

House of Lords Action on Rheumatoid Arthritis

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Professor Karim Raza (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/iandi/raza-karim.aspx>) was part of a select and distinguished group of Rheumatoid Arthritis specialists invited to present at a House of Lords summit which was held recently to address the issue of 'poor public awareness of Rheumatoid Arthritis' (RA), and strategies to overcome this.

Poor awareness of RA and the delay of new sufferers in seeking help is a huge obstacle to achieving early diagnosis and effective treatment.

RA is estimated to cost the NHS £560 million a year in direct healthcare costs, and a further £1.8 billion to the economy is sickness absence, hence the necessity to improve awareness.

Karim's work as part of the **Rheumatology Research Group** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/mds/domains/immunity-infection/inflammation-inflammatory-disease/rheumatology-research/index.aspx>) has propelled him to become one of the UK's leading experts in this field. He has published extensively in the field of 'help seeking behaviour in patients with RA' and also on the importance of early treatment. He is also leading an NIHR funded study looking at reasons for delay in help seeking.

