



Annual Review

2021 – 2022



About the Society

The British Society for Immunology is the UK membership organisation working with scientists and clinicians to forward immunology research and application around the world. Our ambitious and collaborative community consists of over 4,300 immunologists giving us a powerful voice to advocate for immunological science and health for the benefit of society. Based in London, our staff of 20 work with our Trustees and members to achieve the organisation's goals.

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Mission

The British Society for Immunology's mission is to support our immunology community in driving scientific discovery and making a positive impact on health.

We accomplish this by:

- **Connected community:** providing the immunology community with support to establish more connections and enhance collaboration, both within the field, and with other related scientific disciplines and between sectors.
- **Championing careers:** providing sector leading support to attract and retain talent in immunology.
- **Catalysing change:** influencing and improving the external environment to enable immunology to thrive and deliver positive outcomes for health.



Message from our President and Chief Executive

Welcome to our annual review for 2021–22. This has been another busy and successful year for the British Society for Immunology. We're very proud of all the BSI has achieved this year – this review outlines some of the main successes and impacts that we have achieved for our membership and for immunology more widely.

An undoubted highlight of our year was the launch of the new BSI five-year strategic plan, outlining our mission and goals for the Society in the coming years. Building on the strong foundations of our past work and guided by our updated vision and mission statements and set of values, this ambitious strategy lays out how we will work with our membership to deliver for the immunology and wider community. As the UK's leading charity representing the immune research sector, we are confident that our work will lead a positive change towards our vision of better health for all through immunology. Alongside our strategy sits our new Diversity and Inclusion Framework, which outlines our promise to our membership on how we will work with them to foster a culture within immunology that ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all.

Supporting our 4,300 members is of crucial importance to the BSI and we've achieved through a number of routes this year. Our BSI Congress is always one of our highlights and this year was no exception with over 1,600 immunologists joining us for four action-packed days of immunology and our first in-person meeting since the pandemic. In-person meetings were also back on the agenda for our wonderful Regional and Affinity Groups, who do so much to foster collaboration and community within their specific areas. We also launched some new funding opportunities, notably our innovative Career Enhancing Grant, providing flexible financial support to enable our members to reach their career goals. In addition, through our Connect Immune Research partnership, we collaborated with the Lorna and Yuti Chernajovsky Biomedical Research Foundation to bring £1 million of new funding into autoimmune research.

The BSI has continued to maintain a strong presence in public discussion, particularly around the COVID-19 pandemic. We use our powerful voice to advocate for immunology, ensuring the voice of immunologists is heard in public debates, and that policymakers have access to the latest immunological thinking. Our well-regarded vaccine engagement work has also drawn plaudits from across the country in terms of our innovative and collaborative approach to engaging with the public to increase their knowledge of vaccines.

Diversifying the BSI's income is an ongoing strategic goal, and we made some significant steps forward this year. Of particular note is the evolution of our journals' strategy, which saw the launch of our second Open Access journal, *Discovery Immunology*, alongside a consolidation of our

overall journals' offering to ensure we have a modern publishing portfolio that meets the needs of our members and wider immunology community. We have also made strides forward in our partnership work, bringing our specialist skills to bear on a number of national immunology research consortia, helping to drive forward the research agenda and maximise impact for these collaborations.

The BSI's Trustees and staff are committed to building on our current achievements to ensure that the Society continues to flourish and innovate how we support our members and represent immunology to the wider world. None of the BSI's achievements would be possible without the hard work and expertise of our many members and partners who generously volunteer their time to help us achieve our goals. We're thrilled to see the dedication and enthusiasm with which you embrace the opportunities to work with us and be part of our journey to help shape the future of immunology.

Thank you all!

Professor Arne Akbar,
BSI President



Dr Doug Brown,
BSI Chief Executive



A note of thanks to our outgoing President, Arne Akbar, from our CEO, Doug Brown

This coming December will see a change in leadership at the BSI as Prof Arne Akbar completes his term of office as President, to be succeeded by Prof Tracy Hussell. Our huge thanks go to Arne for being an inspiring, supportive and engaged leader, calmly directing the Society as we navigated the challenges of the COVID pandemic, while growing the Society's influence and impact. These have been pivotal years for the Society, and its members, and staff remain indebted to Arne for the legacy that his Presidency leaves to immunology and beyond.

Our achievements

2021-2022

Our new Open Access journal, *Discovery Immunology*, launched

Widening our journals portfolio to cater for the immunology community



Launched our new Career Enhancing Grants

Over £125K awarded to support members to reach their career goals

Record attendance at BSI Congress

Over 1,600 immunologists came together to disseminate the latest research findings

Introduced the new BSI Diversity and Inclusion framework

Our aim to foster a culture within immunology that ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all

New support and engagement opportunities for members

Achieving a diverse membership comprising over 4,300 immunologists

Regional and Affinity Group activities back in business

Nine in-person and two online conferences



Implemented our new five-year strategy

Our plan to support immunology research and make a positive impact on health



Impact high at CEI!

Clinical & Experimental Immunology achieved its highest ever impact factor of 5.732

CARINA Network launched

Building capacity and enhancing collaboration within immune-ageing research





Highlighting the importance of veterinary vaccinology research

Working with the International Veterinary Vaccinology Network to publish a joint report setting out the key recommendations



Building our online audience

Over 4 million page views of our website

New funding for autoimmune research

Partnering with Connect Immune Research and The Chernajovsky Foundation to award grants totalling £1 million

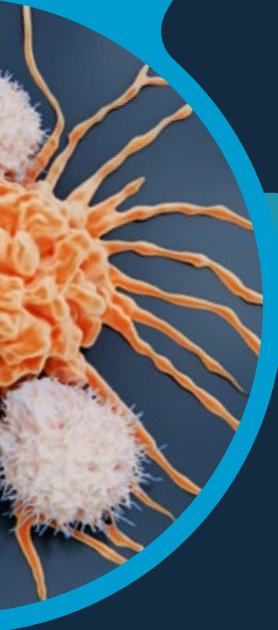


Celebrating excellence with our honorary members

Recognising individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to immunology

Training community champions on vaccine engagement

Partnering with local communities to enable effective conversations on COVID-19 vaccines



Supporting members through our grant schemes

£225K awarded to 339 members

Highlighting the impact of PPI

Celebrating and showcasing the positive impact of involving patients and the public in immunology research



Showcasing the future of immunology

Recognising exceptional work from PhD students and postdoctoral researchers through our Bright Sparks initiative

Providing expert input to policymakers, media and public on COVID-19

Feeding scientific expertise into public debate to help our country navigate the pandemic



Our five year strategy

2021-2025

In November 2021, we launched our new strategy to set the direction and priorities of the British Society for Immunology for the next five years. It is ambitious and forward thinking and places members at the heart of our mission. As the UK's leading charity and scientific society representing the immune research sector, we are confident that we will deliver on this strategy to lead a positive change towards our vision.

Our vision

Better health for all through immunology

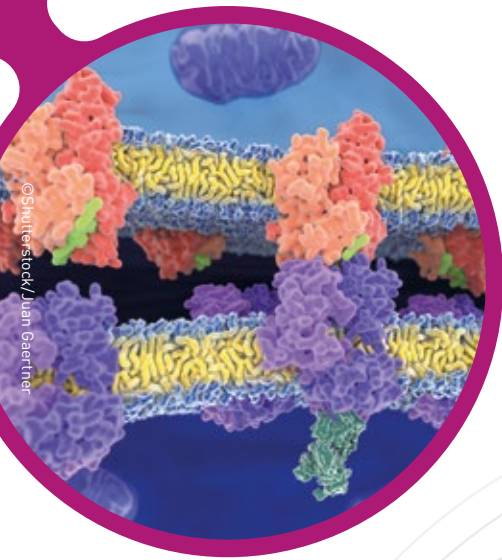
Our mission

We are committed to supporting our immunology community in driving scientific discovery and making a positive impact on health

Our values

We are:

Ambitious and committed
Evidence-based and responsible
Collaborative and inclusive
Agile and energetic



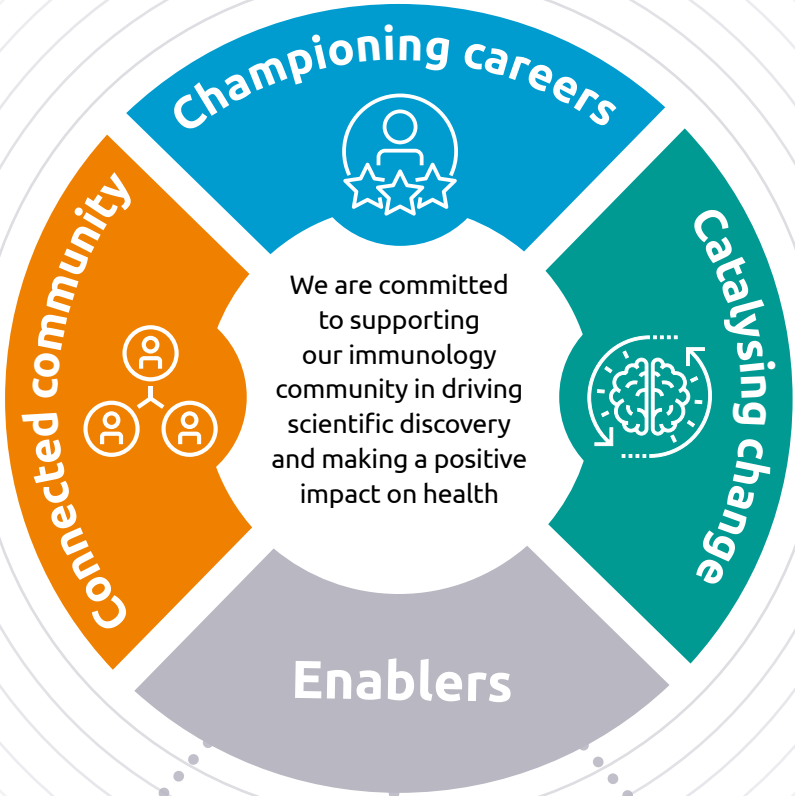
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To provide sector-leading support to attract and retain talent in immunology

To provide the immunology community with support to establish more connections and enhance collaboration

To influence and improve the external environment to enable immunology to thrive and deliver positive outcomes for health



Membership

Diversity & inclusion

Financial stability



Connected community

By 2025, we will provide the immunology community with support to establish more connections and enhance collaboration, both within the field, and with other related scientific disciplines and between sectors.

We will do this by:

- Expanding our activities and support to further enable our members to network and engage with each other across the immunology community
- Increasing the number and diversity of interdisciplinary connections with industry as well as between immunology and other relevant research and clinical fields
- Initiating and supporting national and topic-specific research consortia efforts relevant to immunology

BSI Congress

In December 2021, over 1,600 immunologists came together in Edinburgh and online for our flagship event, BSI Congress. It was an amazing four days of immunology, packed with cutting-edge science, inspiring debates and those much-missed opportunities to connect and start new collaborations. This year, we kept our online attendance option which proved popular with those who did not feel comfortable attending in-person or who couldn't get time away from work. Feedback from delegates was very positive, with many praising the scientific content, the networking opportunities afforded to attendees and the inclusive nature of the event.



1,658 delegates from 44 countries	1,503 onsite 155 online	32 exhibitors	36 sessions	816 abstracts submitted
Top reasons for attendance <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Scientific content 2 Networking opportunities 3 Professional development opportunities 				94 orals 594 posters
				74 invited speakers

What our delegates thought...

“BSI Congress 2021 has included such a diverse programme of immunology I think it’ll take me weeks to fully digest!”

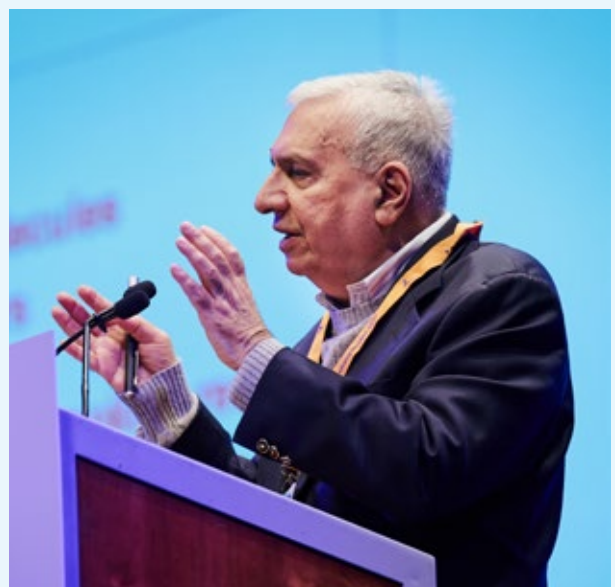
“To be back talking in-person with such amazing immunologists after two years has been everything and more!”

“Fantastic to get the opportunity to present and have in-person discussions about all things immunology!”

97%
of attendees say they would recommend attending BSI Congress to a friend or colleague.

Keynote lecture

Our outstanding Keynote lecture was given by Dr Rafi Ahmed from Emory University on ‘T cell lifestyle in chronic viral infections and cancer implications’.



BSI Regional and Affinity Groups

The BSI's Regional and Affinity Groups are a key part of the BSI community and are part of our core activity to bring our membership together. The scientific discussions and networking that take place via these Groups are invaluable for the continued development of immunology. Our 17 Regional Groups bring together immunologists within a local community, boosting local research networks. Our 12 Affinity Groups have all been created to focus meetings and discussions on specific areas of immunology and they continue to evolve as immunology expands its reach and knowledge.

While the activities of our Groups have been somewhat curtailed during the pandemic, they approached this year with renewed enthusiasm and ideas. In total, our Groups hosted nine in-person conferences, two online conferences and three webinars, covering a whole host of topics from B cells to tumour checkpoint blockade to avian immunology flow cytometry. In total, these events attracted almost 1,600 delegates and played an important part in our strategy to develop our Regional and Affinity Groups as community-based expert hubs. Our Groups also ran a number of other activities including in-house seminar series, careers events and public outreach initiatives.

Case Study

BSI Midlands Immunology Group

Previously called the BSI West Midlands Immunology Group, the BSI Midlands Immunology Group (MIG) is currently undergoing an expansion to bring together even more of the immunology community, widening our geographical remit to include the University of Nottingham in the East Midlands. Our aim is to support the BSI in creating a connected community by promoting interaction among immunologists across both academic and clinical settings. We hold monthly seminars and an annual symposium. Our events throughout the year bring together students, early career researchers, clinicians, and group leaders to present and discuss the latest advances in research in immunology.

One of our key events is our annual symposium. In May 2022, we hosted our postponed symposium from 2020 at the University of Birmingham. This was the launch date for the formation of the new BSI Midlands Immunology Group, and we had a great line up of speakers. Our annual symposia are great opportunities for early career researchers to get involved in organising events, scoring abstracts, and getting experience in chairing scientific sessions. And the event itself is a great experience for presenting posters or short talks in front of a familiar and engaging audience.

Dr David Bending & Dr Kendle Maslowski,
Co-Chairs of the BSI Midlands Immunology Group

Case Study



BSI East Anglia Immunology Group

The BSI East Anglia Immunology Group has focused on increasing awareness of immunology and the work of the Society through public engagement. This year, we ran an activity stand on vaccines at Norwich Science Festival, supported by the BSI. The stand included a wide range of information and hands-on activities on COVID-19, including make your own coronavirus paper plate; origami mice and syringes of different vaccines; viewing lung tissue; an antibody challenge game, herd immunity bowling and some printed infographics.

The origami mice and vaccines were a definite hit, along with making pipe cleaner antibodies and the antibody challenge game. These also engaged participants for an optimum amount of time, enabling conversation about the function of antibodies.

The public asked lots of questions about vaccines and having open and honest discussion was appreciated. We learnt how important it was for the public to have the opportunity to talk to scientists about this topical issue, to dispel the myths about vaccines and talk through what we know and what we don't know. The event also had a big impact on our students, who gained valuable skills in science communication.

BSI East Anglia Immunology Group

BSI 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. This has been a busy and exciting year for our journals and one full of change.

After a strategic review of our portfolio, the BSI decided to focus on developing journals that are fully owned by the Society to give us greater control over our publishing portfolio's future and to allow us to continue to support future generations of immunologists. This meant that our long-standing association with the Wiley-owned journal *Immunology* came to an end. However, we were delighted to cement our relationship with Oxford University Press, who became our new publishing partner for *Clinical & Experimental Immunology*, where it joined our Open Access journal *Immunotherapy Advances*. January also saw the exciting move of launching our second fully Open Access journal, *Discovery Immunology*. This launch completes our highly respected family of three journals serving the field of immunology, publishing high-quality research articles, reviews, commentaries and short reports from researchers across the globe.

Income generated from our journals provides major financial support for the Society's activities and we are hugely grateful to all our Editorial Board members for their ongoing commitment, and everyone who has contributed to the continued success of our journals, including authors, readers, reviewers and editors..

Clinical & Experimental Immunology



Our established translational research journal, *Clinical & Experimental Immunology (CEI)*, continues to go from strength to strength, and this year reached its highest-ever impact factor of 5.732. We're incredibly proud of this achievement and our thanks go to Editor-in-Chief Leonie Taams and

the journal's Editorial Board for their hard work in bringing about this success.

It's been a busy year for *CEI* all round, publishing a number of high impact virtual issues and taking part in a number of collaborations including highlighting primary research and review articles that complemented the scientific programme of Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) 2022.

Immunotherapy Advances



It's been another successful year for our first fully Open Access journal, *Immunotherapy Advances*, as it continues its journey to be a globally recognised title that both serves the immunotherapy community and exposes new developments in the field to a wide and diverse readership. Led by Editor-in-Chief, Tim

Elliott, *Immunotherapy Advances* publishes scientifically rigorous research relating to manipulations of the immune system for the benefit of human and animal health in all disease areas.

A highlight this year has been the recruitment of an Early Career Editorial Board who gain the opportunity to develop their skills as peer reviewers, learn more about the editorial process and contribute to the growth and development of the journal.

Discovery Immunology



This year, the BSI launched *Discovery Immunology*, a fully Open Access journal whose broad scope focuses on new discoveries in cellular and molecular immunology. Led by Editor-in-Chief Simon Milling, and supported by six prestigious senior editors and a growing international Editorial

Board from academia and industry, *Discovery Immunology* aims to publish high-quality articles describing novel mechanisms controlling the immune response. After a successful launch, we are now focused on building the reach and impact of the journal over the coming months.

"Our vision is for Discovery Immunology to become an invaluable resource to the immunology community, providing trusted new insights into the workings of the immune system."

Professor Simon Milling,
Editor-in-Chief, *Discovery Immunology*

Supporting research consortia

Under our updated strategy, a new facet of our work has been to support national and topic-specific research consortia efforts relevant to immunology. By championing investment in immunology and a ‘team science’ approach, we aim to use our skills to support cross-sector collaboration efforts to drive forward immunology research faster and more effectively. This work has got off to a fast-paced start with the BSI providing a variety of services to support two national research consortia detailed below. In addition, we are also continuing our support of the UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium (UK-CIC) to ensure the legacy of this project and are currently supporting the SIREN (SARS-CoV-2 immunity and reinfection evaluation) study to deliver their participant involvement panel.

Case Study



CARINA network meeting

CARINA

The CARINA (CAtalyst Reducing ImmuNe Ageing) Network is an initiative funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and supported by the BSI. The network was established to create a UK-wide, inclusive platform to enhance collaboration and foster knowledge exchange in the area of immune ageing.

Involving over 70 researchers and experts from a range of disciplines and career levels, the network is identifying the priority areas for a better understanding of immunity and ageing and how to address them through an interdisciplinary approach.

The Management Group, led by BSI President Professor Arne Akbar, provides important oversight of the CARINA Network and directs network activities by identifying novel research strategies. The BSI has a leading role in providing the project support that enables these activities. This includes the delivery of involved project management to ensure important milestones are met, events support to bring network members together for essential interactions, communication of the progress of the network with key audiences through management of an online presence, and embedding a patient and public involvement component in the project.



Case Study

National Core Studies Immunity

The National Core Studies (NCS) programme was established by the Government Office for Science in summer 2020 to ensure critical questions around COVID-19 could be answered quickly and effectively. The Immunity programme, led by Professor Paul Moss and funded by UK Research Innovation (UKRI), funds studies that deepen our understanding of immunity against COVID-19 by predicting individual risk, preventing reinfection, understanding the vaccine responses by different groups in more depth and preparing for future pandemic challenges.

As part of National Core Studies Immunity (NCSi) work, the BSI has developed and runs the UK COVID Vaccine Research Hub (www.covidvaccineresearch.org), a highly successful website set up for the public, policymakers and researchers to provide the latest information on COVID-19 vaccine research being conducted in the UK. We also run the Patient and Public Involvement Panel for the consortia, ensuring that the expertise and viewpoints of public contributors are fed into the various research studies that the initiative funds. Finally, we support NCSi researchers in communicating their work to policymakers, the media and the public in an accessible manner to maximise its impact and reach.



Championing careers

By 2025, we will provide sector-leading support to attract and retain talent in immunology.

We will do this by:

- Up-skilling and training more of our members than ever before
- Creating a more inclusive and supportive research culture and community, assisting our members and providing opportunities for a career in immunology
- Recognising and promoting outstanding achievements and performance from BSI members

Grants

The BSI provides a number of grant schemes to our members to support their work and their career development. These include a variety of activities – from covering the travel costs to conferences, to providing financial support for carers, support for public engagement initiatives and those that promote diversity and inclusion within immunology. We are very proud of the range of support we've provided to members over the last 12 months.



£225k
awarded in total to BSI members

339
members supported by BSI grants

£16k
to support 18 public engagement projects run by our members

209
grants to support members' attendance at conferences

New for 2021
Regional and Affinity Group Travel Grants and Carers Grants – to support our members to attend in-person meetings run by the BSI.

8
Carers' Grants to support attendance at BSI conferences

Projects supported through our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Activity Grant include:

- Staff workshop to raise awareness of race-related issues in the workplace
- Work experience scheme for year 11 and 12 students from backgrounds that are underrepresented in science
- Diversity episodes of popular science podcast

Case Study



Communicating Immunology Grant

To celebrate 100 years since the discovery of insulin, our research team at the Cardiff Diabetes Research Group developed a creative art project entitled 'What diabetes means to us' to help us all understand the impact of the condition on people living with diabetes, their families and friends, and researchers working on the condition. Through a BSI Communicating Immunology Grant, we shared the story of Alex, a young adult living with type 1 diabetes who wanted to learn more about why people develop the condition, as well as ongoing research to prevent it. In the video, Alex met with researchers from our Group, which helped him to better understand how researchers and patients can work together to develop new strategies to target the immune system. The research video telling Alex's story was shown at the Hearth Gallery, Llandough Hospital Wales as part of the larger exhibition and can also be viewed online.

We have received so much positive feedback from attendees and those who viewed it online about how accessible the video was and how much they learnt about type 1 diabetes. Our research team also gained a lot of confidence and new skills in public engagement and now we very much look forward to planning our next engagement event.

Dr James Alexander Pearson, Professor F. Susan Wong & the Cardiff Diabetes Research Group

Career Enhancing Grants

Supporting current and future generations of immunologists throughout their careers is a vital part of our mission. This year, we launched a new grant scheme, our Career Enhancing Grants, to invest significant funds to provide flexible financial support to help our members reach their career goals. This scheme was developed in response to feedback from our membership about the difficulties many were encountering in accessing this type of funding, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total grants funded:

£125,468

Number of BSI members supported:

36

Types of project supported:

22

Generate
pilot data

9

Training
Courses

5

Lab visits

Case Studies



Delphine at the EnterpriseTech course

“This grant supported my participation in the EnterpriseTech course organised at Cambridge Judge Business School. Over 12 weeks, I attended lectures, workshops and worked on a team project to deliver a pitch, video and commercial report. The programme was an enriching experience that allowed me to understand what it takes to translate scientific research into a viable product. I learnt entrepreneurial thinking and now look at my research in the lab with a new perspective!”

Dr Delphine Depierreux, University of Cambridge

“I undertook a 3-week visit to Jose Ordovas-Montanes’ lab within the Harvard Stem Cell Institute to develop a Clinical PhD fellowship application. This lab uses a variety of novel techniques to study how inflammation can drive memory formation within mucosal tissue. This fantastic opportunity allowed me to get direct exposure to new lab techniques, shape my research ideas and network with leading international scientists. I’ve taken a huge amount from this visit and look forward to continuing collaborating with the group in the future. I feel I achieved more in the 3-week visit than I would have with 3 months at home and it has put me into a much more competitive position for my PhD fellowship application. The Career Enhancing Grant has definitely lived up to its name!”

Dr Ben Lindsey, University of Sheffield

“A BSI career enhancing grant allowed me to generate pilot data characterising the heterologous antibody responses induced by BCG vaccination and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection. This grant has been extremely valuable as it supported research costs between my fellowship ending and beginning a new post. During that time, I had a Health Research Bridging Salary Scheme Award which funded my salary but did not cover consumables. As I was at a critical juncture in my career transitioning to independence, the opportunity to pursue this research direction which diverged from the main interests of my host group was particularly useful. The pilot data generated is promising and will form the basis of a larger grant application and a manuscript on which I will be senior author; both of these aspects are instrumental in my career development.”

Dr Rachel Tanner, University of Oxford



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Career development support

Mentoring scheme

Our highly successful mentoring scheme brings together senior scientists with early career researchers to assist the next generation of immunologists with career development and progression. The popularity of this scheme has flourished in recent years with 50 pairs matched up in this year’s cycle. Over the last full cycle of the scheme, 90% reported the scheme met all or most of their goals, with all participants saying they were either very or fairly well matched.

Case Study



Mentor: Professor Gary Entrican

I’ve mentored three early career researchers so far, and while each have been very different, a common difficulty is identifying the route to long-term funding and career stability. At the first meeting I establish the mentee’s expectations

and then let them decide on the frequency of the meetings depending on the input they would like from me. Everyone is

different; flexible approaches based on individual needs work well in my experience.

The best thing for me has been the verbal feedback I’ve had from my mentees that I’ve been able to offer a perspective that they might otherwise not have had and that has helped them with their own decision-making. That has been so rewarding. One of the reasons I joined the scheme was that I felt that I could give something back to early career researchers at this stage in my own career. I quickly realised that I’m also learning and getting many positives back from mentoring people that I otherwise would not have interacted with in this way. I would definitely recommend it!



Mentee: Dr Ryan Thwaites

Having a BSI mentor allowed me to get an impartial assessment of my CV and have open conversations about how to address the weaknesses in my CV while highlighting the strengths for applications.

It was also helpful to have career discussions with a more senior academic; including how to pick a research direction, managing people, balancing research and teaching, among many other topics. Having a mentor allows you to have these

conversations without any of the background you might experience with people more familiar with you and your career. These conversations really helped me in narrowing down my interests and in translating these into applications.

Halfway through the scheme, I interviewed for a lectureship position, prior to which my mentor and I met to discuss my presentation. This turned into a great discussion on how to field tricky questions, how to communicate enthusiasm for your work, and how to convince people you are ready for the next step of your career. I’m very pleased to report that my interview was successful, and I started my own research group in October 2021!

Clinical immunology training days

We partner with the Association of Clinical Pathologists (ACP) to run clinical immunology training days aimed at medical trainees in immunology and allergy, and immunology clinical scientists preparing to sit the Royal College of Pathologists in Immunology exams.

By working together, the ACP and BSI ensure the continuous delivery of these highly valued training sessions, helping to create a new generation of immunology-aware and informed

clinicians and clinical scientists across the NHS to improve the care and treatment of patients with immune-mediated disease. The training events themselves are consistently ranked as excellent by attendees who value the targeted content.

“Very informative, very useful for my level of training. It helped me realise my knowledge gaps and where to focus moving forward”

Training session attendee

Celebrating excellence

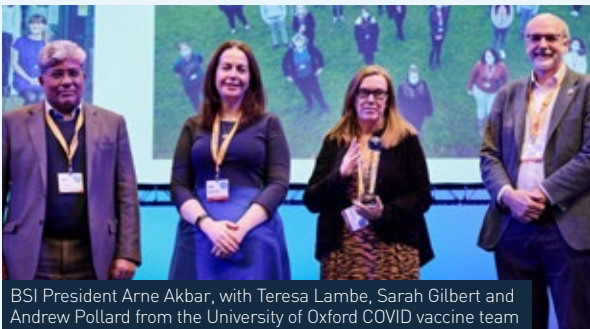
Our members use their skills to work in many different sectors and drive excellence in immunology in a plethora of ways. It's the BSI's honour to recognise the outstanding achievements of our members in all spheres of work that make up immunology.

Honorary members

Our honorary membership scheme recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to immunology and/or to the Society. At BSI Congress 2021, we were delighted to award Lifetime Honorary Membership to six members:

- **Professor Danny Altmann** (Imperial College London)
- **Professor Dame Sarah Gilbert** (University of Oxford)
- **Professor Teresa Lambe OBE** (University of Oxford)
- **Professor Paul Moss OBE** (University of Birmingham)
- **Professor Sir Andrew Pollard** (University of Oxford)
- **Professor Dame Fiona Powrie** (University of Oxford)

BSI Global Impact and Innovation Award



BSI President Arne Akbar, with Teresa Lambe, Sarah Gilbert and Andrew Pollard from the University of Oxford COVID vaccine team

This year, we presented this special one-off award to all those involved in the design and development of the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to recognise the huge achievement in developing this vaccine in such a short time period. This award recognises the contributions of the researchers in the lab and the clinics who designed and tested the vaccine, but also their support networks – legal, technical, admin, IT support, housekeeping, childminding – and the volunteers from the public who stepped forward to take part in the clinical trials. At time of writing, more than 3 billion doses of this vaccine have been supplied to 183 countries around the world. It's estimated that this vaccine has saved 6.3 million lives in its first year of rollout, more than any other COVID-19 vaccine. This truly is an unprecedented achievement.

We plan to ramp up our efforts over the coming year to recognise excellence in immunology. **Keep an eye on our website for more details!**

Bright Sparks in Immunology



Our 'Bright Sparks' sessions at BSI Congress aim to highlight exceptional work from PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. The standards of presentations this year were incredibly high and we were pleased to award the following winners.

Postdoctoral category winners

- **First:** Dr Johanna Kabbert (Lund University) – High microbiota reactivity of human intestinal IgA requires somatic mutations
- **Second:** Dr Lucy McShane (University of Glasgow) – TAM receptor Axl loss accelerates atherosclerosis in mice
- **Third:** Dr Andrew McLean (University of Oxford) – Alveolar macrophages coordinate early migration and differentiation of lung resident memory B cells at infected sites after influenza rechallenge

PhD category winners

- **First:** Lucia Labour Iurman (Imperial College London) – An enriched IL-2 environment in early life limits T follicular helper cell development and protective immunity after respiratory virus infection
- **Second:** Julie M Mazet (University of Oxford) – Interferon-gamma regulates anti-tumour response by restricting cytotoxic T cell potential in melanoma
- **Third:** Harry Horsnell (University College London) – Lymph node homeostasis and adaptation to immune challenge resolved by fibroblast network mechanics

Immunology Teaching Excellence Award



This award recognises exceptional immunology teaching in a higher education setting in the UK. Our winner this year was Dr Nicholas Barnes (University of Manchester). He was particularly praised by the judges for his creative approach to pilot use of a web-based resource of patient cases, allowing students to formatively develop their clinical and scientific interpretative skills in an interactive, safe environment and encouraging peer-discussion, learning and reflection.

Catalysing change



By 2025, we will influence and improve the external environment to enable immunology to thrive and deliver positive outcomes for health.

We will do this by:

- Having demonstrable impact on public health, policy, practice and research funding issues important to immunology and our members
- Influencing public opinion and engagement in key immunology matters
- Maintaining the BSI as an internationally respected thought leader

Partnerships

Working in partnership is a key part of the British Society for Immunology's strategy to build the impact that we can deliver for immunology. We engage with like-minded organisations to collaborate on areas of common interest and perspective, with areas of interest ranging from autoimmunity, to cancer and vaccines. By using our profile, expertise and reach, we can shine a light on the importance of critical areas of immunology to attract new focus and funding.

Case Study



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The value of veterinary vaccines

We partnered with the International Veterinary Vaccinology Network to publish a joint report on value of veterinary vaccinology research, which reviews the current state of the veterinary vaccinology landscape and sets out the key recommendations to maintain the UK's leading role in this area.

Supporting efforts to improve animal health is a key area of work for the BSI. This report aims to help funders and policymakers better understand the vital need to invest in animal vaccine development to secure our food, economy and health for the future. The UK is a world leader in the field of veterinary vaccinology, but lack of investment and further funding cuts threatens this excellence, food security and our ability to respond to global health challenges. The report lays out immediate measures that can be taken to remove known barriers and ensure the numerous benefits of veterinary vaccines are reaped by millions around the world. It is only by investing in veterinary vaccine research, career development, collaborations and infrastructure that we can secure our future.

Case Study



New funding for autoimmune research

Through our Connect Immune Research alliance, we partnered with The Lorna and Yuti Chernajovsky Biomedical Research Foundation, to award grants totalling £1 million to ten 12-month pilot research projects to identify the underlying causes of autoimmune diseases and generate new treatments. The studies examine a variety of areas including the genetics of autoimmunity, potential new immunotherapy treatments and how different immune cell types are involved in the development of autoimmune conditions. On completion, the most promising projects will be invited to apply for follow-on funding to take their work forward. This initiative has shined a spotlight on the importance of this research area and provided new funding for this important work. Our ultimate aim is to deliver significant new investment to confront the UK's high prevalence of autoimmunity and develop new treatments for multiple autoimmune conditions, faster.

Case Study

EFIS Vaccine Task Force

The BSI chairs the Vaccine Task Force of the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS) to bring together immunologists from across Europe to pool resources and expertise to encourage the vaccine uptake by providing a strong, engaging, evidence-based and collective voice. Although the Task Force was established to tackle general vaccine uptake across Europe, due to the pandemic, focus recently has been on increasing public confidence in COVID-19 vaccines across Europe.

Over the last year, the Task Force has delivered several major projects including both policy reports providing the latest updates on the COVID-19 vaccines and public engagement work. For the latter, we have produced infographics for the public describing how vaccines work and why they are important, with a particular focus on COVID-19 vaccines. Languages covered so far include French, German, Greek, Irish, Lithuanian, Polish, Spanish and Ukrainian.

Public engagement

Our public engagement work over the last 12 months has focused primarily on COVID-19 and vaccines. We have used a wide variety of methods and routes to engage with different communities to understand and answer their questions around COVID-19 vaccines.

#VaccineConversations

Empowering our members to engage with their family, friends and communities to have meaningful conversations about vaccines, and in particular COVID-19 vaccines, has been a core part of our public engagement work. These conversations from trusted individuals are incredibly important in strengthening public understanding and helping people make informed decisions about vaccination.

We have continued to work with our members to help them have these discussions by providing a range of resources to build communication skills, including sharing expert tips on having constructive conversations about vaccinations. We have also continued to develop a range of engagement resources around COVID-19 vaccines, including an updated version of our highly rated comprehensive 'Guide to COVID-19 vaccinations' and a number of infographics to explain key facets of our understanding of how vaccines work and how they increase immunity to SARS-CoV-2. We have continued to run our very popular Instagram Q&A sessions on COVID-19 vaccines where members of the public can send in their questions for an immunology expert to answer. We also branched out into the arts sphere to encourage hands-on learning through a new origami to create paper viruses and antibodies.



©Self magazine CC BY 2.0



"Over the last 6 months experts from @britsocimm have supported healthcare workers in making an informed choice about the COVID19 vaccine. We now have a workforce that is 95% + vaccinated. Thank you for providing independent scientific info for our colleagues #VaccineConversations"
Jahangir (Jingy) Alom @Jingstar

Partnership for maximum impact

To build public trust and confidence in COVID-19 vaccines, it's important that we work with a variety of organisations to increase our reach into different communities. Throughout the pandemic, the BSI has partnered with a wide variety of organisations to make sure our information is getting out to those who need it. As well as our work with a number of local councils (see right), we worked with the Cabinet Office to help find immunologists to speak at their 'Keeping communities safe' webinars, targeted at an audience of community leaders nationwide. We also presented our own engagement work at this webinar series, gaining lots of praise for our initiatives and leads for new collaborations with local authorities, charities and community groups. We also partnered with NHS England, NHS Improvement and the COVID Vaccine Connect and Research Hub on a number of projects, including producing flashcards targeted at different communities giving answers to key questions around COVID-19 vaccines and providing speakers for webinars on the topic aimed at healthcare professionals.

Throughout this work, we have not lost focus of the importance of continued engagement around childhood vaccinations to encourage uptake and answer any questions parents have. A major project we undertook this year on this was to partner with the Department of Health and Social Care to create engaging short videos about the importance of childhood vaccinations, featuring BSI members answering common questions. These videos have been shared widely on social media channels, including Twitter and Facebook, throughout the year, and have been viewed by many thousands of people, helping to increase awareness of the importance of these vital vaccinations.

COVID-19 vaccination & viral variants

What is a viral variant?
 A version of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus that has evolved & changed shape, which can alter its behaviour.
 Original SARS-CoV-2 vs Omicron variant.

What is immunity?
 The immune response generated by vaccination or infection activates:
 B cells which make highly specific antibodies that bind to the virus & stop it entering your cells.
 T cells which can stimulate B cells & kill infected cells.
 The cells & antibodies remain in the body to protect against future infection. This is immunity but immunity can wane over time.

What is immune evasion?
 Some viral variants can infect you even when you have immunity. Antibodies aren't as good at recognising the variant's shape so the virus can cause an infection. This is likely to cause less severe disease if you're vaccinated.

Boosters are important for enhancing immunity
 Immunity to COVID-19 is variable between different people. Each time you are vaccinated, your immunity levels increase, giving you greater protection against severe disease.
 No vaccine yet, zero immunity vs Immunity from one and/or two doses of COVID-19 vaccine vs Immunity from two vaccine doses plus booster dose.

Booster vaccinations are effective & safe at enhancing immunity. Booster vaccines increase the level & quality of antibodies & improve T cells. This is the best protection against viral variants & severe COVID-19.

What's in a vaccine?



Effective conversations on COVID-19 vaccines

There has never been a more important time for immunologists to engage with the public about vaccinations by listening to and addressing questions and concerns. While the BSI and our members are ideally placed to be expert sources of knowledge in these dialogues, working in partnership with organisations that support local communities is powerful in reaching wider audiences. This year, the BSI collaborated with the London Borough of Bexley and Bexley Voluntary Services Council, and later with Birmingham and Newcastle City Councils, on programmes to train 'vaccine champions' within local community groups to have effective conversations with their peers about COVID-19 vaccines.

The programme was developed to train people who hold social capital in communities by combining our expertise in immunology with the expertise of the local area and people. Sessions were led primarily by BSI members, who were skilled communicators, with appearances from local community leaders. The sessions were user-led, meaning that participants shared key questions they and their communities had on COVID-19 vaccines and the course content was adapted to address these.

Participants were very positive about the training, with 100% of the community leaders feeling better informed, more knowledgeable and more confident about having effective conversations about COVID-19 vaccinations. All community leaders reported having increased the number of people they talked to about COVID-19 vaccines.

"I just wanted to say how amazing the training was and how well organised it was. I certainly learnt a lot and have much more information to pass on to my community. It was fantastic to have such eminent speakers engaging with our small local group. Congratulations to all involved in planning and delivering the training"

Community leader participant

Patient and public involvement

Following our delivery of patient and public involvement (PPI) within the UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium (UK-CIC), we partnered with them to publish a report to celebrate and showcase the positive impact of involving patients and the public in immunology research.



UK-CIC brought together laboratory-based scientists and clinicians with the experience and unique perspectives of patient and public contributors. The PPI panel within UK-CIC provided a platform for regular two-way conversations with researchers to address key questions about the implications of the research as well as discussions about what was important to the public and patient groups.

This report provides a guide to our experiences of running that project and practical suggestions of how to bridge the gap between basic research and the lived experiences of patients and the public. By sharing learning and knowledge from UK-CIC and presenting the beneficial influence that PPI brings to science, we hope this report acts as a guide on how to include more PPI in immunology research.

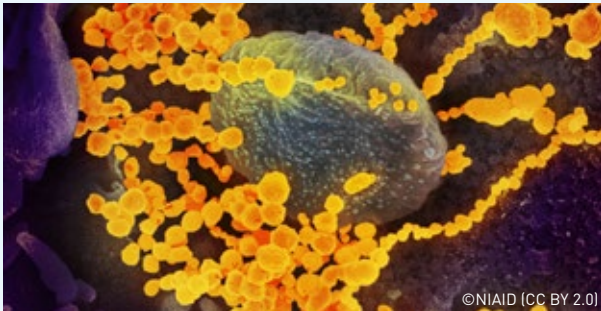


Policy highlights

The COVID-19 pandemic has dominated the BSI's policy work over the past 12 months. The Society has continued to use our powerful voice to advocate for immunological science and health throughout this time, ensuring the voice of immunologists is heard loud and clear in public debates, and that policymakers have access to the latest immunological thinking. With our dynamic approach, working through our COVID-19 Taskforce, we have played a strong role in both ensuring the expert voice of immunologists is represented in public debate and how the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic response can be brought to wider areas of health research.



Case Study



BSI COVID-19 Taskforce

Our expert taskforce has continued to work hard this year ensure that we can respond quickly to the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic as and when they arise. Our huge thanks to the taskforce members who have contributed to this work. Important highlights from this work include:

- Publishing an FAQ style briefing paper on 'What we know about COVID-19 immunity' in winter 2021 aimed at MPs, members of the House of Lords and policymakers. The goal of this was to provide an easy-to-understand summary of this fast-moving area of scientific understanding to facilitate more evidence-based policymaking.
- At the request of Sir Patrick Vallance and the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Vaccine Taskforce in winter 2021, our group prepared a list of what it believed to be the pressing immunological research questions that affect public health in relation to the Omicron variant.
- Responding to several Parliamentary consultations including on the idea of vaccine mandates for healthcare workers, biological security strategy and UK science and technology strategy.
- Meeting with a number of high profile politicians including Maggie Throup MP, Vaccines Minister, to discuss next generation vaccines and learning lessons of the COVID-19 vaccine deployment.

Case Study

Westminster Hall debate

The BSI has worked tirelessly to raise the ongoing importance of immunology research to the pandemic response. Following the efforts of our COVID-19 Taskforce, we worked closely Jim Shannon MP, DUP Spokesperson for Health, to secure a Westminster Hall debate on 'Immunology Research and COVID-19'. We provided Mr Shannon with a briefing on important issues to raise in the debate and he was able to discuss most of these in presenting the case to the Minister, highlighting the important gains in knowledge that immunology research into COVID-19 has delivered to build our understanding and deliver treatments and vaccines against the disease. This is an important step forward in our policy work and in raising the profile of immunology and the BSI – debates such as these allow us to get issues on the radar of the relevant Minister, and elicit an official response.



Our enablers

To deliver our ambitious strategic aims, we need to maintain the BSI as a sector-leading organisation.

We will do this by:

- Creating a larger and more diverse engaged membership
- Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in all our activities
- Ensuring the Society's financial sustainability

Our membership

Our membership is the foundation of our Society. We are ambitious in what we want to deliver for immunology and for our members. As the discipline of immunology grows and evolves, we aim to evolve too to ensure we engage with, support and are relevant to immunologists from across the spectrum of our discipline. As the largest professional immunology Society in Europe and third largest in the world, we aim to stand shoulder to shoulder with our members to support and champion the discipline of immunology to drive scientific discovery and make a positive impact on health.



4,312

members*

1,485

Full

503

Early career

1,352

Postgraduate

482

Undergraduate

480

Concessionary

* Figures correct as of 30 June 2022

New support and engagement opportunities for members this year

One of our key aims to increase membership engagement opportunities has been well and truly met this year with a plethora of new activities and provision to enable increased involvement and support for our members across the spectrum of BSI's work.

New Career Enhancing Grant to provide up to £5,000 of flexible career funding

Travel and carers' grants to support attendance at BSI Regional and Affinity Group conferences

Established Early Career Editorial Boards for two of our journals, *Clinical & Experimental Immunology* and *Immunotherapy Advances*

Additional opportunities to get involved in our public engagement programme on vaccines

Both in-person and online options to attend BSI Congress

New Diversity and Inclusion Framework launched with increased opportunities to get involved in our EDI activities

Increased investment in autoimmune research through our Connect Immune Research and Chernajovsky Foundation partnership





Diversity and inclusion

The BSI wants diversity and inclusion to be at the heart of the ethos of our community. We took a big step forward in our endeavours this year by publishing our new 'Diversity and Inclusion Framework'. This brings together all the BSI's activities in this space to outline our commitment to how we are going to work with our members and community to ramp up our equity, diversity and inclusion work and respond to members' needs. Developed in consultation with our Board of Trustees and Forum members, our aim is to foster a culture within immunology that ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all. By building on past and ongoing activities, this framework set out our long-term plan of action for diversity and inclusion at the BSI. You can read more at www.immunology.org/diversity-and-inclusion-framework.



Case Study

BSI's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Activity Grants



Through our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Activity Grant scheme, we supported BSI members Dr Bronwen Burton and Dr Caroline McKinnon to run a pilot project to decolonise and diversify the biomedical curricula at the University of Bristol. They employed undergraduate students to review material from Year 1 and 2 units with significant immunology content, with the aim of identifying opportunities to diversify the content and highlighting areas of good practice. The detailed reports produced led to thoughtful reflection and discussions with university staff, resulting in constructive changes to the curriculum. They have now secured external funding to expand this project to review further units. The BSI is proud to support this important project that will address structural inequalities in immunology and lead to long-term positive change.

Income diversification

To deliver our ambitious strategic plans, we need to maintain the BSI as a sector-leading organisation, and one of the crucial enablers to do so is our financial sustainability. Traditionally, the BSI has heavily relied on journal income to fund our charitable activities. With current challenges within the scholarly publishing landscape, we need to secure new income streams which will provide funding for our activities and maintain the financial security of the Society, while also allowing us to make a positive contribution to the immunology sector. The development of new income streams is not a quick process as there is often a delay between investment and return requiring the use of reserves. However, our strong reserves have been built up for exactly this purpose to support us through this transition and their use is now carefully planned. The key areas of our current work are discussed below.

Widening our journals portfolio

Changes to our publishing portfolio (as discussed on page 11) in tandem with the global move towards Open Access publishing have seen the BSI significantly evolve our journals strategy. The overall aim behind this is for the Society to reduce our reliance on journal income, particularly that from traditional subscription journals, while making sure we develop a modern publishing portfolio that meets the needs of our members and wider immunology community. The initial launch of our first Open Access journal, *Immunotherapy Advances*, was swiftly followed this year by the debut of a new Open Access journal for the BSI, *Discovery Immunology*. This, partnered with our moves this year to secure the future of *Clinical & Experimental Immunology*, means that the Society is now in a strong position to stabilise our future journals income, while reducing our overall reliance on this.



Supporting immunology research

We have recently expanded our activities to include providing support to wider immunology research efforts. Within the BSI staff, we have many specialist skills – such as communications, public engagement and involvement, governance – that we can bring to large research consortia and networks to support their smooth running, effectiveness and impact. Prestigious projects we have worked with over the last 12 months include the UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium, a nationally targeted effort to understand the immunology of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, the SIREN (SARS-CoV-2 immunity and reinfection evaluation) study, National Core Studies Immunity and the CARINA (CAlyst Reducing ImmuNe Ageing) Network (see page 12 for more details). This type of funded project, through which we support the delivery of existing and new immunology consortia, is an important new source of income for the organisation, and is expected to contribute over 10% of our income next year.

Coming soon

We have several additional new projects under development, which all fulfil our goals of making a positive contribution to the immunology sector while also diversifying the BSI's income. Key among these is to develop a training programme within the Society to meet the needs of both immunologists, helping them keep their skills up to date and relevant, as well as non-immunologists who want to understand the basics to help them in their jobs. Watch this space for more information!

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. 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.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the business activities of the BSI. Board members have the legal responsibility to ensure the Society is well-run, financially sound, and that it meets its charitable aims and objectives.

- Professor Arne Akbar** – President
- Professor Ann Ager** – Chair of Forum
- Dr Calum Bain** – Early Career Trustee
- Dr Emma Chambers** – Early Career Trustee
- Dr Fiona Culley** – Treasurer
- Robert Davies** – Co-opted Trustee
- Professor Colin Dayan** – Clinical Secretary
- Professor Deborah Dunn-Walters** – Trustee
- Professor Matthias Eberl** – Trustee
- Dr Paul Harding** – Co-opted Trustee
- Dr Edith Hessel** – Co-opted Trustee
- James Lowe** – Co-opted Trustee
- Professor Allan Mowat** – Trustee
- Dr Divya Shah** – Trustee



BSI Board of Trustees

Secretaries

Our Secretaries oversee particular areas of the BSI's work, bringing specialist skills and knowledge to their defined areas of responsibility.

- Professor Mark Coles** – Congress Secretary
- Professor Donald Davidson** – Public Engagement Secretary
- Dr Donald Palmer** – Careers & Education Secretary
- Professor Mark Travis** – Groups & Meetings Secretary



BSI Forum members

Forum

Our Forum members represent a diverse mix of immunologists from different career stages, backgrounds and geographic locations. They ensure the voice of the membership is fed into all BSI activities. .

- Professor Ann Ager** – Chair of Forum
- Dr Matthew Buckland** – Clinical representative
- Dr Alice Burton** – Early career representative
- Lauren Campbell** – PhD representative
- Dr Simone Cuff** – Wales representative
- Dr Donald Davidson** – Public Engagement Secretary
- Dr Karim Dib** – Northern Ireland representative
- Dr Tomaz Garcez** – Clinical representative
- Dr Megan MacLeod** – Scotland representative
- Dr Helen McGettrick** – England representative
- Dr Donald Palmer** – Careers & Education Secretary
- Dr Edoardo Prediletto** – Early career representative
- Niamh Richmond** – PhD representative
- Dr Elma Tchilian** – Veterinary representative
- Dr Louise Topping** – Early career representative
- Dr Faith Uwadiae** – Early career representative
- Dr Federica Villanova** – Industry representative

*Membership of committees correct as of 30 June 2022.

Congress Committee

This committee is responsible for the planning and delivery of our flagship event, BSI Congress, which takes place two out of every three years.

- Professor Mark Coles** – Congress Secretary
- Professor Arne Akbar** – President
- Professor Graham Cook** – Member
- Dr Fiona Culley** – Treasurer
- Professor Colin Dayan** – Clinical Secretary
- Dr Margarita Dominguez-Villar** – Member
- Dr James Harker** – Member
- Dr Helen McGettrick** – Member
- Dr Henry McSorley** – Member
- Dr Daniel O'Connor** – Early career representative
- Dr Laura Rivino** – Member
- Professor Sandra Sacre** – Member
- Dr Alexandra Spencer** – Member
- Dr James Thaventhiran** – Clinical representative
- Dr John Tregoning** – Member



Regional & Affinity Groups

We have 29 active Groups who represent different subject areas and regional groupings in immunology. We are indebted to our Group members who volunteer their time to bring sections of the membership together by organising meetings, arranging seminars and putting on public engagement events.

Our members

The BSI has over 4,300 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 and advising on our policy work – our grateful thanks to our whole immunology community.

Staff

Our staff team of 20 bring together specialists from a wide range of sectors to take forward the Society's work in supporting immunologists and being the voice of the discipline to a wider audience. The team is led by Chief Executive Doug Brown, supported by the senior management team of Otto Balsiger, Jennie Evans, Lucy Mclvor and Jane Sessenwein.

BSI journals

Our journal editorial teams, led by our Editors-in-Chief, all play a key role in ensuring the smooth running of our journals. Our huge thanks go to all our senior editors and editorial board members who contribute to this work.



Professor Tim Elliott –
Editor-in-Chief,
Immunotherapy Advances



Professor Simon Milling –
Editor-in-Chief,
Discovery Immunology



Professor Leonie Taams –
Editor-in-Chief,
Clinical & Experimental Immunology



BSI staff team

Join us!

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

Sponsors and donors

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

Gold members

2BScientific
10X Genomics
AbbVie
Beckman Coulter
InvivoGen
Mabtech
Merck
Miltenyi Biotec
MSD
NanoString
Standard BioTools
Takeda

Silver members

Abcam
Bio-Rad
PeproTech
STEMCELL Technologies

Bronze members

Absolute Antibody
Biolegend
Curiox
peptides & elephants

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

Membership correct as of 30 June 2022

Partnerships

The BSI is pleased to partner with the following organisations and research projects to whom we provide services to take forward their work to drive immunological scientific discovery and make a positive impact on health.

CARINA (CAlyst Reducing ImmuNe Ageing) Network

– provision of project management, events support and communication services to support this initiative to build research capacity in the immune ageing space. CARINA is funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS)

– provision of secretariat, policy, public engagement and communications services to run their Vaccine Task Force.

London Borough of Bexley, Birmingham City Council and Newcastle City Council

– provision of community vaccine champion training.

National Core Studies Immunity (NCSi)

– provision of PPI and communications support, including running the UK Covid Vaccines Research Hub website for this project, building our knowledge of COVID-19 immunology. NCSi is funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

SIREN (SARS-CoV2 immunity and reinfection evaluation) study

– provision of PPI services. SIREN is managed by the UK Health Security Agency with BSI involvement funded through a grant from the MRC.

UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium (UK-CIC)

– provision of governance, communication and PPI support to their research on the immunology of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19. UK-CIC is funded by UKRI and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

Grants, sponsorship and donations

Our thanks go to the following organisations for their support of the BSI's work throughout the year.

- Duffield Harrison LLP
- Lorna and Yuti Chernajovsky Biomedical Research Foundation
- Merck Sharp & Dohme (UK) Limited

Financials

Message from the Treasurer

Despite another turbulent year for world events, the finances of the British Society for Immunology have continued to be robust and hold strong. The Society's Finance Sub-Committee has worked effectively with the BSI Senior Management Team and the Board of Trustees to ensure we have long-term plans in place around all aspects of financial and risk management.

Changes to income sources

This year, the BSI entered our transition period with a focus on income diversification following the changes to our publishing portfolio, with the return of *Immunology* to Wiley. While publishing remains the BSI's largest source of income, publishing income fell by 41% over the year. This means the Society moved to a planned net deficit budget, which came to £0.63 million for the year ended 30 June 2022 (compared with a net income of £0.87 million the previous year). While the net deficit before investments was better than budget, the losses on the value of our investment portfolio pushed the net deficit for the year higher.

The BSI team worked hard to establish new income streams from other sources. In December 2021, we welcomed back Congress with a record number of attendees. This, together with a strong demand for exhibition space and sponsorship, pushed the event to its highest ever income for a BSI-only Congress. In addition, we continued our recent success in obtaining funding for our work supporting the immunology community's research on COVID-19 projects. Total grants received were £0.25 million, an increase of 66% from last year. We also branched out beyond COVID projects, providing support to a two-year project to build a network around the immunology of ageing. Demand for the Society to provide Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in projects has also grown significantly.

Ongoing effects of COVID-19

COVID-19 continued to have a significant impact on the Society's activities during the year; travel restrictions reduced our programme of physical events leading to reduced costs, although the Society was delighted to re-start our conference travel grants in 2022. Following feedback from our membership around extra support needed in the wake of the pandemic, we launched our new Career Enhancing Grants. This innovative scheme was well received and extremely successful, with £125k of grants awarded in its first year.

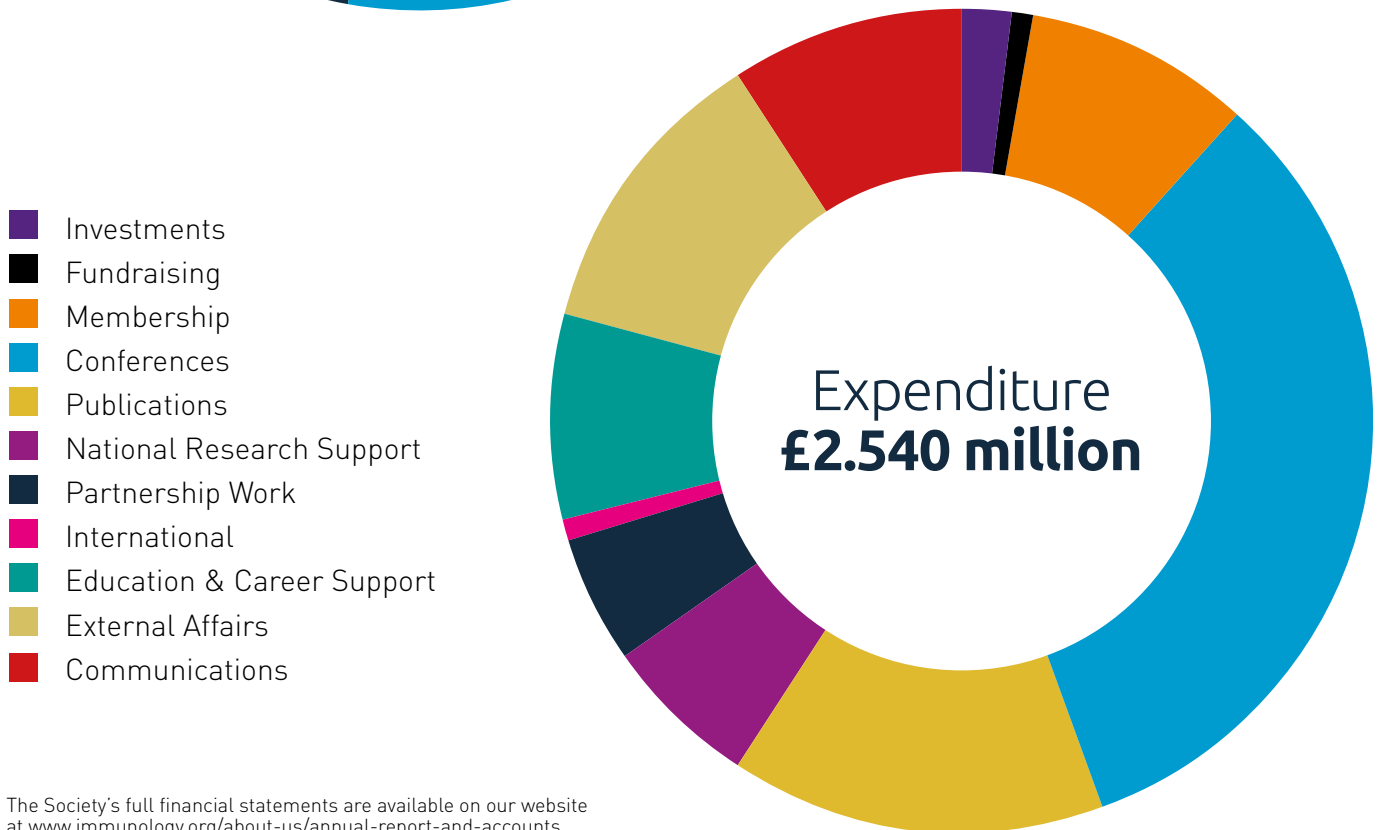
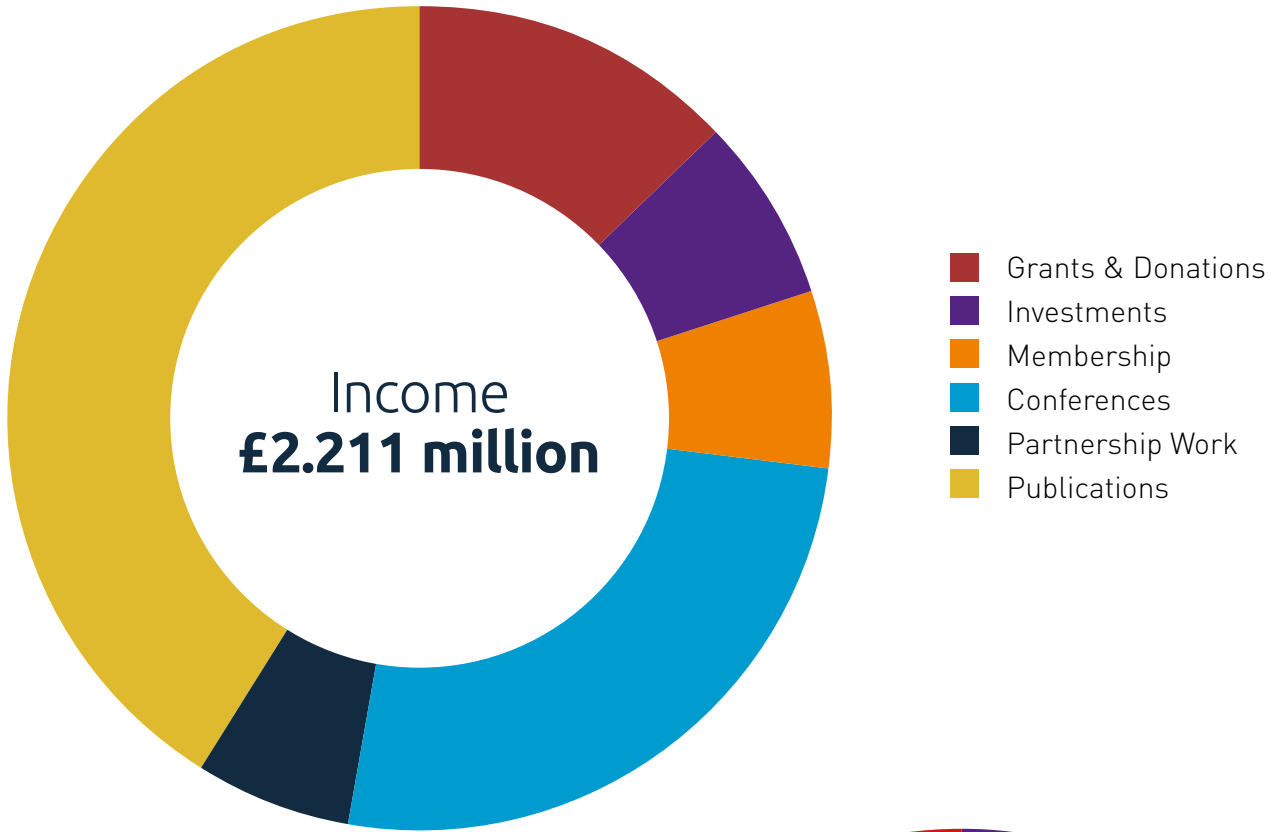
Future plans

Diversifying the BSI's income away from journals and generating new, sustainable income streams will continue to be a focus of activities for the next few years. The BSI has several new projects under development, which all fulfil our goals of making a positive contribution to the immunology sector while also delivering new sustainable income streams. Key among these is to develop a training programme within the Society to meet the needs of both immunologists, helping them keep their skills up to date and relevant, as well as non-immunologists who want to understand the basics. The development of new income streams will require investment from our reserves. We are forecasting costs to exceed income over the next few years until the new income streams start generating funds.

Fiona Culley
BSI Treasurer



Income and expenditure for 2021–2022




The Society's full financial statements are available on our website at www.immunology.org/about-us/annual-report-and-accounts.

The British Society for Immunology's mission is to support our immunology community in driving scientific discovery and making a positive impact on health.

Our grateful thanks to all the following organisations who we have worked with throughout the year to deliver our mission, including:

Academy of Medical Sciences
All Party Parliamentary Group on Diversity and Inclusion in STEM
Association of Clinical Pathologists
Association of Medical Research Charities
Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
Birmingham City Council
Black In Immuno
Campaign for Science and Engineering
COVID Vaccine Connect and Research Hub
Department of Health & Social Care
European Federation of Immunological Societies
Federation of Clinical Immunological Societies
Inequalities in Health Alliance
International Union of Immunological Societies
International Veterinary Vaccinology Network
JDRF
London Borough of Bexley
Medical Research Council
MS Society
National Cancer Research Institute
Newcastle City Council
NHS England
NHS Improvement
Oxford University Press
Royal Society of Biology
Science Media Centre
Society Publishers' Coalition
STEM Village
UK Health Security Agency
UK Primary Immunodeficiency Network
UK Research and Innovation
Understanding Animal Research
Versus Arthritis
Wellcome Trust

British Society for Immunology
9 Appold Street,
London,
EC2A 2AP
www.immunology.org
 @britsocimm

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