



# WELCOME



British Society for  
Rheumatology  
Annual Conference  
28-30 April 2025

## Our write-up!

### What and Why?

In April 2024, a PIMS member asked if they could go to a conference. We had a think, checked our wallet and decided yes, let's go!

The British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) annual conference is an “award-winning hybrid conference which allows attendees the flexibility of joining in-person or online.” “With access to all areas including over 70 sessions and 100+ speakers, practical skills workshops, exhibition, symposia, networking and social events and much more.” This year it was held in Manchester.

This sounded good, but we felt we should take an abstract (overview of a piece of work) too...and that's when the journey began!

The project and trip were both funded by Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) so thank you to them!

### Who went?

We asked who would be interested in helping us create our abstract and created our steering group who would be invited to attend the conference - seven people, plus myself (Leigh) who co-ordinated.

### How did you attend the conference?

Online  
3

In person  
4

### Have you been to anything like this before?

Yes but in the past, 3

No, 2

Yes, 1



Above – Our delegate ID passes!



Outside the conference centre - Left to right  
Amanda, Leigh, David, Jess and Wendy

# The Abstract

It was important that we worked together to create the abstract and make sure everyone was happy with it!

We had 3 meetings to decide on what the abstract should include, write and fine tune it. It was accepted by the BSR people in December 2024 and it was published in April 2025. All our steering group are listed as authors! You can find the write-up here -

[https://academic.oup.com/rheumatology/article/64/Supplement\\_3/keaf14.2.274/8115103](https://academic.oup.com/rheumatology/article/64/Supplement_3/keaf14.2.274/8115103)

**What did you think of writing the abstract together?**

*"It was good that everyone had their say and points raised were discussed and changed"*

*"I very much liked supporting this group. I enjoyed participating in something that felt professional"*

*"Writing the abstract together was both invigorating and challenging at times, but it is certainly to be recommended as a technique to build a strong team"*

*"Yes, as expected and felt able to contribute at the discussion phase. Glad this was written up and brought together as hoped"*

*"I didn't really know what to expect. But I was really keen to get involved and find out more. I was able to get my points across and I feel like everyone was able to contribute. It felt like a real team effort"*



Posing with our poster at the conference! Left to right – Amanda, David, Jess, our poster!, Wendy, Leigh



← Our poster 'in the wild' at the conference!



# The Talks and Stands

With so many talks, stands and things on, what did people think?!

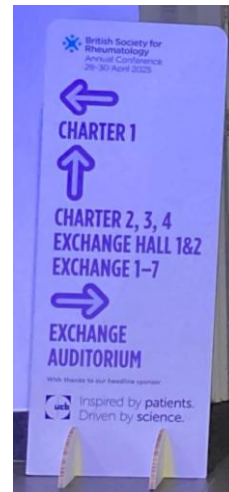


← The venue inside. It is a converted train station!

*"Wow, there was a wide array of selections. Sometimes it was hard to choose which one to go to. I went to quite a few of the 'essentials' talks, I found some of the easier to understand than more of the scientific ones. It helped me understand more about different diagnoses and treatment pathways. Also seeing how other specialities, such as renal, cardiology, gastroenterology, link with rheumatological diseases was fascinating"*

*"A huge variety to choose from and at each time of day I found something I could attend and get involved in. At every talk, even the ones I felt that I had some background knowledge of, I was able to discover something new and novel that I was able to take away"*

*"Most were at a good level, but some were sciency. But for me that didn't matter"*



← With so many rooms it could be tricky to find your talk!

Inside the venue – lots of stands from charities and drug companies →



Ken Baker presenting on the main stage!

*"The variety of topics and depth of knowledge was apparent from the outset. It was clear that this is an area of medicine that is full of innovation and cutting-edge research and I was encouraged to be a small part of this work"*

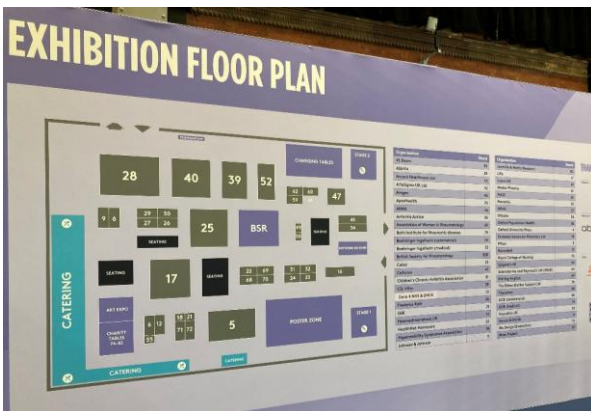


# The Talks and Stands Continued...



Above – A D-cell as part of Versus Arthritis [‘joint creativity’](#) project where young adult patients recreated the immune system!

Below – the map of tables and stands!



## What was your favourite/stand out talk?

- Favourite stand was NRAS
- Obesity
- RA and infections
- JAK Inhibitors
- Chronic Pain
- Patient's perspectives on their treatments
- MDTs role in supporting concordance across lifespan
- 'Experts in the Field'
- Approaches to Proteinuria - sounds quite a random choice but the speaker was incredibly engaging.
- Essentials Disease Management
- Juvenile-onset of SLE: what to consider when children with lupus grow up
- The (Langu)Age of the chatbot: An update on Artificial Intelligence in Rheumatology
- Addressing obesity in adults with Inflammatory Arthritis
- Novel study designs for rare rheumatic diseases



The poster zone for viewing online posters!

## Do you have any take home messages of interesting things you learnt?

- *"I have learned, about what charities do, what home are delivery companies are doing to improve their services"*
- *"The value and importance of the MDT. The multifactorial reasons for patients struggling to manage their condition"*
- *"It is so important for hospital specialities to work together in order to get the best outcomes for patients."*
- *"The patient's perspective is always important, as demonstrated with the Juvenile-onset of SLE presentation but also the work that we do at PIMS"*
- *"The importance of primary care in the patient journey to rheumatology and related medical areas. The variety of different clinical pathways, necessitating the need for patients to attend a number of individual appointments and could this be streamlined."*
- *"Keep learning. Medicines are always evolving and their uses changing"*



# Summary

### My Favourite thing about going to the conference...

- ✓ "Seeing my input in the poster and talking to people about it"
- ✓ "I enjoyed the online experience which allowed you to move from one talk to another without having to sit through the whole talk if you were finding it difficult."
- ✓ "Meeting everyone and getting to find out what is happening in the world of rheumatology."
- ✓ "Feeling a part of something important."



← My thank  
you card from  
attendees

**Something that I didn't like, and I would change next time...**

- × *“Not enough seating, was unable to attend one meeting as it was oversubscribed”*
- × *“I could not hear the questions from the audience and they were not always repeated for the online audience. You also could not see how many people were in the audience.” (Remote attendee)*
- × *“Explore where I was staying more during any spare time not at the conference.”*
- × *“I really enjoyed it all. It was tiring but worth it!”*
- × *Possibly becoming physically difficult by the 4th day (conference and travel)*



← A  
rheumatology  
cupcake!

Word cloud from all the conference feedback →



Our last day – tired but happy and full of knowledge!!  
L>R Leigh, Wendy, Jess, David, Amanda



# The poster

## E037 "It's only when we work together in harmony that the best research happens": reinvigorating a patient research partner group after the Covid-19 pandemic

Leigh Romaniuk<sup>1</sup>, Wendy Broderick<sup>2</sup>, David Black<sup>2</sup>, Amanda Harness<sup>2</sup>, Cate Middleton<sup>2</sup>, Reshma Punjabi<sup>2</sup>, Mike Solomon<sup>2</sup>, Jessica Williamson<sup>2</sup>, Heidi McColm<sup>3</sup>, Arthur G. Pratt<sup>1</sup>, Karen M. Smith<sup>3</sup>, Ken Baker<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rheumatology clinical research, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UNITED KINGDOM, <sup>2</sup>PIMS, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UNITED KINGDOM, <sup>3</sup>Orthopaedic clinical research, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UNITED KINGDOM.

**NIHR** | Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre

Patient and public engagement and  
Involvement in  
Musculoskeletal reSearch (PIMS)



The Newcastle upon

← Our online poster which was displayed at the BRC conference

Our publication →

If you would like a copy of either or to know more about PIMS, please let me know at [nuth.pims@nhs.net](mailto:nuth.pims@nhs.net) Thanks for reading!



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### Article Contents

Abstract

Comments (0)

### JOURNAL ARTICLE

## E037 "It's only when we work together in harmony that the best research happens": reinvigorating a patient research partner group after the Covid-19 pandemic <sup>FREE</sup>

Leigh Romaniuk , Wendy Broderick , David Black , Amanda Harness , Cate Middleton , Reshma Punjabi , Mike Solomon , Jessica Williamson , Heidi McColm , Arthur G Pratt ...  
[Show more](#)

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