

Annual Review

2016 – 2017



About the Society

The British Society for Immunology is the leading UK membership organisation working with scientists and clinicians from academia and industry to forward immunology research and application around the world. Our friendly, accessible community consists of over 3,000 immunologists, giving us a powerful voice to advocate for immunological science and health for the benefit of society. Based in our offices in Holborn, London, our staff of 14 work with our trustees and members to achieve the organisation's aims.

Mission

The British Society for Immunology's mission is to promote excellence in immunological research, scholarship and clinical practice in order to improve human and animal health.

We accomplish this by:

- Working with our members to support current and future generations of immunologists
- Sharing our passion for immunology through meetings, publications and the media
- Building up an understanding of our work by engaging with the public and those working in the research and health environments
- Working with partners in pursuit of our mission, building on common interests.

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Message from our President and Chief Executive

The past year has been a very busy and successful time for the British Society for Immunology (BSI). With our new five-year strategy in place and the relocation of our offices to Red Lion Square in central London, the Society has focussed strongly on growing both our impact and our reach to ensure that members and partners can benefit from a range of substantial new activities.

Although we have branched out in various directions, we have not lost sight of our core charitable mission of supporting our members and promoting excellence in immunology in all its forms. We have worked hard to strengthen our community's voice through policy initiatives, public engagement and communications work. This will become ever more important as we face the upcoming challenges of Brexit and the government responds to the new Life Sciences Industrial Strategy. We are determined that the British Society for Immunology will continue to speak out loudly and clearly on behalf of our members, articulating our strategy and contributing to debates that reach decision makers. We are immensely grateful to our Trustees and committee members who have worked closely with the 14 members of staff to deliver our mission over the past 12 months.

A highlight of this year was the opportunity to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Society, recognising both the huge accomplishments of immunology during this time and looking forward towards a bright, exciting future for the discipline. Via our new website and social media channels, we highlighted 60 objects that have great significance in the history of immunology. We also staged a public debate at the Royal Society to discuss the past, present and future challenges that we face as immunologists. We are acutely aware that the many stunning advances that are currently happening in the field of immunology build on the work conducted by previous generations. BSI members have had a major international role in the development of the field, with figures such as Robin Coombs, Ita Askonas and César Milstein being global leaders and luminaries. With the BSI's support, we hope that the current generation of immunologists will continue to shape the future of basic and applied immunology around the globe.

Our annual Congress in Liverpool was also a wonderful success. It was our largest ever Congress, showcasing outstanding research and innovation. On this occasion, we invited the Dutch Society for Immunology to join us and attracted more than 1,500 delegates for a meeting packed with great talks, events and networking opportunities. Later in the year, we

also held our first joint symposium with the Chinese Society for Immunology in Shanghai and look forward to building further collaborations with our Chinese counterparts.

In addition to these major events, our calendar of specialist and regional meetings was busier than ever. Our Regional and Affinity Groups held more than 70 meetings across the country, overseen by our new Groups Secretary, John Curnow. A major new project for us – the mapping of immunology careers – also got underway. This comprehensive and systematic review will be fundamental to developing activities that meet the varied career needs of immunologists across different sectors.

Our two journals, *Immunology* and *Clinical & Experimental Immunology*, were established to facilitate the dissemination of research findings to foster future innovation. They continue to perform this important role today with great support from the editors, publishers, BSI members and staff and provide vital income to the Society.

For the BSI staff, the challenge of the past 12 months has been to balance our busy programme of work – such as the administration of the 171 travel awards we give each year – with new longer-term projects such as our education and careers support work. We want to recognise the assistance of those members and partners who helped to contribute to this success, putting in so much hard work in the UK and beyond. Those who volunteer on our committees and boards, who edit our journals, organise meetings and do media, public engagement and policy work with us are essential to our mission.

Thank you all!



Peter Openshaw
President



Jo Revill
Chief Executive

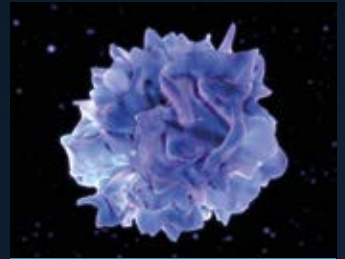
Our Achievements 2016 – 2017



International focus
 'Immunology: an international, life-saving science' report launched



BSI in the news
 BSI President Peter Openshaw quoted by BBC responding to the annual vaccination statistics



60 objects
 Telling the story of immunology through images



BSI goes viral
 ...Facebook post reached over 2 million people!



Special issue
 ...of *Immunology* focusing on 'Innate and adaptive cell subsets'



Funding for you
 79 travel awards provided to members to support attendance at our Congress

July 2016

August 2016

September 2016

October 2016

November 2016

December 2016

International community
 Attended International Congress of Immunology



60 years of BSI
 Our report and anniversary event at the Royal Society celebrated the best of immunology



Congress highlights
 Joint Congress with Dutch Society for Immunology saw:

- More delegates
- More submitted abstracts
- 97% delegate satisfaction



Immunology News
 New design for *Immunology News* continued to reach new readers



Over **3,000** members from 56 countries

Digital presence
 Our new website and CRM system went live, bringing increased functionality and accessibility





Careers focus

Commenced our project reviewing the landscape of immunology careers



Partnership achievements

Worked with Academy of Medical Sciences on how we can best use scientific evidence



Supporting professional development

New mentoring scheme for early career members



Take a BiteSized chunk

Our online educational resource built on its popularity and joined our main website



Mad about macrophages

Our London Immunology Group celebrated 100 years since Metchnikoff won the Nobel Prize for discovering the function of macrophages



Conversations with China

First joint symposium with Chinese Society for Immunology, leading to new plan to work together

January 2017

February 2017

March 2017

April 2017

May 2017

June 2017

Membership for you

Launched new three- and five-year membership schemes to support your career



Recognising excellence

Immunology Teaching Awards launched

Herd immunity for your community!

Pilot of our Vaccine Ambassador Project launched



New Editor-in-Chief

Leonie Taams appointed Editor-in-Chief at *Clinical & Experimental Immunology*



Immunology and the UK's life sciences industry

Our report highlighted seven areas for the government to take action on

British Society for Immunology May 2017

Immunology and the UK's life sciences industry



Rewarding success

Funded 17 Undergraduate Achievement Awards



Who we are

The British Society for Immunology is the leading UK membership organisation working with scientists and clinicians from academia and industry to forward immunology research and application around the world. We are indebted to our members who volunteer their time and expertise to develop and carry out the Society's activities. Our work is overseen by a Board of Trustees, assisted by several committees, who work with Society staff to take forward our strategy and promote excellence in immunological research, scholarship and clinical practice in order to improve human and animal health.

Trustees



Peter Openshaw
President



Edward Chandler
Co-opted Trustee



Anne Cooke
Vice-President



Sheena Cruickshank
Public Engagement Secretary



Robert Davies
Co-opted Trustee



Matthias Eberl
Trustee



Sofia Grigoriadou
Clinical Secretary



Paul Harding
Co-opted Trustee



Edith Hessel
Co-opted Trustee



Allan Mowat
Trustee



Lindsay Nicholson
Treasurer

Secretaries



Helen Collins
Education Secretary



John Curnow
Groups & Meetings Secretary



Leonie Taams
Congress Secretary



BSI Forum



Forum

Our Forum members represent a diverse mix of immunologists from different careers stages, backgrounds and geographic locations. In addition to members of our Trustees, the following people sit on our Forum: Emma Chambers, Mark Coles, Graham Cook, Louise Cosby, Fiona Culley, Mike Ehrenstein, Tariq El-Shanawany, Ceri Fielding, Jayne Hope, Simon Jochems, Simon Milling, Maria Montoya, Rebecca Newman, Laura Pallett, Antonios Psarras.

Committees

The BSI is supported by a number of committees who oversee key areas of our work. These include the Congress Committee who manage our annual Congress, the Clinical Committee who represent our clinical members and oversee engagement with the wider clinical community, and our Patient Advisory Panel who ensure that the voice of the patient is represented in our work. Our newly formed Industry Partnership Group is investigating how to promote links between academia and industry while our Grant Panel assists with marking grant applications.

Regional & Affinity Groups

We have 35 Groups who represent different subject areas and regional groupings with immunology. We are indebted to our group members who volunteer their time to organise meetings, arrange seminars and put on public engagement events to bring sections of the membership together. You can read more about their work on page 9.



Our members

The BSI has over 3,000 members who join us from all walks of immunology. From students up to senior levels, they contribute to our work through many different routes, including speaking at our conferences, helping with our public engagement activities or advising on our policy work – our grateful thanks to our whole immunology community.

Our corporate members

We are grateful to our corporate members whose continuous support enables us to undertake our work and reach our charitable aims.

Join us!

We're always looking for new members to get involved with our activities. Check our website (www.immunology.org) for upcoming opportunities.

Our community

Our members are at the heart of everything we do. The United Kingdom is a world leader in immunological research and immunology underpins many aspects of recent advances in our knowledge of human and animal health and disease. As the largest professional immunology network in Europe, we aim to be a friendly, accessible community for immunologists from all disciplines, which supports diversity and works across different sectors and national borders. We work with members from across the whole spectrum of discipline, from basic science through to clinical application, to support current and future generations of immunologists.

Our members benefit from discounts to our meetings, free access to our journals, grants, bursaries and much more. Additionally, we provide multiple opportunities for our members to network and engage with our community through activities such as our Regional and Affinity Groups, training events or public engagement and social media projects. We also work with our members to use the collective voice of our community to represent immunology at the highest levels.

“The world’s premier immunology society! I am proud to have been a member for so long.”

What do you like most about being a member of the BSI?
“The feeling of belonging to a society which cares, promotes and advances immunology in the UK. Excellent staff”

3,024 members



1,839
Full members

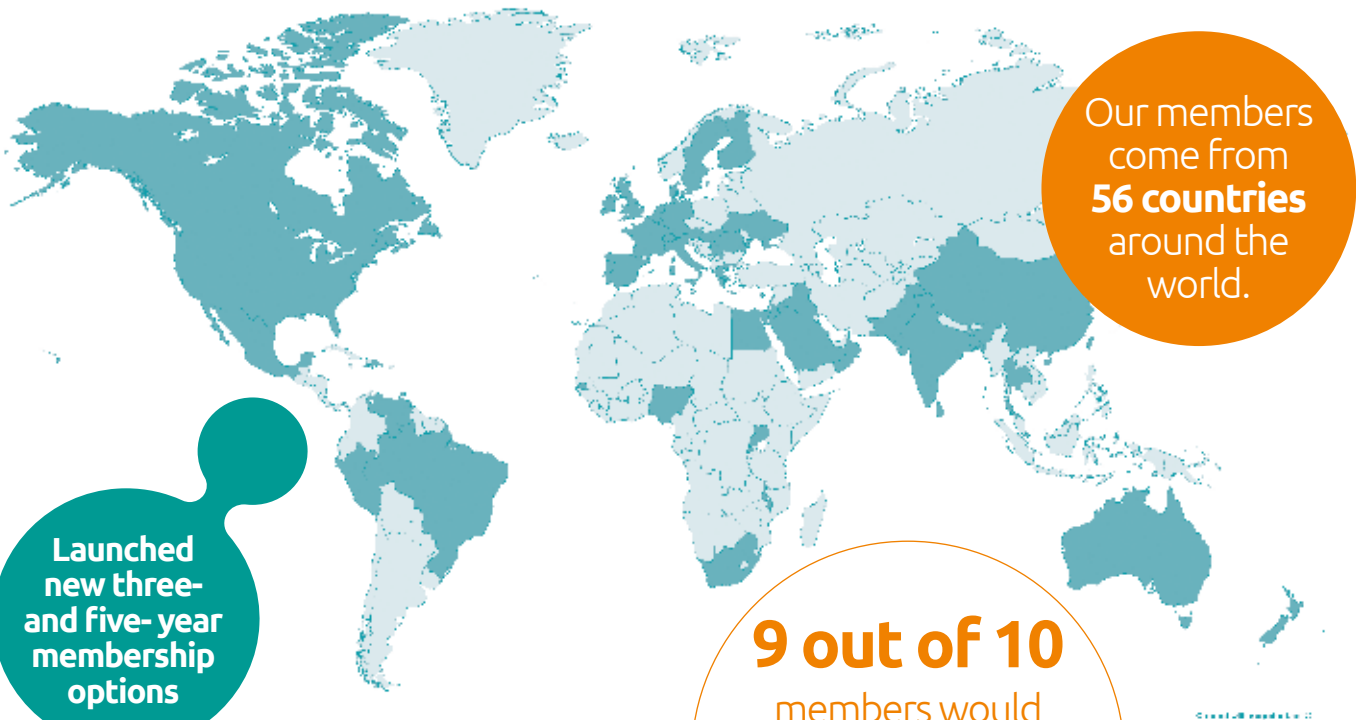
831
Postgraduate

179
Concessionary

51% FEMALE
49% MALE

105
Early career

70
Undergraduates



Our members come from **56 countries** around the world.

Launched new three- and five- year membership options

9 out of 10 members would recommend the BSI to their colleagues

Updating our systems

To allow us to improve our understanding of and engagement with our membership, this year saw the BSI take on a large project to launch a new CRM – or Customer Relationship Manager. This is the digital tool that hosts our membership database, personalises user-experience and enables functional improvements, such as the ability to better handle online payments for events and membership.

Our new CRM launched in December 2016, meaning that we can now offer an improved service to our members. Security improvements have come hand in hand with this modernisation and comprehensive testing has ensured that our website is held to the highest standards of data security.

Regional and Affinity Groups

“The Regional and Affinity Groups represent much of the core activity of the BSI that continues throughout the year across the country. The scientific discussions and networking that takes place at these meetings are invaluable for the continued development of immunology. The strengths of the Regional Group meetings are to bring together immunologists without the need to travel great distances, saving both money and time, and strengthening local research networks. The Affinity Groups have all been created to focus meetings and discussions on specific areas of immunology, and they continue to evolve as new areas of research in immunology expand.”



John Curnow,
Groups & Meetings Secretary

19

Regional Groups

16

Affinity Groups

14

Research conferences

136

Seminars

2

Careers events

3

Public engagement events

Keeping you informed

It's important to us that we have good communication channels with our members and the wider world, meaning we can be clear about our activities and how they benefit immunology. We also want to engage with and hear back from our members and those interested in our work. To this end, over the past 18 months, we have refreshed many of our communication channels to make sure they are fit for function, informative and easily accessible.

New website



In December 2016, we launched our brand new website. Now with a mobile friendly design, the easy-to-navigate pages and layout mean that visitors benefit from an improved user experience, which makes it easier to find and access information. Following feedback, we have also launched a blog section of the website which provides us with a space to tell you more about our work and respond in greater detail to topical issues affecting our community. Additionally, we have integrated our BiteSized Immunology education product into the main website, meaning that visitors can find all the information they need on the one site.

Alongside the website, our email communications system has also undergone an upgrade and redesign to allow us to connect with our members and supporters more effectively.

Immunology News



Our flagship quarterly magazine, *Immunology News*, was recently redesigned to help us communicate more effectively with our members. This includes regular feature articles by leading immunologists, an education and careers section, an increased focus on our journals and more information on our activities.

Social media

Our social media channels are becoming increasingly important in allowing us to engage with a wider audience, interact with our supporters, spread the word about our work and why immunology is great.

Twitter: 3,862 followers

Facebook: 23,429 likes

Influence and impact: spreading the word of immunology

The UK is a world leader in immunology research and we are now witnessing how decades of investment and research into immunity are yielding breakthroughs in the treatment of critical disease areas such as infection, cancer, autoimmunity and allergy. However, with this success, it becomes more important for us to give a powerful voice to immunological science and health and to advocate on relevant issues for the benefit of society. This means a significant part of our current strategy is to put immunology centre stage in the public arena to be discussed and engaged with.

Engaging with stakeholders

Through our policy and public affairs work, we aim to engage with policymakers and stakeholders to ensure the viewpoint and interests of immunologists are heard loud and clear. Over the past year, we have:

- Held 18 meetings with MPs and key stakeholders
- Participated in stakeholder network meetings with the Royal Society of Biology and Association of Medical Research Charities
- Run a campaign to inspire our members to engage with their parliamentary candidates in the run up to the UK's General Election
- Produced 7 briefings and position statements
- Published our report *'Immunology: an international, lifesaving science'*
- Produced a briefing that was quoted in the October 2016 House of Lords debate on the UK's withdrawal from the EU
- Contributed 3 consultation responses
- Collaborated with external organisations, such as the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust, on new schemes of works in areas such as vaccine research
- Run a campaign to encourage members to engage with their MP over Article 50 and implications for the life sciences.

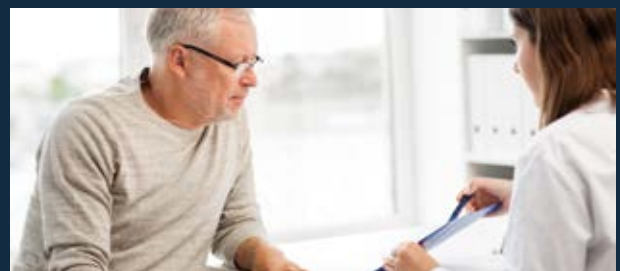
Case Study



Immunology and the UK's life sciences industry

Immunology sits at the very heart of the drug development process, with the discipline underpinning over half the pipeline products of the top five R&D investors in the UK. With the government planning a comprehensive and ambitious new industrial strategy, this report is our contribution to highlight the importance of immunology to the life sciences sector. We make recommendations for actions the government should take to support the life sciences sector in seven priority areas, from how to make the most of our transition out of the EU following Brexit, to making the most of the research potential of our unique NHS.

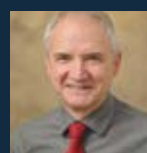
Case Study



Working with partners

Working with partner organisations to build on common interests is a key part of our strategy. This year, we collaborated with the Academy of Medical Sciences to contribute to their report on how we can all best use scientific evidence. This highlights the significant difficulties patients and some healthcare professionals face in using evidence from research to judge the benefits and harms of medicines and makes recommendations to improve the situation.

"Engaging with patients, funders and the public to clearly communicate the science behind these medical innovations and in turn listen to their viewpoints and concerns is a key part of our role as doctors and scientists. Providing accurate and accessible information on medical innovations and educating people on how to judge the benefits and harms of medicines should be seen as an integral part of developing any new treatment. It is only by working in close partnership with patients, clearly and honestly explaining the scientific evidence, that we can fully realise the huge potential that 21st century medical science offers."



Professor Peter Openshaw,
BSI President



BSI funded educational workshop in Trujillo, Peru

Public engagement

In 2016, the BSI decided to pause and evaluate our public engagement activities to ensure that they were in line with our charitable remit, meeting our organisation’s aims and making the most of our resources. With our new five-year strategic plan in place, our new challenge has been to identify the most successful and important aspects of immunology and to create a strategic programme that will raise the profile of and increase engagement with immunology amongst the public.

Vaccine ambassadors – growing immunity in our community

Through our public engagement activities, we aim to ensure that the public benefits from immunology’s success, making one of our priorities to encourage immunisation uptake and to provide reliable information on vaccines and immunity to those who need or want it. Our research showed that new parents and carers want the opportunity to have an informed discussion with experts about immunisations and the immune system more generally.

This year, we have piloted the BSI Vaccine Ambassador Scheme, which facilitates BSI members engaging with new and expectant parents on vaccines and immunity. Vaccine ambassadors attend local nurseries, community groups, antenatal and postnatal classes and lead discussions there with the ultimate aim of making parents feel more confident in their ability to make informed choices on their child’s health and vaccines. The pilot of this project is due to be completed in autumn 2017, with plans to evaluate and expand the project nationwide at the start of 2018.



#BritainBreathing is our citizen science project that aims to engage the UK public to act as ‘citizen sensors’ to help scientists discover more about seasonal allergies such as hay fever or asthma. Working in partnership with The University of Manchester and the Royal Society of Biology, we have developed an app which allows the public to record their allergy symptoms in a simple and straightforward way and then safely share that data with the project team. Our aim is to work with the public to better understand (both on a national scale and for the individual) when allergy symptoms are occurring and what the triggers for these might be. The project launched in 2016 and this year represents our second season collecting data.



NanoMate exhibition stand at Cheltenham Science Festival, funded through a BSI grant

Media highlights

Through our media work, we aim to promote evidence-based and accurate coverage of immunology in the news and ensure that journalists have access to relevant experts who can provide knowledgeable responses. We do this through providing expert comment to breaking news stories, working with programme researchers to shape TV or radio broadcasts or through highlighting research from our journals or meetings. This year, we also ran our first media training sessions for members, with the aim of equipping them with the skills to be confident at speaking with the press about immunology.



BSI Trustee Sheena Cruickshank being interviewed live on BBC Radio 5

38

Media enquiries fielded

10

Media spokespeople trained

24

BSI press releases/
response statements

44

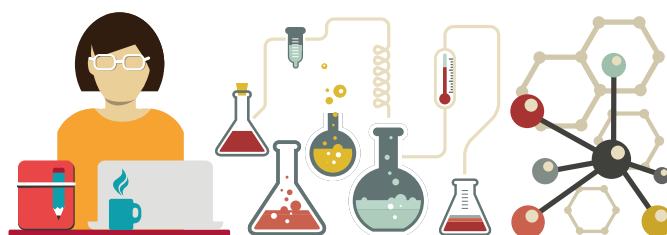
Articles in the UK
national press

300+

Articles in the worldwide press

Supporting the next generation

The BSI wishes to be a hub of expertise on forging strong immunology careers, whatever the sector in which people work. It is essential that our members feel supported at every stage of their career and one of our core responsibilities is to offer appropriate careers and educational support to current and future generations of immunologists throughout their careers. We do this through a number of ongoing activities, such as our highly popular grants schemes and our education website BiteSized Immunology, and through new initiatives we are developing in line with our strategic plan.



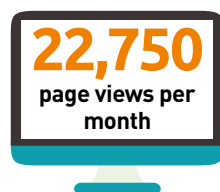
BiteSized Immunology

"BiteSized Immunology is an online resource which provides a comprehensive overview of the immune system, delivered in short self-contained articles, which highlight the major 'take home' messages. These articles are designed for use by bioscience undergraduates, A-level students and anyone who is encountering immunology for the first time."



Helen Collins,
BSI Education Secretary

This year, along with migrating the BiteSized Immunology content to our new website, we have started to review and refresh the articles to ensure the content is accurate, current and relevant. To oversee this process, we've recruited a number of BSI members to join our new Editorial Board who will review current content and commission additional content to fill any gaps.



Each month, BiteSized Immunology receives an average of 22,750 page views from users in

132 countries

"I cannot recommend BiteSized Immunology enough as a resource for teaching (and as a refresher)"

Lesley Hoyles @BugsinyourGut

New for 2017

Review of immunology careers

To better understand the career progression of immunologists and the challenges they face, we have commissioned a review of immunology careers, which will help to target our future activities in this area. This review consists of several pieces of work including a careers survey, analysis of academic workforce and tracking the career destinations of immunology PhD students. The findings will be published in October 2017.

Immunology Teaching Excellence Award

To recognise outstanding teachers at higher education institutes across the UK, we have launched the Immunology Teaching Excellence Award. The first recipient will be announced in December 2017.

Mentoring scheme

Our new mentoring scheme aims to support professional development amongst the immunology community, bringing together senior scientists with early career researchers to assist the next generation of immunologists with career development and progression. The call for participants is now out and the pilot scheme will launch in December 2017.

BSI Summer School relaunched

The essential training course for PhD students and early career postdocs. The first event took place in July 2017.



Grants to support you

A significant proportion of our funds are distributed to our members through our grant schemes to support their research, help them attend conferences and assist them in running public engagement activities.



£112,044
in grants awarded to BSI members

237
members benefitted from our grants

Travel Awards

171 members benefitted from our Travel Awards, with 79 members funded to attend the BSI Congress.

"This meeting provided me with a unique opportunity for an interdisciplinary overview of the TGF- β research. Keystone symposia always gather world-renowned scientists so it was an amazing experience, both professionally and personally, to be a part of this exciting meeting. This experience helped me to better understand controversies present in this field and to gain a general view on the current state of knowledge. I would like to thank once more the BSI for supporting me and making this possible."



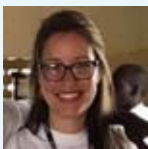
Izabela Borek
Travel Award recipient

Summer Placement Awards

These grants offer medical and postgraduate students funding to undertake a formal immunology placement in a selected laboratory.



"My elective was better than I could ever have dreamed of. The place and the people were fantastic. I left eager to start my foundation training and even more determined to make immunological research a significant part of my future career."



Charlotte Grant
Summer Placement grant recipient

Communicating Immunology Grants

We supported 11 projects through this scheme with the aim of stimulating interest, discussion and understanding of immunology amongst a wider audience. Projects ranged from stands at science fairs and funding education films to supporting a trip to Madagascar to educate rural communities on parasites.

Case Study



"To coincide with World Diabetes Day, the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism opened its doors to members of the public to raise awareness of diabetes and showcase our basic and clinical research. With the help of some giant fluffy antibodies, white blood cells and beta cells, visitors learned how insulin-producing beta cells are attacked by the immune system. A card game giving points to hypothetical risk factors for type 1 diabetes provided talking points for how environmental and genetic risk factors can combine to cause the autoimmune response.

"The event was well-received, with 97% of visitors finding the event very interesting. It was also beneficial to me on several levels. I enjoyed talking directly to families affected by type 1 diabetes and helping to answer questions they had. As scientists, we have very few opportunities to connect directly with the public and I found these interactions both insightful and motivating and helped to focus my research questions on what is most important to people with type 1 diabetes."

Kerry McLaughlin,
Communicating Immunology grant recipient

Undergraduate Achievement Awards

Through this scheme, we supported 17 departments to promote excellence in the study of immunology at undergraduate level, and encourage gifted students to pursue a career in immunology.



Full details of all Society grants can be found at www.immunology.org/grants-and-prizes

60 years of the British Society for Immunology



When a small group of immunologists founded the British Society for Immunology 60 years ago, they could hardly have foreseen the explosion of knowledge that would follow. To mark our 60th anniversary in 2016, we ran a number of events and projects aimed at celebrating the rich history of our discipline while also looking forward to future innovations.



Anniversary lecture

Sixty years on, and another group of immunologists gathered, this time in the comfortable surroundings of the Royal Society, to attend our anniversary lecture and hear about 'The changing nature of research'.



It was a night to remember. Over 200 people attended a special meeting to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the BSI. While there was no red carpet, it was a 'Who's Who' of British immunologists. The evening kicked off with three superb talks by Professor Peter Openshaw, the BSI President, Professor Sir Robert Lechler and Professor Fiona Powrie. Each gave their own personal review of the history of immunology, the current status and the important issues still left to address for future immunologists.

The talks were followed by drinks where old friends all remarked at what the BSI had achieved in the past 60 years and what we were hoping for in the next 60 years. Being in the company of several current fellows of the Society as well as posters detailing the achievements of many past immunologists made for a very inspirational evening. We are all looking forward to the next 60 years!

Sandra Amor, BSI member



Immunology: past, present and future

With the UK currently ranking as first amongst the G7 for the quality of our research in infection and immunology, we wanted to use our 60th anniversary to celebrate the breadth and depth of the discipline. To do this, we commissioned a report to discuss key areas where immunology has and will have a significant

impact on our understanding of human and animal biology, our ability to treat and even cure common diseases and our capacity to deal with emerging threats on a global scale. This was disseminated to our members and key stakeholders with excellent feedback received. You can read the whole report at <http://bit.ly/60yearimm>.

Immunology in 60 objects

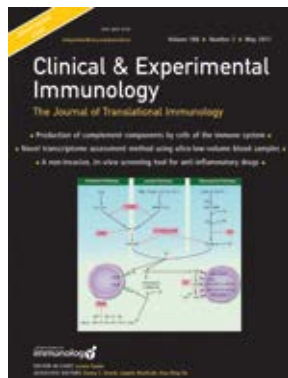


We chose 60 objects to tell the story of immunology over time. Each object was suggested by a BSI member to illustrate the tale of a specific discovery, new technique or step change in

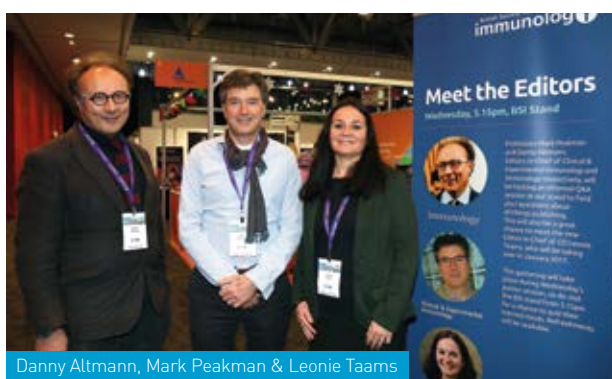
thinking in our wonderful discipline. We released one object per day and at the end of the project, our supporters voted for which they felt had made the most significant contribution to immunology. The project proved supremely popular and the winner, by quite some margin, was the structure of the antibody, a discovery for which Gerald Edelman and Rodney Porter won the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology in 1972. You can view all the objects at www.immunology.org/days.

Journals

The BSI's original ethos still lies at the heart of our Society – to disseminate research with the aim of promoting and advancing immunology to foster future innovation. The BSI is proud to achieve this aim through the publication of our two official journals, *Immunology* and *Clinical & Experimental Immunology*. Working with the publisher Wiley, our journals provide a significant proportion of the Society's income.



Over the past year, the two journals have undergone a strategic review to ensure they maintain their position in the face of the digital and editorial innovations currently taking place in the publishing industry. This includes building on our relationship with Wiley, the journals' publishers, to ensure we work together to maximise output and effectiveness. We have also conducted a review of the editorial boards and are looking to bring on new associate editors. We were pleased to welcome Ananda Goldrath as an associate editor at *Immunology* in April, and more appointments will follow shortly.



2017 saw a change in leadership at *Clinical & Experimental Immunology*, with Mark Peakman stepping down as Editor-in-Chief after a successful eight years in office, which saw sustained growth of the journal. He is succeeded by Leonie Taams who will take the strategic work on the journal forward. The current Editor-in-Chief of *Immunology* is Danny Altmann, who has recently extended his term of office for another two years.

Clinical & Experimental Immunology

3.410

Impact factor

383,870

Downloads (Wiley online library)

54

Number of countries submissions received from

Immunology

3.701

Impact factor

329,998

Downloads (Wiley online library)

53

Number of countries submissions received from

2016–17 special issues

Clinical & Experimental Immunology

- From bench to clinic – highlights in translational immunology research
- Immunosenescence in health and disease

Immunology

- Drivers and regulators of adaptive immunity – new concepts
- Editor's choice
- Specialised innate and adaptive immune subsets

Joint

- Highlights in autoimmunity: pathogenesis, pathology and clinical features of disease

Raising the online profile of articles

With online conversations becoming increasingly important in the promotion and recognition of new research, the BSI journals have embraced our viral traits and gone social. 2017 saw the launch of new Twitter channels for each of our journals, @CEIjournal and @immjournal. This, along with an increased focus on educating our authors and membership on how to promote their work on social media, has led to an increase in Altmetric scores this year across the board.



Antigenic cross-reactivity between *Schistosoma mansoni* and peanut: a role for cross-reactive carbohydrate determinants (CCDs) and implications for the hygiene hypothesis



The 'hygiene hypothesis' for autoimmune and allergic diseases: an update

Working with international partners

BSI/NVVI Congress 2016

In 2016, we held a Joint Congress with the Dutch Society for Immunology (NVVI) in Liverpool. We were delighted to welcome over 1,600 immunologists from around the world, with the international aspect of the Congress appreciated by all. Akiko Iwasaki from Yale University gave an outstanding keynote lecture and this was followed by a plethora of plenary talks and invited lectures from leading researchers across the spectrum of immunology. Feedback from delegates was very positive, both in terms of the scientific content of the event and the networking opportunities afforded to attendees.



"So long #BSINVVI16 it's been a blast. Great science, good friends, heading home refuelled on immunology & ready to break new ground in 2017"

John Tregoning @DrTregoning

4

Packed days of immunology

69

Invited speakers

204

Oral presentations

717

Poster presentations

1,600

Attendees from 23 countries

46

Exhibitors



Our Bright Sparks winners

Bright Sparks in Immunology is our competition to showcase the work of early career researchers and provide them with experience of presenting their work to a large audience. This year's winners were:

Renee Schreurs (Amsterdam) – Tri phasic establishment of mucosal memory T cells during human intestinal development

Madhvi Menon (London) – Abnormal crosstalk between plasmacytoid dendritic cells and regulatory B cells contributes to the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus



Renee and Madhvi receive their prizes

Top five reasons for attending

1. Scientific content
2. Networking
3. Professional development
4. To present an abstract
5. Calibre of speakers



97%

delegates would recommend our Congress to a colleague!

"Best thing about @bsicongress is bringing immunologists together on a scientific and social level! #BSINVVI16 #network #PhD #immunology"

Fane Mensah @Fane_Mensah

International collaborations

As new frontiers in immunological discoveries open up, the global networks that scientists develop become increasingly important. The BSI aims to facilitate these international links for our members by working with sister societies from around the globe to increase engagement opportunities and collaborative networks.



Joint symposium in Shanghai

Chinese Society for Immunology

In May 2017, the BSI took part in our first joint symposium with the Chinese Society for Immunology and Oxford University's Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences group. This was held in Shanghai and brought together 32 world leading experts from both countries to present their research, paving the way for closer collaboration between the two groups to meet their common aim of pursuing excellence in innovation, scholarship and clinical practice.

The meeting ended with ourselves and the Chinese Society signing a joint letter of intent to establish a collaborative partnership to improve engagement opportunities between our countries and promote exchanges and alliances.

European Federation of Immunological Societies

The BSI continues to maintain a close relationship with our colleagues at the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS), an umbrella organisation which represents 33 different immunology societies. In the wake of the referendum result on the UK's European Union membership, we feel it is more important than ever to ensure that current UK-European collaborative working partnerships are maintained and to provide our members with opportunities to build new partnerships.



BSI President Peter Openshaw receives a plaque from EFIS President René van Lier to commemorate 60 years of the BSI

We were honoured that EFIS President René van Lier joined us at our Congress for a dedicated session focusing on the consequences of Brexit for immunologists, which was well received by our membership. Additionally, at a productive meeting in June, the BSI and EFIS discussed ways to strengthen scientific interaction between our organisations, with the BSI taking a close working role in assisting with the next European Congress of Immunology to be held in 2018.

American Association of Immunologists

In 2017, we sponsored a lecture at their annual meeting, Immunology 2017. This was given by Adrian Hayday (Francis Crick Institute) on 'Epithelia use organ-specific butyrophilin-like molecules to compose local T cell compartments'.



IUIS at Melbourne

International Union of Immunological Societies

BSI trustee Anne Cooke was elected to the Council of IUIS in 2016. Members of the BSI also made the trip 'down under' to attend the International Congress of Immunology in Melbourne, Australia. In addition to funding 13 members to present their work, staff also attended to run our exhibition stand and build links with other immunology societies from around the world.

"The programme was so diverse and interesting that I remained excited and engaged throughout the entire conference"

Emma Rathbone,
BSI IUIS Travel Grant recipient

Financial report



Message from the Treasurer

Despite a turbulent year of world events, the finances of the British Society for Immunology remain healthy with an overall net surplus for 2016/2017 of £231k on an income of £2,199k. Our most significant activity of the year remains the BSI Congress, which was held in December 2016 in collaboration with the Dutch Society for Immunology (NWI). Income from the conference was £532k against direct costs of £540k. This exceeded our budget target, agreed with the NWI, and demonstrates the long-term financial viability of Congress in a number of different future scenarios. The BSI's Regional and Affinity Groups received £79k in support for a diverse range of activities, including meetings, seminars and public engagement activities.

We continue to increase our investment in policy work and also spent significantly on software and support for the development and implementation of a new website and membership database. These costs are capacity building and should represent good value for money for the Society in the medium term.

The Society's Finance Sub-Committee completed its second full year and has put in place robust oversight of risk and financial reserves. We have designated some funds to strategic goals over the next four years, and continue to explore ways to diversify sources of income for the BSI. In the course of the year, we appointed new investment managers, Standard Life Wealth. We are now working with them to refresh our investment strategy to make this more responsive to the interests of BSI members and ensure compliance with the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016. In all this work, we have received outstanding support from Liz Ambekar, the BSI's Finance and Business Director, as well as everyone in the BSI management team.

Reserves policy

The Trustees recognise the need to hold sufficient free reserves to ensure the protection of our core activities in the event of income shortfall and/or economic downturns, and to allow balanced long-term strategic planning. The Trustees set a target range for free reserves based on holding sufficient funds to cover two years of operating expenditure. On the basis of the 2017/18 budget, the target range for free reserves is between £2,600k to £3,100k, which we are currently set to meet.

Financial position

The overall financial position of the BSI continues to be strong, with a year-end balance sheet value of £3,159k of which £2,988k is held in long term investments to secure the reserves position and ensure the future financial stability of the BSI. Income continues to be healthy, with the primary sources being journal royalties, events income and membership subscriptions, while costs are managed well to ensure value for money for members and supporters, and appropriate use of Society funds on activities that benefit them and deliver the BSI's strategic goals.

Lindsay Nicholson
Treasurer

July 2016 – June 2017: our year in figures

£112K

Grants awarded

£231K

Overall net surplus

£1,298K

Income from journals

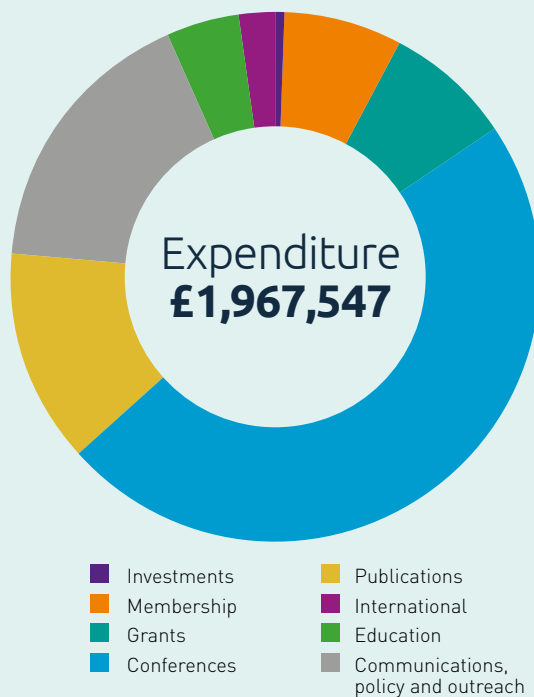
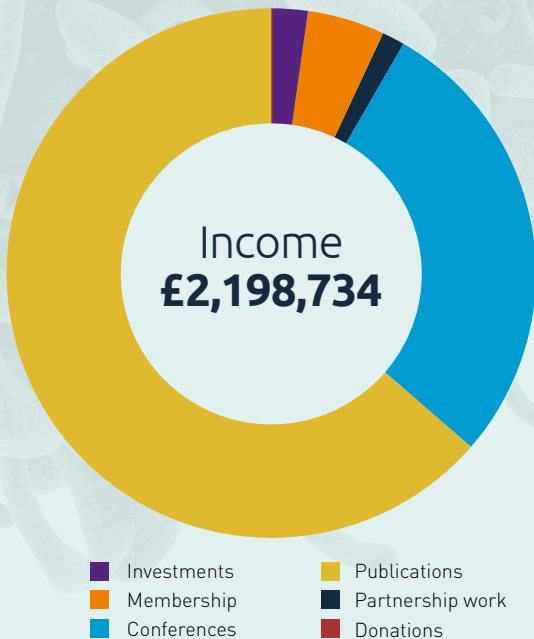
Corporate Sponsors

The British Society for Immunology is grateful for all the support we receive from our corporate sponsors in helping us reach our charitable aims.

Gold sponsors




Bronze sponsors



Our grateful thanks also go to all the companies and organisations who supported our activities throughout the year including our Congress and our Regional and Affinity Group events.

The British Society for Immunology's mission is to promote excellence in immunological research, scholarship and clinical practice in order to improve human and animal health.

British Society for Immunology
34 Red Lion Square
London
WC1R 4SG
www.immunology.org
 @britsocimm

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