

Osteoporosis and Bone Research Academy (The Academy) Setting the Scene

Introduction

In January 2018 the Royal Osteoporosis Society published its new **Strategic Direction** which stated our vision, mission and values that will help us deliver a future without osteoporosis. Our **Strategic Aims** include:

- **Prevention:** Everyone has the best possible bone health throughout their life
- **Care:** Everyone who breaks a bone or is at risk of osteoporosis is assessed and managed appropriately
- **Support:** Everyone with osteoporosis lives well and manages their condition in ways that best meet their needs
- **Cure:** People have fewer fractures and live well because of new interventions

Working towards a cure is a top priority for those currently living with the condition. There is currently no comprehensive programme of work focused on a cure. The Royal Osteoporosis Society is the only UK charity dedicated to osteoporosis and is the professional home for clinicians. Therefore, it is right and accepted that the Royal Osteoporosis Society leads on a cure.

Work has been undertaken to devise our **Cure Strategy**. This initially involved development of a Theory of Change map, which describes the need we are trying to address, the changes we want to make (outcomes), and what we plan to do (activities). Subsequently the charity was able to determine our priorities and delivery over the medium term (i.e. what could and should be done).

Over the next five years our Cure Strategy aims to:

- Establish the charity's role as an 'honest broker', champion of patient priorities and driver of collaborations to achieve more effective osteoporosis interventions
- Develop a research roadmap identifying research priorities for the next 10-15 years with the strong support of coalition partners
- Strengthen and increase the capacity of the osteoporosis academic workforce in the UK
- Raise awareness, engagement and support for the cure work programme through an effective communications programme
- Identify new opportunities for engagement that will inspire giving and income generation arising from the cure work programme

To spearhead our push towards finding a cure and provide the infrastructure required to co-ordinate this work programme the charity has established the new **Osteoporosis and Bone Research Academy (The Academy)**. The Academy was officially launched February 2019.

The Osteoporosis and Bone Research Academy (The Academy)



**Osteoporosis &
Bone Research
Academy**

The Osteoporosis and Bone Research Academy (The Academy) is the means by which the Cure Strategy will be delivered. The Academy strengthens the charity's involvement in research and has four overarching aims that broadly apply the aims set out in the Cure strategy:

1. Co-ordinate complex work programmes to identify research needed to end osteoporosis
2. Broker new partnerships and collaborations
3. Engage, nurture and back the best and brightest minds to unlock new discoveries
4. Influence future funding for research

The Academy will be a crucial driver in the development of a new cohort of scientific researchers and academics to reinvigorate the field of bone research and provide the technical and leadership skills required to meet future challenges. The Academy will commission the top clinicians and scientists in the field of bone research and osteoporosis to work towards a cure for the disease. A public and patient framework for the Academy will also be developed to ensure that the needs of people with osteoporosis are at the heart of the research we do. We will also ensure that patients and their representatives form part of all our committees and working groups.

The Academy will consist of an **Academy Advisory Committee**, who with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Academy Director will oversee the outputs of following three Academy **Working Groups**:

- **Causes** Understanding the causes and mechanisms of osteoporosis (e.g. genomics).
- **Technology** Exploring and developing new and innovative technologies (e.g. regenerative medicine, precision medicine, big data, engineering).
- **Effectiveness** Understanding the effectiveness of current and potential new diagnostic tools, treatments and interventions (e.g. risk assessment, drug repurposing).

Integration of the Academy into the charity

An accountability structure has been developed for the Academy in accordance with the constitution of the charity. The work and outputs of the Academy will be undertaken by Working Groups (outlined above) that are overseen by an Academy Advisory Committee which will report in to the Board of Trustees. The Academy work will be co-ordinated by the Clinical Director of the charity, who will be responsible for the monitoring and reporting of the work to the Board of Trustees. **Figure 1** shows the Academy's accountability structure and its relationship with the charity's existing structure.

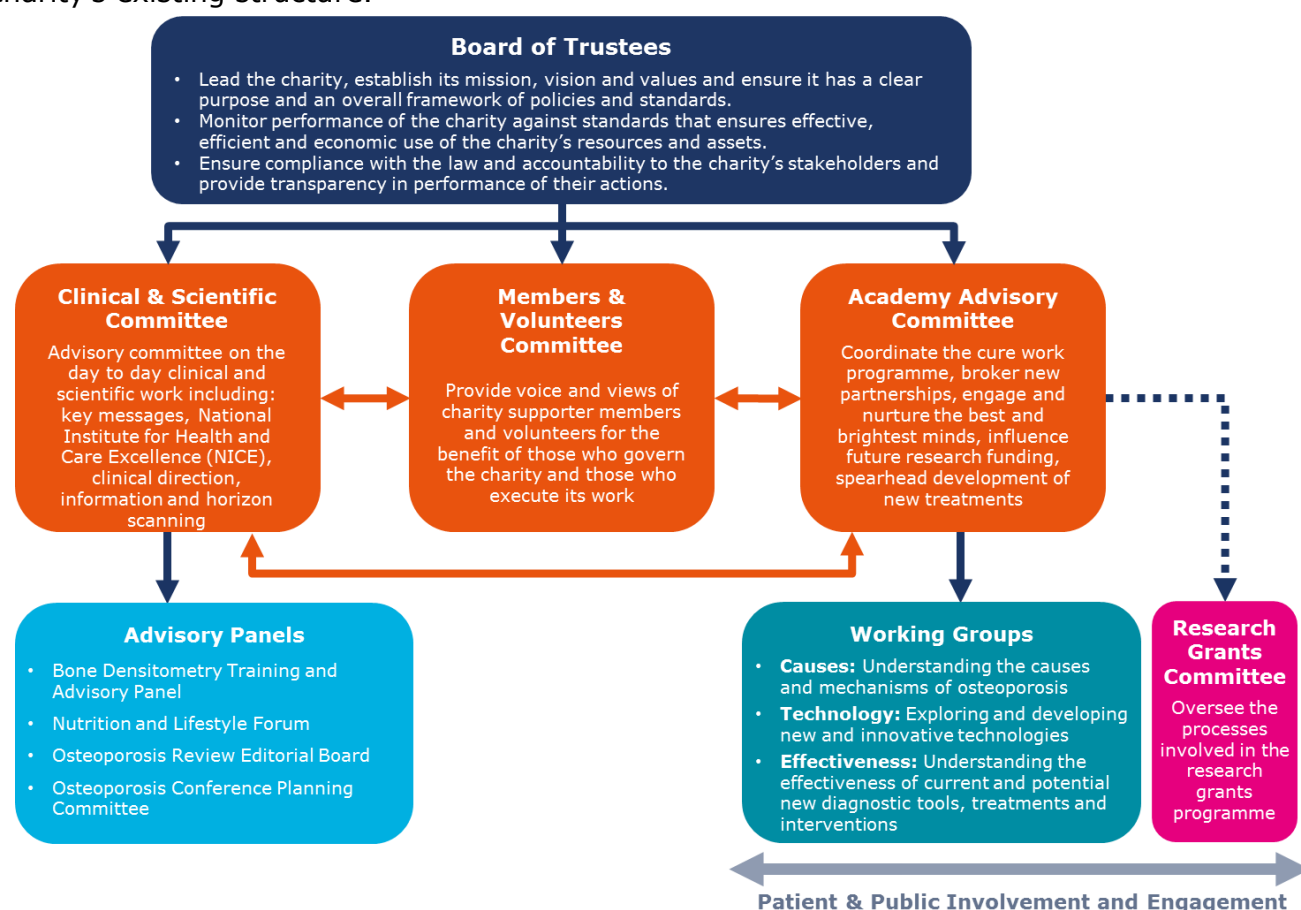


Figure 1: The Academy's accountability structure

The charity has been a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) for over 26 years, as it is the national membership organisation of leading medical and health research charities. The AMRC has over 140 members which include the largest medical research charities in the UK. A key membership requirement is that the charity must have a published **Research Strategy**. The charity last published a Research Strategy in 2017 (**Figure 2**). The Academy's initial objective is to utilise the Working Groups in order to produce a new Research Roadmap, which will play a key role in determining our core research areas and priorities and therefore will inform the updating of our Research Strategy going forward.



Figure 2: Royal Osteoporosis Society Research Strategy (published 2017).

In summary, **Figure 3** illustrates how the Academy will integrate with the charity's Strategic Direction, Cure Strategy and Research Strategy.

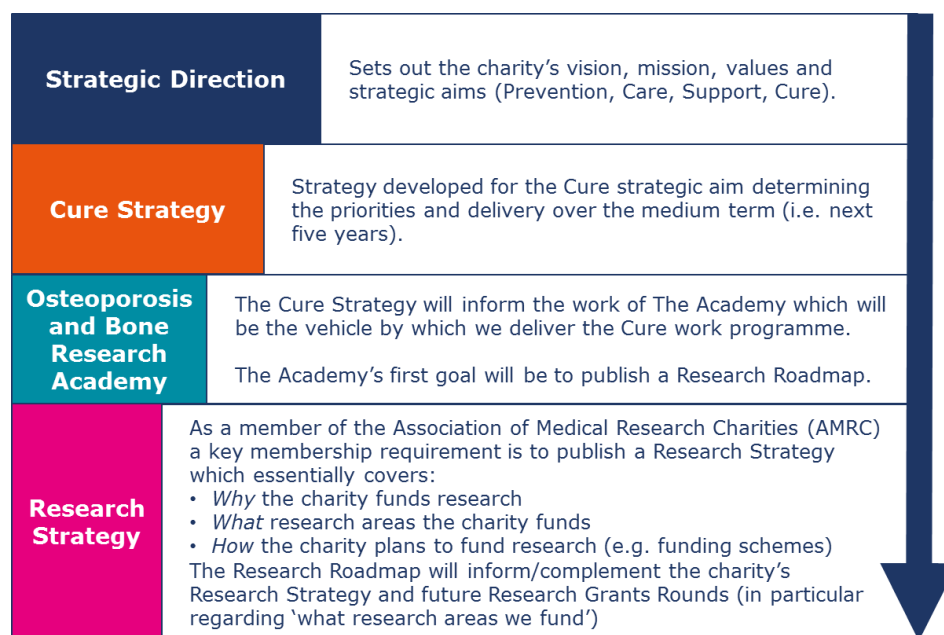


Figure 3: The Academy's integration into to the charity

Academy Funding

It is vital that the charity secures funding to deliver the Cure and Academy's' work programmes, and a funding campaign has been developed entitled '**£5 million in 5 years**' to drive income generation and future funding for research.

Phases have been identified for the purposes of funding applications and these focus on:

- Early phases of the Working Groups work to determine new research priorities and the development of a new osteoporosis Research Roadmap and strategic framework.
- A second phase that will help fund proof of concept studies that in turn will aid future collaborations and partnerships, and attract larger funding possibilities.

Detailed processes for expenditure of funding will be put in place through the charity's governance structures.