

2022-2027

Strategic Plan

AMERICAN COLLEGE
of RHEUMATOLOGY
Empowering Rheumatology Professionals

About the 2022–2027 ACR Strategic Plan

In 2021, the ACR Board of Directors commissioned the ACR Strategic Planning Task Force to identify key areas of focus for the next five years. In formulating their recommendations, the committee collected information and considered viewpoints from the entire span of diverse voices that make up the College.

The Task Force, with input from the ACR Board of Directors, strove to illuminate new and innovative areas that the ACR should focus on to better pursue our core mission of supporting our members through meaningful education, practice support, research, and advocacy. The values that suffuse the committee's recommendations are innovation, collaboration, inclusion, and community. The strategic goals ultimately prioritized by the committee call on the ACR to lead with new innovations in rheumatology, nurture an inclusive culture, and support the expansion of the rheumatology workforce.

These goals, along with the suggested strategies and desired outcomes aimed at all members of the ACR, are presented below.

Sincerely,

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Mission

The ACR empowers rheumatology professionals to excel in their specialty.

Vision

As the leading authority and trusted partner of rheumatology professionals, the ACR will continually advance the specialty and the future of rheumatology.

Brand Promise

We are here for you so you can be there for your patients.

Values

Innovation
Collaboration
Inclusion
Community

The ACR will create and implement nimble strategies to advance innovations in rheumatology for its members and constituents.

Strategies

- Create diverse and inclusive collaborative spaces that engage all ACR/ARP members
- The ACR is where you are: Ensure on-demand availability of unique ACR-created programs and products, as well as curated non-ACR educational content that supports the practice of rheumatology
- Develop new initiatives to support research efforts and patient care

Outcomes

- New technology tools and creative strategies have been leveraged to develop the new collaborative spaces
- Rheumatologists and the interprofessional team have on-demand access to content, education, and a diverse connected community
- Increased support/resources that help build capacity for research focused on diversity and disparities

The ACR will understand and address the needs of all its current and future members to create an inclusive voice for the field of rheumatology.

Strategies

- Create diverse and inclusive collaborative spaces that engage all ACR/ARP members
- Expand and better communicate the value of membership through College initiatives that increase inclusion and enhance engagement
- Establish and promote engagement opportunities within the College for currently underrepresented groups
- Support global engagement and collaboration in rheumatology education, research, and networking

Outcomes

- New unique types of collaborative spaces have been created aimed at convening new/underrepresented audiences in an inclusive manner
- Increased participation in ACR meetings, particularly from currently underrepresented groups
- Expanded membership to include underrepresented groups
- Increased participation by community rheumatologists
- Increased volunteer opportunities (e.g., speakers, moderators, committee volunteers, leadership, etc.) that consider diverse needs of underrepresented members

The ACR will provide tools to support rheumatology workforce expansion and retention to increase access to patient care.

Strategies

- Create diverse and inclusive collaborative spaces that engage all ACR/ARP members
- Advocate for and generate new avenues of funding for adult and pediatric fellowships and advanced training programs
- Advocate to improve dysfunctional workplace systems, including those that exacerbate burnout
- Increase access to care for all rheumatology patients by creating rheumatology education for the non-rheumatologists (interprofessional team, PCPs, etc.)

Outcomes

- New resources/opportunities have been developed to support/facilitate different types of practitioners to utilize the new collaborative spaces
- Measurable increase in interest in adult and pediatric rheumatology fellowships across all demographics and an increase in fellowship slots
- Lower attrition rates among mid-career professionals, including closing any demographic disparities in attrition
- An expanded professional rheumatology workforce, bringing more and diverse talent to bear on rheumatology care