



Research Strategy 2025-2029

The Australian Rheumatology Association (ARA) is an interdisciplinary association for clinicians, healthcare professionals and researchers with a focus on musculoskeletal and rheumatic conditions.

OUR VISION

Research to improve the quality of care for people with musculoskeletal and rheumatic conditions

OUR AIM

A thriving, high quality impactful research community

OUR PRINCIPLES

Equity

Researchers, research participants, and research users have an equal opportunity to contribute to and benefit from research.

Innovation

Excellence and creativity informed by clinical questions and consumer need.

Value

Improving outcomes for people with musculoskeletal and rheumatic conditions.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES



Consumer Involvement



Reduce Waste



Connectivity

RESEARCH PILLARS

Capacity Building

Strengthening the Research Ecosystem

Collaboration

Advocacy

Support clinicians, trainees, healthcare professionals & researchers

Enable members to do and use research

Foster sector-wide interdisciplinary research collaborations

Advocate for a flourishing rheumatology research sector

Support researchers across disciplines & career stage

Support high quality interdisciplinary research

Establish database of research skills and resources

Advocate for an increase in research funding nationally

Provide targeted support for private practitioners and healthcare professionals

Enable involvement in clinical trials, multi-site studies, registries and cohort studies

Develop major outcomes-focused collaborative initiatives

Raise awareness of the impact and need for rheumatology research

Provide research training and support services to members

Develop a coordinated research pipeline from bench to bedside

Partner with relevant national and international initiatives

Build advocacy partnerships

OBJECTIVE

STRATEGIES

IN FIVE YEARS, WE WILL HAVE

Successfully advocated for the establishment of a Musculoskeletal health mission (MRFF).

Funded at least one large interdisciplinary research initiative informed by clinical questions and consumer need.

Developed a career framework for clinicians, private practitioners, and healthcare professionals in rheumatology research, with at least 5 members establishing independent research careers in their field of expertise and a 25% increase in active member participation in research.

Facilitated and supported measurable research outcomes in at least 3 rheumatic conditions.