



Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance

STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2028

In 2025, the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA) launched a strategic planning process led by a Board-appointed Strategic Planning Task Force. Through working sessions involving an iterative process of review and revision, as well as through stakeholder interviews, the Task Force developed a new Strategic Plan to guide the organization through the next three years.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Through the strategic planning process, we refined our mission, vision and values to reflect where our organization is today and align with our priorities.



Our Mission

To unite the pediatric rheumatology community to drive research and transform the lives of children with rheumatic diseases.



Our Vision

A world where every child with rheumatic disease thrives.



Our Values

CARRA reaffirmed its commitment to its existing values, with some clarifications to ensure these values are reflective of the overall plan and how CARRA pursues its mission and vision.



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Our Values

Impact

We focus on activities of greatest significance to the communities affected by childhood-onset rheumatic disease.

Inclusiveness

We embrace inclusive participation.

Trust

We earn trust by maintaining rigorous, uncompromising standards in everything we do.

Innovation

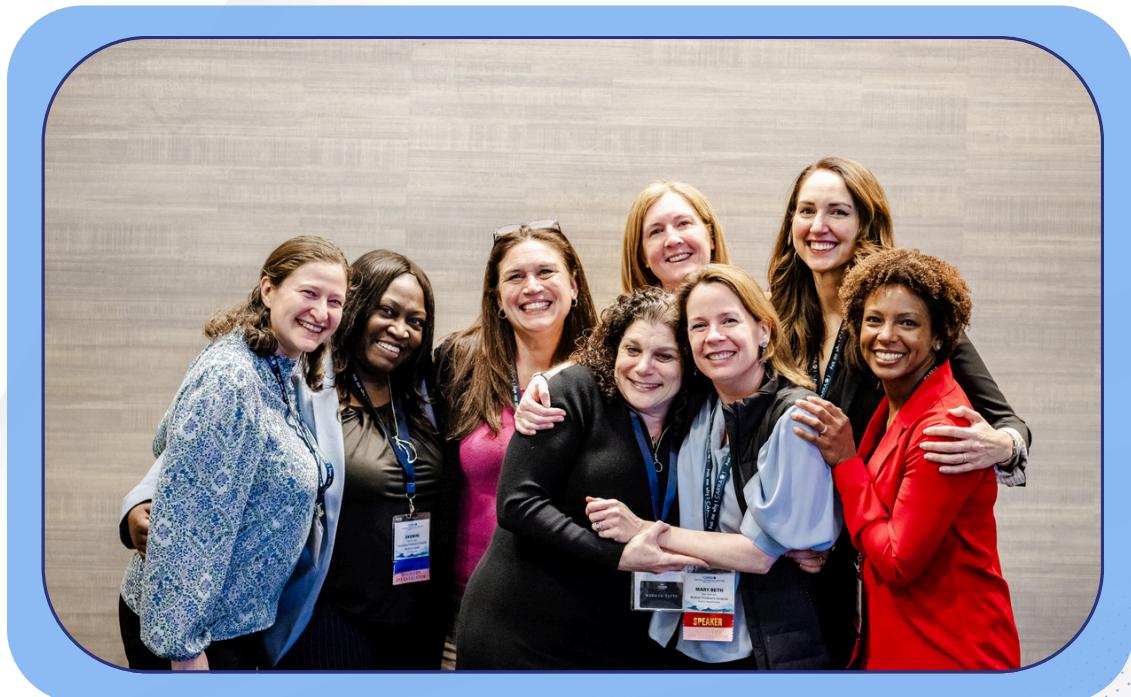
We promote innovative research and research operations.

Stewardship

We steward resources to support long-term research impact and organizational stability.

Collaboration

We embrace alliances that enhance our capabilities and benefit our entire community.





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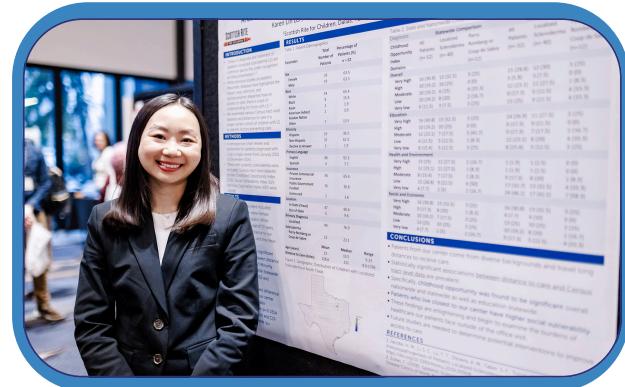
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Areas of Focus

The Strategic Planning Task Force reaffirmed CARRA's commitment to three areas of focus.

Achieving Research Excellence

This reflects CARRA's commitment to supporting and performing scientific investigation that involves CARRA's broad research, clinical, and patient communities; adheres to the highest standards of research conduct; is rigorous and reproducible; and drives results that meaningfully impact patients' lives. Inclusivity in research ensures broadly applicable results to improve outcomes for all patients.



Leveraging Community Engagement

This reflects CARRA's commitment to ensure that all of its interest-holders have a line of sight into the organization such that all researchers, clinicians, patients, and caregivers that make up its interest-holders can see themselves reflected in CARRA and understand their critical role within the organization.



Ensuring Organizational Excellence

This reflects CARRA's commitment to developing and adhering to governance structures and operating practices that enable efficient, transparent, and judicious decision making, including with respect to growing and stewarding resources and increasing awareness of CARRA and its impact, all in support of the organization's mission.





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Strategic Goals

CARRA has committed to the following strategic goals, which align with the areas of focus.

Achieving Research Excellence

- Modernize and optimize the CARRA Registry and Biorepository to ensure the consistent, sustained delivery of high-quality, intentionally representative data to accelerate the discovery and equitable delivery of the best and safest treatments and cures for children with rheumatic disease.
- Advance CARRA's research leadership position to shape the future of pediatric rheumatology.
- Strengthen and maintain the pipeline of pediatric rheumatology investigators, which will include a focus on developing a workforce that reflects the communities we serve.

Leveraging Community Engagement

- Increase connection, engagement, and a sense of shared mission among all members of the pediatric rheumatology community.
- Coordinate the engagement of key interest-holders to co-develop strategies to accelerate the development of new treatments.
- Co-design dissemination strategies for results of CARRA-supported research to reach different audiences.

Ensuring Organizational Excellence

- Enhance and clarify governance structures and decision-making processes.
- Grow and diversify CARRA's revenues and reserves.
- Increase awareness of CARRA to build its brand and deepen trust in the organization through public, community, and partner engagement.



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What's next?

This strategic plan was developed with a focus on operationalizing its contents. Our path forward will move us through a series of prioritized initiatives that clearly articulate the activities CARRA needs to pursue. Our progress will be measured through specific performance metrics, which will form the basis for how we evaluate and report on our results.

This strategic plan positions CARRA to navigate the challenges and realize the opportunities ahead to advance our vision and mission. We're excited for this next chapter, and we can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together!

Thank you to the Strategic Planning Task Force

Co-Chairs: Stacy Ardoin, MD, and Jay Mehta, MD, M.S.Ed

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