



Scientific Discovery

Our Rich Legacy

The Arthritis Foundation has a rich legacy of scientific discovery that has shaped the diagnosis and treatment of arthritis for almost 70 years. From small steps to large breakthroughs, we've played a key role in improving the quality of life for people with arthritis and conquering this devastating disease once and for all – one YES at a time. Among the Arthritis Foundation's many accomplishments:

- We inspired the development of rheumatology as a medical specialty.
- We helped identify cortisone as an effective treatment option.
- We helped introduce new anti-inflammatory drugs to ease joint swelling and pain.
- We helped make joint surgery safer and more effective.
- We supported research that resulted in the first biologics for many forms of arthritis.

Our Strategy

The Arthritis Foundation's new scientific strategy provides a more nimble approach to accelerating science, which will help more and more people with arthritis say YES to a better life. Our strategy will continue advancing arthritis treatments and the search for a cure. From basic science in the laboratory, all the way to the point of care where the patient is being diagnosed and treated, we say YES – It's time to speed things up!

Our new strategy focuses on three areas:

Delivering on Discovery

In the past, it took years for new scientific discoveries to become available to people in need. To find a cure for arthritis faster, we're assembling interdisciplinary teams to greatly expand the spectrum of possible solutions and expedite the discovery process.

- We will issue a request for proposal (RFP) to gather and fund the best scientific submissions – from around the world and across the fields of science, medicine and technology – to find a cure for arthritis as fast as possible.
- We will accelerate diagnosis and treatment of osteoarthritis (OA) by:
 - Leading the way to gain Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for effective clinical trial design
 - Completing a major project to improve the recruitment process for OA clinical trials
 - Convening a meeting of international OA experts to prioritize available diagnostics and treatments

Decision Making With Metrics

Metrics help inform decision making. To address the ongoing need for data collection and analysis, we're helping answer crucial questions like: Why do treatments help some people with arthritis but not others? Why did I get arthritis? Is my child at risk?

- We will collaborate with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and hold a registry workshop, aiming to create a nationwide core set of validated data that has statistical power
- We will complete a very important project combining clinical and genomic data, ultimately speeding up the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

Building Human Capital

To strengthen the pipeline, we're casting a wide net to engage the most brilliant minds while also making the most of new science and technology. This unique group of scientists, entrepreneurs, engineers and technology experts will hasten scientific discoveries – so that people with arthritis can benefit sooner than ever before.

- We will attract diverse talent to arthritis discovery, including scientists from other fields
- We will adapt the current interdisciplinary scientific curriculum to enhance the work of scientists already searching for a cure

We're putting people with arthritis at the center of everything we do.