

Clinical Affairs Committee, Committee member

Role description

About us

British Society for Rheumatology is the leading UK specialist medical society for rheumatology and musculoskeletal care professionals. We support our members to deliver the best care at all stages of the care pathway, improving the lives of children and adults with rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease.

Our vision, mission and values

Vision

People with rheumatic conditions across the lifespan receive the highest quality outcomes and live well.

Mission

To champion the specialty, influencing change and building a thriving community of best practice.

Values

The values which guide our approach are:

- Celebratory – we celebrate the achievements in rheumatology
- Inclusive – we support everyone in the rheumatology community
- Sustainable – we work to reduce the impact of our activities on the environment
- Leading – we use our profile to drive change and support those working in the specialty
- Collaborative – we always seek to work with others to have a greater impact

You can read about our current 5 year strategy here: <https://www.rheumatology.org.uk/about-bsr/vision-mission-and-values>

Who might be interested in this opportunity

Anyone working within a rheumatology multidisciplinary team in a paediatric, adolescent, or adult service. This is an exciting role for someone with experience of clinical governance and the importance of standards in care and how policy making and lobbying works to support BSR to continue to develop our outstanding clinical engagement programme.

BSR is committed to encouraging inclusion, equality and diversity. We are actively trying to increase the diversity of our staff team and volunteer roles. We try to reduce as many barriers as we can for those with a disability, which you can find out more about [here](#). We welcome approaches from individuals from underrepresented groups, including those from minoritised communities, and those with a disability, to better reflect the community we serve and help broaden our perspectives.

Purpose of the role

To support the Chair and lead on clinical engagement with, and input to BSR's proactive and reactive public policy agenda. This includes important and highly-valued activities that support BSR in its mission to create a community of best practice. Committee members oversee BSR's responses to NICE appraisals and other external consultations, create guidance that supports service development and improvement, and support BSR to influence national policy and public affairs directly relevant to the quality and practice of rheumatology. The Clinical Affairs Committee is directly accountable to the BSR Board of Trustees and will regularly report to the Board on the overall progress of the committee's work. The Board approves the work plan for the Clinical Affairs Committee for the forthcoming year.

Main responsibilities of the role

To support the Committee to carry out their responsibilities to:

- Provide expert advice to BSR on matters requiring clinical guidance and formulate positions and policies.
- Support the advocacy and campaigning work of BSR by providing clinical insight and voice to a range of issues affecting the science, practice and quality of rheumatology.
- Respond to relevant consultations from national bodies.
- Ensure BSR is proactive in its national work to influence changes in policy or practice in rheumatology, providing external representation where required, learning from research outputs, and external horizon-scanning.

- Support BSR to effectively communicate with its members about changes in policy and practice determined at a national-level and consider what support is needed for implementation.
- Address clinical and professional matters that arise within the society such as clinical effectiveness, clinical standards and guidelines development, clinical governance and audit with reference to the current National Arthritis Audit.

Time commitment

We expect volunteering in this role to take approximately 2-3 days per month, split over a range of duties including:

- Attending Clinical Affairs Committee meetings three times a year. One meeting will be hybrid, two meetings online (3 hours).
- Preparing for Clinical Affairs Committee meetings (reading pack and sending queries in advance)
- Undertaking work in between committee meetings and as identified within the committee workplan

You may also be invited, from time to time, to:

- Attend events and other meetings on behalf of BSR
- Attend training relevant to your role
- Be available for other ad hoc requirements

Induction, training and support

- BSR has a Practice and Quality directorate who carry all out all day-to-day functions. Committee members will have support from this team, and from the Director of Practice and Quality and Head of External Affairs, Head of Quality Improvement and Policy Manager both during their induction period and throughout their term in office. Support is also provided by the CEO and the Chair of Trustees
- A comprehensive induction is provided for all new committee members.

Term of office

The role term is 3 years.

This is a voluntary role; any expenses are paid in line with our Committee expenses policy.

Person specification

1. Experience of clinical governance and the importance of standards in clinical care
2. Understanding of how policy making and lobbying works
3. Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work constructively with others
4. Integrity, sound independent judgment and advocacy skills
5. Understanding of quality improvement and implementation of best practice across the MDT
6. A commitment to BSR, its charitable objectives and values
7. Confident and effective communication skills with a range of audiences
8. A willingness to undertake training as might be required, and a willingness to devote the time and effort required to effectively discharge the duties of this role.