I28. BSR: FUTURE OF THE SPECIES

Simon Bowman1
1Rheumatology Department, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, UK

‘Prediction is very difficult, especially if it is about the future’ (Niels Bohr). Nevertheless I will give it a go. In the short-term there will be challenges (and opportunities) in many parts of the country around service redesign and the gradual extension of privatization. The 2015 election could be a defining year if the major political parties differ radically on their agendas for the NHS. We will also need to keep a close eye on plans to change postgraduate medical specialist training and on access to biologics. Over the next few years the BSR will be investing in a new website (expensive but critical) and our e-learning/conference e-lecture access platform. In the long term we are likely to see many positive developments for our specialty. Further expansion of biologic therapies is likely, not just in RA but for other chronic rheumatic diseases as well. Chronic diseases will be increasingly important with an enlarging and aging population. One prediction I am confident of is that although there will be periods of famine and feast, demand for rheumatology services will remain strong in the long-term.

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