

RCN Forum Annual Report Rheumatology Forum 2025

Forum Name:

Rheumatology Forum

Introduction:

The Forum represents adult and paediatric rheumatology nursing covering the following subspecialties: connective tissue disease, osteoporosis, c DMARDS and Biologic therapies. All forum activities align with the RCN strategy, including working across the UK, taking account of the requirements in each of the devolved countries.

Membership of the forum:

Total forum number: 1311 an increase of 4.46% in the last 12 months. This enables 1 voting place at Congress. Social media engagement has also increased, our Facebook page now has 494 members of whom 353 have actively engaged with the group during the year.



- The forum carried over 3 vacancies from last year due to terms of office ending, and committee member resignation. The committee under the leadership of the Chair have worked throughout the year networking and sharing the work of the forum. This has resulted in 10 applications to join the committee and after the interview process has concluded the committee will go into 2026 with a complement of six members. The committee would have had a full complement of seven members; however the current Chair has made the difficult decision to step down due to other commitments within her professional role. The rest of the committee wish her well in her future endeavours.
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- The committee has clinical expertise in
 - Adult Rheumatology
 - Paediatric
 - Transitional Care
 - ACP
 - Osteoporosis

- Leadership and management
- The committee are pleased to announce that in line with last years plans there is now an academic member on the committee who will provide a new perspective for 2026.
- The forum committee meetings have taken place as per schedule decided in the strategy day at the beginning of 2025. At times the meetings were not quorate due to clinical responsibilities of the committee members, however most meetings were.
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Reflections on 2025: (Outputs and outcomes)

2025 has been a challenging year for the forum, who have worked with only four committee members, all of whom have clinical patient facing roles.

The plans to increase social media posting to bring more focus to the Rheumatology forum have been working well, with increased engagement on the Facebook page.

The strategy day is planned for 2026 to look at current workstreams and future projects.

The rheumatology competency document was published at the end of 2024, and throughout 2025 the committee members have joined webinars, teaching sessions and roadshows to promote the competency document in practice.

Methotrexate document review has been completed and is due for re-publication before Christmas.

Review of educational content – planned and quality assessed during 2025 and this ongoing review will continue in to 2026

Networking at the RCN Congress and the BSR Annual conference in Manchester have proved fruitful in securing additional members of the forum and the committee.

Plans for 2026

Strategy day planned for February 2026.

Discussions will include FGG bids for document review and refresh and live on website. Discussion regarding disseminating education in combination with Pharma across the 4 nations including the committee and co-op members as required.

Ongoing networking and presenting at national conferences to secure the voice of rheumatology nursing.

Date Prepared and By: Alex Eden and Sally Wilson November 2025