

High quality research that enables the best possible care for people with musculoskeletal and related inflammatory conditions

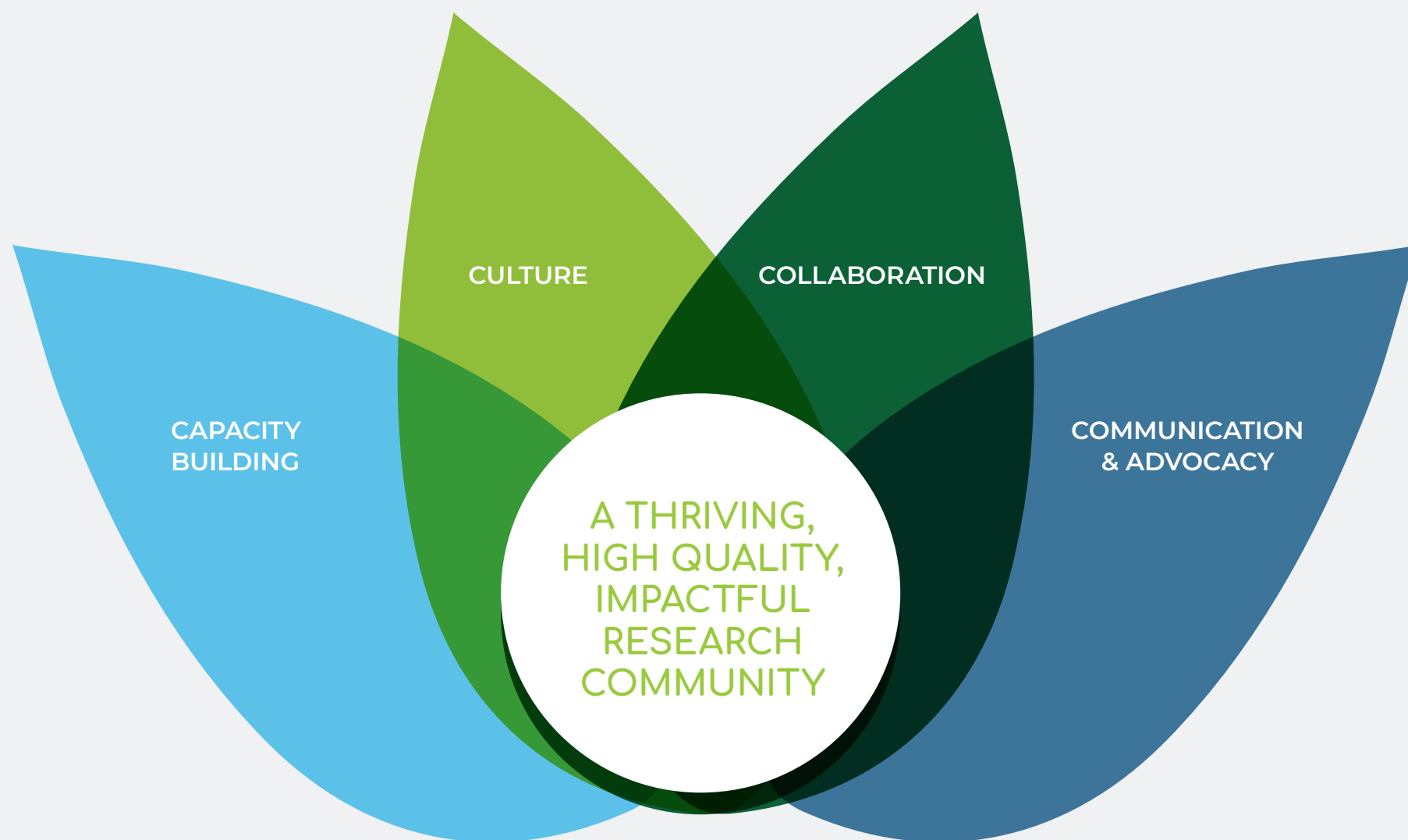


2022-2024

Research Strategic Plan



Australian
Rheumatology
Association



OBJECTIVE

Develop & support rheumatology trainees, clinicians & researchers

STRATEGY

ACTIONS



Develop a research strategy informed by clinician input, patient need and areas of research strength	Establish, monitor, review and renew a three-year research strategy
	Collect research needs data from diverse sources e.g., ARA SIGs
Facilitate research opportunities for all members	Establish private practitioner rheumatologist research grant (require grantees to include an academic mentor)
	Provide grant-in-aid/innovation grants (open to all ARA members)
	Encourage and support researchers at all levels. For example, through more research excellence awards
Support high quality, impactful research that builds the sector's research capability	Provide research scholarships /practitioner fellowships/grants
	Collaborate on large scale grant opportunities that build excellence in an area of strength
Provide training and support services for members to encourage and support research activity	Explore mechanisms for providing access to research support (research ethics, data analysis, research methodologies, and grant writing), including leveraging University arrangements, commercial service providers, or a part-time appointee.
	Audit existing training material
	Where possible, leverage other organisations training material and workshops
	Develop additional training material as required
	Provide and promote a research mentorship program that leverages Research Committee skills and connections
	Upskill supervisors of trainees in research methods and ideas
	Include a workshop at the ASM on research
Increase the number of, and participation in, clinical trials and studies	Raise awareness of investigator-led clinical trials and studies (e.g., via ARA website) and participation opportunities

CAPACITY BUILDING

OBJECTIVE

Build a strong, sustainable culture of research

CULTURE

STRATEGY

Grow and leverage research funds to ensure sustainability

Continue to build a strong ARA member pipeline engaged in research committee activities

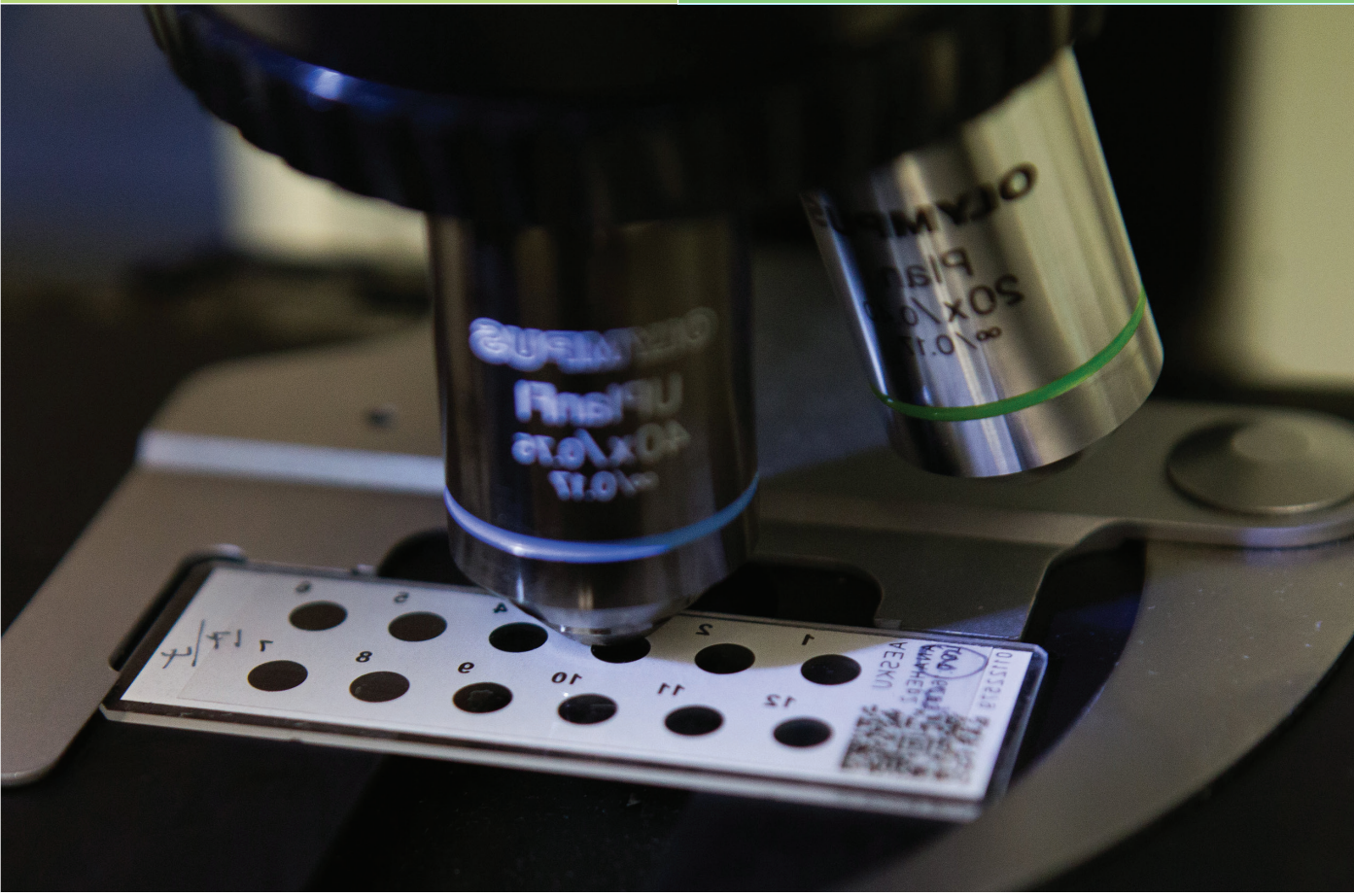
ACTIONS

Promote and facilitate philanthropic giving via the website

Consider appointing a fixed term advancement officer to develop philanthropic giving

Ensure diversity of people (for e.g., early career, discipline, gender etc.) participating in the research committee to increase understanding and ensure sustainability

Provide networking opportunities for researchers across disciplines for e.g., the early career research day



OBJECTIVE

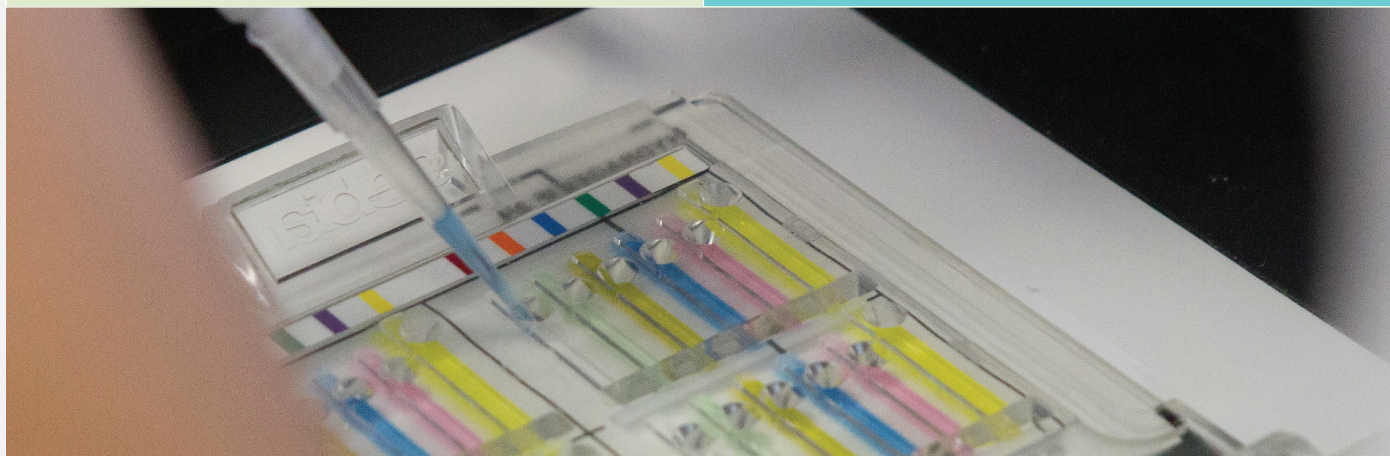
STRATEGY

ACTIONS



Develop strong, mutually beneficial, interdisciplinary partnerships & collaborations

Identify research capability and define realistic collaboration objectives that will deliver high quality outcomes	Clearly communicate research capability, objectives and opportunities on website and in newsletter
Formalise partnering agreements, and encourage co-funding	Ensure partnering agreements define objectives, expectations, deliverables, propose translation and co-badging of research and research outcomes
	Ensure ARA member is part (potentially lead) of all collaborations and encourage ARA membership of external collaborators if appropriate
Facilitate high quality, inter-disciplinary research collaborations within the ARA and externally	Provide larger collaborative grants to attract and build research excellence
Encourage patient and non-rheumatologist representation in research	Promote research and research engagement opportunities on the website
	Provide financial support for consumer engagement on Research Committee and other relevant activities
	Develop closer relationships with consumer organisations to identify patient needs
	Provide consumer research awareness and co-design opportunities and provide connections for researchers needing community involvement



COLLABORATION

OBJECTIVE

Promote research activities, outcomes & opportunities

COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY

STRATEGY

Increase the profile of musculoskeletal research in Australia

Clearly articulate and communicate the goals and outcomes of the Research Trust and ARA funding

Generate interest in research and research careers

ACTIONS

Feature research news on the ARA website, newsletter and social media

Develop, promote and maintain an ARA database of research in MSK disease

Consider engaging a professional lobbyist to raise ARA's research profile, and lobby Government

Include a research section in the Annual Report

Promote research goals, investment and outcomes on website, newsletter and social media

Use the website to profile research careers, and increase awareness of current research and research opportunities

Ensure the research journey is a part of the trainee preceptorship event

Recognise, promote and reward research achievement including grants and publications



The ARA would like to thank

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