITISH SOCIETY FOR RHEUMATOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN – 2009 TO 2013**

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

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

### **Aim 1: To improve standards of care in rheumatology.**

#### **Objectives**

1. To provide strong clinical leadership on matters affecting practice.
2. To support rheumatologists in maintaining and improving clinical standards across all care settings.
3. To ensure rheumatologists have access to the appropriate clinical guidance, tools and information necessary to deliver high quality care.
4. To support recognition of members' achievements through clinical excellence awards.

*Activity example: Proactively feeding members' expertise into appraisals and other consultations affecting day to day practice.*

### **Aim 2: To secure a high priority for rheumatology services.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. To influence decision-making, at a national level, so that rheumatologists can offer the best available treatments.
2. To establish the society as an independent expert voice for rheumatology, in order to push arthritis and musculoskeletal issues further up the political agenda.
3. To work with others in our field to raise awareness of the need for high quality services.
4. To encourage and support rheumatologists to take on leadership roles at a local level.

*Activity example: Developing and maintaining links with the media, parliamentarians and other opinion formers.*

### **Aim 3: To enhance the skills of the rheumatology team through education and professional development opportunities.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. To be a leading provider of education for rheumatologists, supporting the delivery of highest quality care.
2. To offer relevant, up-to-date, high calibre education courses to support others who share our interest in arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions.
3. To ensure that arthritis and musculoskeletal issues are part of curricula at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

*Activity example: Organising training courses which meet the needs of the whole team, including primary care physicians.*

### **Aim 4: To ensure those with an interest in rheumatology can access and contribute to the most up-to-date evidence base.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. To propagate scientific and clinical knowledge worldwide through our internationally recognised journal, conference, and other meetings.
2. To recognise and promote the achievements of clinicians, academics, trainees and others working in this field.
3. To work with others to ensure research into arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions continues to flourish.

*Activity example: Organising an annual conference, which meets the needs of both scientific and clinical communities.*

## **SECRETARIAT OPERATIONAL PLAN**

### **Aim 1: To improve standards of care in rheumatology.**

This will be achieved by:

- a) Establishing forums to obtain members' views and opinions on matters affecting clinical practice and current changes in service planning and delivery.
- b) Proactively feeding their expertise into appraisals and other consultations affecting day to day practice.
- c) Developing, endorsing and facilitating high quality evidence-based clinical guidelines and tools to support them.
- d) Organising the BSRBR, register of biologic agents which informs clinical care when using these new treatments.
- e) Promoting rheumatologists' applications for clinical excellence awards, with an open application process and transparent, supportive procedures.

### **Aim 2: To secure a higher priority for rheumatology services.**

This will be achieved by:

- a) Obtaining members' views and opinions on matters of health policy, and influencing debates accordingly.
- b) Building appropriate relationships with patient groups, professional bodies, and industry to achieve our goals and safeguard our reputation.
- c) Developing and maintaining links with the media, parliamentarians and other opinion formers.

### **Aim 3: To enhance the skills of the rheumatology team through education and professional development opportunities.**

This will be achieved by:

- a) Organising training courses which meet the needs of the whole team, including primary care physicians.
- b) Organising an educational programme at our annual conference to maximise attendance by the multidisciplinary team.
- c) Adopting robust ethical standards and high quality peer review for the society's courses and training materials.
- d) Obtaining and promoting members' views and opinions on education policy, and contributing to consultations accordingly.

### **Aim 4: To ensure those with an interest in rheumatology can access and contribute to the most up-to-date evidence base.**

This will be achieved by:

- a) Organising an annual conference, which meet the needs of both scientific and clinical communities.
- b) Ensuring international recognition and reach for our journal, *Rheumatology*, by publishing high quality scientific and clinical research.
- c) Ensuring robust ethical standards and high quality peer review in society publishing, abstract selection, conference presentations and meeting posters.
- d) Organising an annual programme of prizes, awards and fellowships.

**Internal Aim: To ensure that the society is managed and governed effectively to support members and benefit the public.**

Objectives:

1. To ensure effective two-way communications with members, drawing on their knowledge and skills to shape and support all our work.
2. To improve our governance structures and better support trustees and committees to lead the society effectively.
3. To ensure mutually respectful relations, between members, trustees, staff and volunteers.
4. To manage the society's resources effectively, and ensure that it has a skilled, supported and motivated staff team.

These will be achieved by:

- a) Acquiring and acting on feedback from members, delegates and subscribers about the society's services.
- b) Reviewing our committee structure and regional structures and developing training plans, induction programmes, and codes of conduct for trustees and other volunteers.
- c) Putting plans and procedures in place for the diligent management of all the society's human, financial and operational resources.
- d) Developing and implementing a strategy to ensure the society remains viable, operates legally, and functions sustainably.
- e) Investing in technology and support systems to facilitate effective administration, communications and marketing.