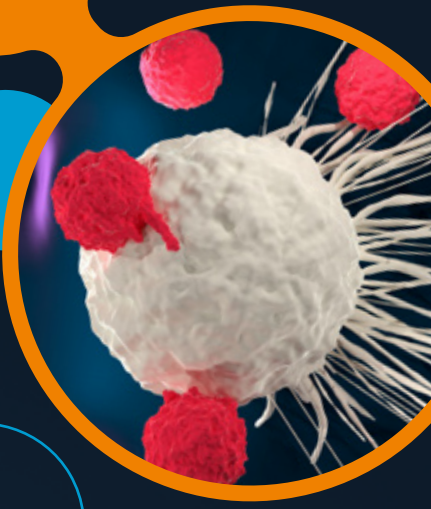


Annual Review

2022 – 2023



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 4,500 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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Our 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 2022–23, which marks another successful year for the British Society for Immunology. We are now mid-way through our current strategic plan, and our members and the wider immunology community are already benefitting from the many new innovations and initiatives that we have introduced. We are very proud of all that the BSI has achieved this year. This review outlines some of our main successes and the impact we've had on our journey to realise our mission of supporting our immunology community in driving scientific discovery and making a positive impact on health.

Supporting our 4,400 members is of crucial importance to the BSI, and this year was no different. As always, BSI Congress was one of our highlights, with over 1,700 delegates joining us in Liverpool for a truly memorable event, packed full of cutting-edge science, inspiring debates and a multitude of networking opportunities. Complementary to this was the plethora of activities run by our enthusiastic and dedicated Regional and Affinity Groups, whose activities continue to form a vital part of our work and foster so much collaboration and engagement within the community. This was also a year of celebration, which saw the launch of our inaugural Immunology Awards to champion the achievements of individuals and teams to drive excellence in all facets of immunology. The winners of these awards are very well deserved and are an inspiration to the whole immunology community.

This has been another year where immunology has been in the spotlight and the BSI has continued to maintain a strong presence in public discussion, using our powerful voice to advocate in support of our profession and acting as a reliable, trustworthy voice for immunology in media and public debates. Our well-regarded vaccine engagement work continues to draw plaudits from the wider community in terms of our innovative and collaborative approach to engaging with the public on vaccines.

This year has also seen the launch of the BSI Clinical Immunology Professional Network (BSI-CIPN). Formed from our merger earlier in the year with the UK Primary Immunodeficiency Network, BSI-CIPN is our new hub to champion clinical immunology. Its establishment is a major step forward for the BSI and provides us with a strong platform to improve care for patients as well as strengthening the voice of clinical immunology in policy and public arenas.

Ensuring the future financial stability of the BSI continues to be a main focus and our shift to bring in new long-term and stable income streams is now well underway. Chief among these has been the launch of a new training function to support immunologists and the wider research community. Our first training offering in bioinformatics has been extremely well received, with hugely positive feedback, and provides vital training in a growth area of immunology. We have also continued to build on our success in partnership work, working with a number of national research consortia to help drive forward the research agenda and maximise impact for these collaborations. Finally, we have worked to consolidate our journals strategy, with our highly respected family of three journals now firmly established to provide for the immunology community's publishing needs.

The BSI's Trustees and staff are committed to building on our current achievements to deliver our strategic plan and ensure that the Society continues to innovate and flourish. 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. Our huge thanks go to all of you for working alongside us with such enthusiasm and dedication to shape the future of immunology – we couldn't do it without you.

Professor Tracy Hussell
BSI President



Dr Doug Brown
BSI Chief Executive



Our achievements

2022-2023

Inaugural Immunology Awards introduced

Championing the remarkable achievements of individuals working across the spectrum of immunology to drive excellence



Launched new BSI Teaching Affinity Group

Supporting excellence in immunology education

Record attendance at BSI Congress

Over 1,700 immunologists came together to disseminate the latest research findings

Providing expert input to policymakers on lessons learned from COVID-19

How we can leverage progress in understanding and measuring immunogenicity to develop even more effective vaccines

Showing the positive effects of PPI

Celebrating and showcasing how patients and public can effectively contribute to immunology research

Providing a boost to members' careers

Our grant schemes awarded £230K to 313 members



Indexing milestones achieved for *Immunotherapy Advances*

Making our journal content more discoverable and searchable



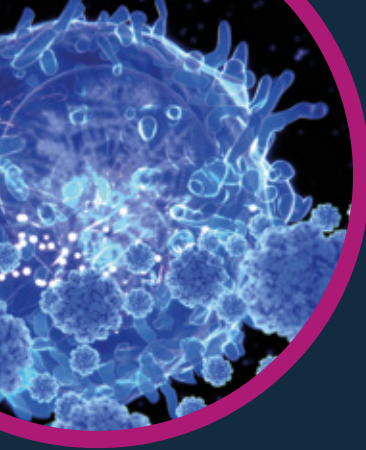
Career Enhancing Grants' continued success

Over £121K awarded to support members in reaching their career goals

New training programme in bioinformatics launched

Helping our members keep up to date with the latest skills





Supporting national immunology research consortia

Working to support cross-sector collaboration efforts to drive forward immunology research faster and more effectively



Building our online audience

Over 2 million page views of our website

Continued commitment to diversity and inclusion

Fostering a culture within immunology that ensures fair treatment and opportunity for all



Advancing patient care and nursing practice

Publishing the first ever Immunology Nursing Competency Framework

Training community champions on vaccine engagement

Partnering with local communities to enable effective conversations on vaccines



Support and engagement opportunities for members

Achieving a diverse membership comprising over 4,400 members

Published our 'Guide to vaccinations for adults over 65'

Providing evidence-based, easy-to-understand information about vaccination

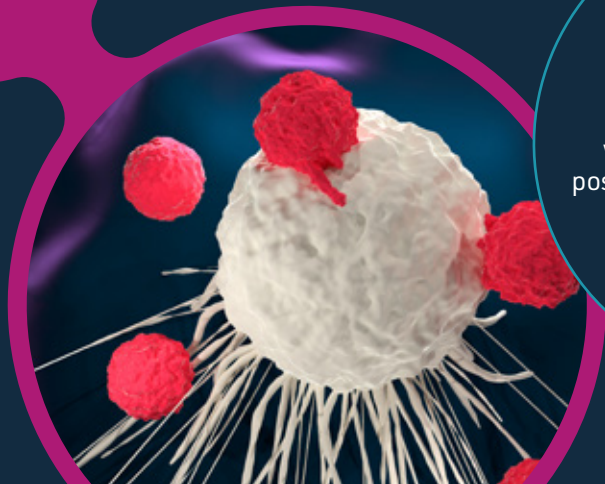


Showcasing the future of immunology

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

Establishing the BSI Clinical Immunology Professional Network

Strengthening the voice of clinical immunology in public arenas



Our five-year strategy

2021-2025

Immunology plays a central role in many of the most pressing global health challenges we face. Through our current strategy, the British Society for Immunology is committed to playing our part in realising our vision to meet these challenges and to promote better health through immunology.

We are now over halfway through our current five-year strategy and have made major steps forward to achieve our aims in each of our three focus areas: connected community, championing careers and catalysing change. You can read about some of these successes in this review. While there is still more work to be done, we remain on track to deliver our ambitious and forward-thinking strategy for our community, working in partnership with our members and aligned stakeholders to deliver positive change.

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

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

Championing careers



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

Catalysing change



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

Connected community



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

Enablers

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 2022, over 1,700 immunologists came together in Liverpool and online for our flagship event, BSI Congress 2022. It was an amazing four days of immunology, packed with cutting-edge science, inspiring debates and those all-important opportunities to connect and start new collaborations.



1,760

delegates from 43 countries

1,680

onsite

80

online

4 days

of world class immunology

39

sessions

918

abstracts submitted

108

orals

702

posters



58

invited chairs



79

invited speakers

What our delegates thought...

“Great to spend time with current and past colleagues, discuss ongoing projects with collaborators in person, and (excitingly!) spark up new interactions that will bring forward that next big thing in immunology.”

“Thanks BSI Congress for organising yet another amazing conference filled with inspiring talks! Also absolutely loved presenting my poster, meeting new people and reconnecting with old friends.”

“Thank you, BSI Congress, for these past 4 days of amazing immunology. It was a truly well organised congress, great location and a fantastic selection of speakers.”

Top reasons for attending Congress

Scientific content

Networking

Professional development

Keynote lecture

Our outstanding Keynote lecture was given by Dr Gitta Stockinger from the Francis Crick Institute on 'From Th17 cells to broccoli – an ode to serendipity'.



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 14 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.

Our Groups have run a full programme of activities this year with a huge amount of enthusiasm, dedication and expertise. In total, our Groups hosted 12 in-person conferences and two online events, covering a whole host of topics from the ageing immune system to comparative immunology to inflammation at barrier sites. Collectively, these events attracted over 1,500 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 Teaching Affinity Group: a forum for immunology educators

The Teaching Affinity Group is a new BSI group focused on promoting excellence in immunology education and nurturing the next generation of immunology educators. Sharing best practice and providing a platform for those involved in immunology teaching to connect, collaborate and share their experiences, knowledge and resources is a central tenant of the group. We also aim to act as a collective voice for immunology educators, advocating for the importance of immunology education and its relevance to broader scientific and medical disciplines.

Our first formal online meeting was held in September where former winners of the BSI Immunology Teaching Excellence Award were invited to present their teaching innovations. This was followed up with a breakfast meeting at the BSI Congress 2022 where the initial aims of the group were outlined to around 50 attendees. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with many members expressing an interest in joining and supporting the group.

By offering opportunities for networking, collaboration, and sharing best practices, the BSI Teaching Affinity Group strives to enhance the quality and impact of immunology education across all levels of academia and industry. The future of the group is an exciting one, with several projects already planned to help design immunology curricula for different disciplines and dissemination of these ideas via a session at the BSI Congress 2023.

Professor John Curnow and Dr Nigel Francis
Co-chairs of the BSI Teaching Affinity Group

Feedback from our conference delegates...

"Best conference I have been to in a long time, atmosphere was perfect."

"Extremely high quality talks by senior and junior researchers."

"All speakers very approachable and number of attendees meant you could easily talk to everyone you wanted to."

"Some of the presentations were truly excellent and engaging."

"Excellent range of speakers, small size and lots of time to network."

"Engaging discussion with presenters and researchers following talks and at posters."

"The diverse topics all linked together by the meeting theme - really interesting and all the speakers were excellent."

Our Cambridge Immunology Group event in April attracted over 200 delegates.



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 year of consolidation and growth for our highly respected family of three journals, *Clinical & Experimental Immunology*, *Immunotherapy Advances* and *Discovery Immunology*.

Working with our publishing partner, Oxford University Press, our journals aim to serve the field of immunology through publishing high-quality research articles, reviews, commentaries and short reports from researchers around the globe. We work closely with our Editors-in-Chief and Editorial Boards to take a strategic approach to ensure the continued high-performance of the journals. With our mixed portfolio of both hybrid and fully Open Access journals, the Society is in a strong position to continue to provide for the immunology community's publishing needs for many years to come.

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.

Immunotherapy Advances



Our first fully Open Access journal, *Immunotherapy Advances*, continues its progress 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 focuses on scientifically rigorous research relating to manipulations of the immune system for the benefit of human and animal health in all disease areas.

This year, the journal has passed the milestones of being indexed in both PubMed Central and Scopus, which is a positive step forward as it means that the journal's content is more discoverable and searchable. The journal has also kept its foot on the pedal, publishing a number of special collections covering topics including immune-related adverse events, adoptive cellular therapies and T cell targeted approaches.

2,261 Altmetric mentions
56,665 full-text downloads

Clinical & Experimental Immunology



Our established high-quality and impactful translational research journal, *Clinical & Experimental Immunology (CEI)*, continues to go from strength to strength, with a robust impact factor this year of 4.6. This has been a busy year for the journal, led by Editor-in-Chief Leonie Taams, with

several high-profile review series to take a deep dive into key topics including human B cells, inborn errors of immunity and therapeutic options for regulatory T cell enhancing approaches. Additionally, *CEI's* collaboration with the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) continues to strengthen with the publication of our series on unconventional T cells in health and disease.

9,884 Altmetric mentions
628,922 full-text downloads

Discovery Immunology



It's been a busy year for *Discovery Immunology* as we officially launched the content in October 2022 with six research and review articles. This new fully Open Access journal, led by Editor-in-Chief Simon Milling, has a broad scope that focuses on new discoveries in cellular and molecular immunology. Over the

course of the year, *Discovery Immunology* has reached several important milestones, including achieving indexing with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). We also launched the call for papers for the journals's first special collection, focused on checkpoint blockade. Our focus for the next year is to continue building the reach and impact of the journal through publishing high-quality articles describing novel mechanisms of the immune response.

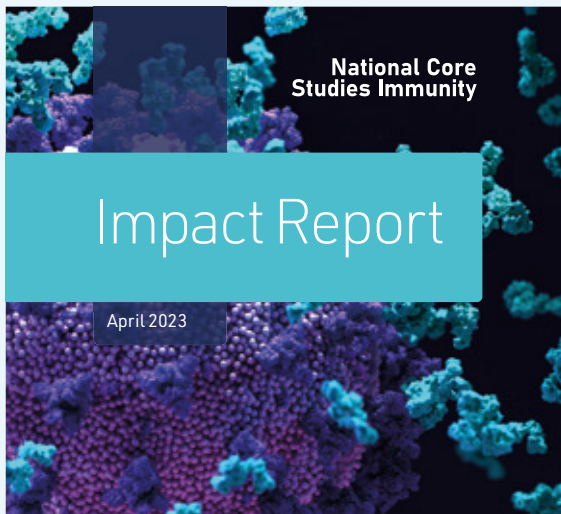
10,327 full-text downloads

Supporting research consortia

Under our updated strategy, a new area 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. We have built on our initial success this year by providing a variety of services to support five national research consortia – National Core Studies Immunity, UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium, CARINA (Catalyst Reducing Immune Ageing) Network, SIREN (SARS-CoV-2 Immunity and Reinfection Evaluation) study and STRAVINSKY (Stratification of Clinically Vulnerable People for COVID-19 Risk Using Antibody Testing).

Case Study

National Core Studies Immunity (NCSi)



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 and Innovation (UKRI), funded studies that increase our understanding of immunity against COVID-19 and the role that vaccines play in this.

Building on our successful support through the previous 12 months, the BSI continued to run 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 in the UK. We also ran the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Panel for the consortia, which, as well as ensuring the expertise and viewpoints of the public contributors were fed into the research agenda, also included developing a training programme for NCSi researchers (see page 15 for more details) and sharing best practice on how to successfully embed PPI in immunology research. Finally, we also supported NCSi researchers in communicating their work to policymakers, the media and the public in an accessible manner to maximise its impact and reach.

Case Study

CARINA

The CARINA (Catalyst Reducing Immune Ageing) Network is a project funded by the Medical Research Council and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and supported by the BSI. The network aims to establish a UK-wide inclusive platform to enhance collaboration and foster knowledge exchange in the area of immune ageing as well as increasing the profile of the research area.

This has been a year of growth for the CARINA network, which now has over 90 members and has delivered a number of initiatives to build the network's capacity and output. We have run several full capacity in-person and virtual network meetings, with a particular focus on facilitating cross-sector collaborations and gaining a shared consensus of the key research questions within immune ageing. CARINA's Early Career Forum is at the heart of their activity, and has met regularly for spotlight, talks and development discussions. In addition, ECRs have been able to access free training in bioinformatics. CARINA has also successfully brought network members together to formulate innovative collaborative grant proposals focusing on developing biomarkers for immune frailty.



Case Study

STRAVINSKY



This year, we have supported STRAVINSKY (Stratification of Clinically Vulnerable People for COVID-19 Risk Using Antibody Testing) running focus groups with patient and public representatives to advise on the funding application. Now the project is fully funded, we are continuing this PPI support with additional wider stakeholder and public engagement too.

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

Career development support

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 have been able to provide to members over the last 12 months.

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 a steady stream of applicants, both as mentors and mentees, and many stories of successful career progression from past participants.



Dr Muhammed Yuksel,
Lecturer in Life Sciences
(Immunology) at University
of Westminster

"I wholeheartedly urge all of my peers to sign up for the BSI mentoring scheme. It is provided without charge and is based on the goodwill of more senior BSI members who want to aid less experienced members in advancing their careers. The professionalism and attentive listening skills played a major role in my experience having a successful ending."

£230k

awarded in total to
BSI members

313

members supported
by BSI grants

197

grants to support
members' attendance
at conferences

7

Communication
& Engagement
grants awarded

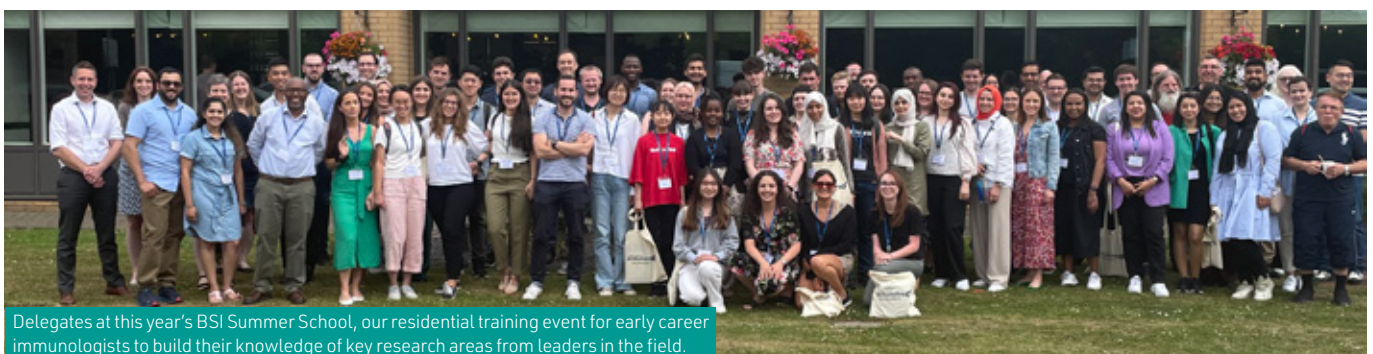
13

Carers' Grants to
support attendance
at BSI conferences

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. This year saw a return to in-person training events around the country, complemented with additional online sessions to cover the broad spectrum of the curriculum. The training events themselves are consistently ranked as excellent by attendees who value the targeted content.



Delegates at this year's BSI Summer School, our residential training event for early career immunologists to build their knowledge of key research areas from leaders in the field.

Career Enhancing Grants

Supporting current and future generations of immunologists throughout their careers is a vital part of our mission. This year has seen our Career Enhancing Grants go from strength to strength to support even more BSI members to reach their career goals. The scheme provides flexible financial support of up to £5,000 to allow individuals to build their skill set and advance their professional development.



Total amount awarded:

£121,411

Number of BSI members supported:

34

Types of project supported:

15

Generate pilot data

12

Training Courses

6

Lab visits

1

Other

Case Studies

"Through the BSI Career Enhancing Grant, I completed a three-week placement at the world-leading computational biology group of Professor Dana Pe'er at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York, to develop my knowledge of key analytical skills in the field of single-cell multiomic analysis. Having access to this welcoming and engaged computational team meant my deeper understanding of each analysis step was massively accelerated through daily face-to-face discussions of pitfalls, recommended tweaks to the workflow, and pointers to additional resources. Crucially, I achieved a much greater understanding of how their current multiome analysis approach fits into the wider single-cell multiome analysis tool ecosystem, and how I might adapt this approach for my future purposes. It is an exciting time to work on developmental and human immunology, and the opportunity to train in one of the most exciting analysis tools out there is one which I am very grateful for, and which I am sure will elevate the impact of my future work."

Dr Simone Webb, University of Newcastle and Sanger Institute



Professor Dana Pe'er's lab having a team meal during Dr Simone Webb's placement.

"This grant allowed me to undertake training alongside virology experts in the Laboratory for Respiratory Viruses and Measles at the Oswaldo Cruz Institute in Brazil. Over one month, I was immersed in the highest quality research, working with different strains of relevant human pathogen respiratory viruses and undertaking intensive training in a containment level 3 laboratory, where I learned how to handle viral pathogens and obtained experience in their propagation and quantification techniques. My scientific skills (researching, analysing and communicating research) have been enhanced and the visit has also allowed me to fully appreciate the role virologists take in public health. Professionally, I expanded my network and I'm looking forward to future collaborations with colleagues at the Institute. I believe that this visit and the gained knowledge has strengthened my CV, which will significantly increase my employability prospects in the immunology field."

Justyna Lopatecka, University of Plymouth

"I'm an early career researcher working to establish an independent research programme looking at B cell immunity in Chagas disease. The BSI Career Enhancing Grant provided me with timely support to conduct a most valuable single-cell RNA sequencing proof-of-concept experiment and complete the foundation required to allow me to apply for larger research fellowships. The data generated from this grant was critical for my subsequent success in securing a Royal Society University Research Fellowship, allowing me to become a group leader and establish my independent research programme to improve the quality of life of people suffering with neglected tropical and autoimmune diseases."

Dr Damian Perez Mazliah, Hull York Medical School, University of York

Training

This year, as part of our strategy to increase our careers offering, we launched a new training function to provide tailored and innovative training to meet the needs of both immunologists, helping them keep their skills up to date and relevant, and non-immunologists, who want to understand the basics of the discipline to help in their jobs. This year, we launched two training offerings in bioinformatics and PPI training; however, we have lots of plans in the pipeline for additional courses – watch this space for more information!

Bioinformatics

This year, we launched a new training programme in bioinformatics, which has been developed and is delivered by John Cole and Glasgow Bioinformatic Core. It aims to equip wet-lab immunologists, biologists and other life scientists with the skills and confidence to perform their own bioinformatic data analysis. Bioinformatics is now a potent driver of scientific development and an area where there is currently a significant skills gap within immunology. We offer a range of courses, suitable for complete beginners through to advanced practitioners. Through these highly rated courses, our aim is to provide affordable access and high-quality training in this essential skill to the current and future generations of immunologists.

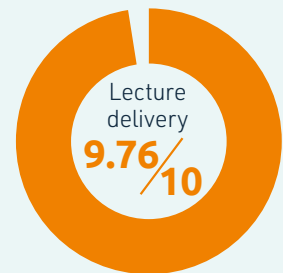
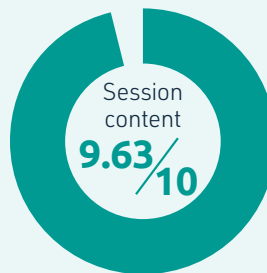
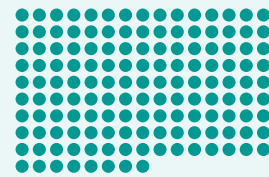
“This was a brilliant course! It was delivered in a very entertaining and informative way. The attention to detail was fantastic. I will certainly be looking at doing another one of these courses.”

“It was great, right pace, relevant content, help when you needed it and entertaining – thank you.”

Course: 'Omic data analysis and visualisation using R'

Number of people trained:

143



Confidence in exploring omic datasets:

Before course:

27.1%

After course:

75.4%

Training in Patient & Public Involvement

As part of our work on National Core Studies Immunity, we teamed up with five of our public contributors from that project to co-design an online course for researchers on how to involve the public and patients in their research, and how to better understand the mindset and approach needed for effective and inclusive involvement. During the course, researchers were able to hear directly from PPI representatives as well as allowing for peer-to-peer learning through sharing experiences and case studies of successful involvement. Confidence in building rapport and relationships with public contributors increased from 48% before the course to 92% afterwards. Similarly, confidence in giving value to patient and public contributors increased from 9% before the course to 93% after the training.

“There was lots of time for questions and discussions. There was really helpful input from very experienced patients and sharing of useful resources.”



BSI Immunology Awards 2023

In April 2023, we revealed the winners of our inaugural BSI Immunology Awards. These awards were created to champion the remarkable achievements of individuals and teams working across the spectrum of immunology to drive excellence in our discipline.

We celebrated the awards at our 'Transforming the immunology landscape' event, which was an opportunity for the immunology community to come together to hear about the extraordinary work being undertaken by their peers and discuss future challenges and opportunities across the sector.

Congratulations to our winners!

BSI Outstanding Ambassadors for Immunology Award

Professor Danny Altmann, Imperial College London
Dr Victoria Male, Imperial College London

Outstanding Contribution to the BSI Award

Professor Gary Entrican, University of Edinburgh

BSI Research Excellence Award

Professor Lucy Walker, University College London

BSI Early Career Research Excellence Award

Dr George Robinson, University College London

BSI Outstanding Team Award

Northern Ireland Multiple Sclerosis Research Network,
 Queen's University Belfast/Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

BSI Diversity and Inclusion Award

Tomi Akingbade, University of Cambridge
Dr Donald Palmer, Royal Veterinary College

BSI Public Engagement Award

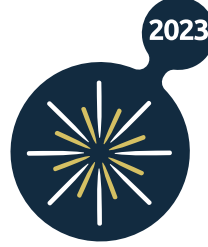
Professor Sheena Cruickshank, University of Manchester

BSI Immunology Teaching Excellence Award

Dr Sophie Rutschmann, Imperial College London
Dr Tom Wilkinson, Swansea University

BSI Outstanding Leadership Award

No winner announced this year due to overall lack of diverse representation in the nominations received.



BSI IMMUNOLOGY AWARDS



Honorary members

Our honorary membership scheme recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to immunology or to the Society. At BSI Congress 2022, we were delighted to award Lifetime Honorary Membership to **Professor Ian MacLennan** and **Professor Faith Osier**.

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 interest ranging from autoimmunity, to cancer, to 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, and build new collaborations between different sectors.

Case Study



Public health and vaccinology focus

This year, we commenced a new collaboration with colleagues who worked on response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to bring together immunologists and public health specialists for a two-day conference and networking event. The aim was to share research updates and knowledge from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. We also wanted to focus on how our two professions can take these learnings to build long-term and productive collaborations that will drive forward research on vaccines against other pathogens and build UK pandemic preparedness.

This focused meeting was a huge success with over 60 experts from around the country attending, many meeting in person for the first time. With these initial links built, we now aim to take this collaboration forward in future years to build sustained connections between our two disciplines.

Case Study

10 new research projects to tackle the root cause of life-changing autoimmune conditions



A joined-up approach to autoimmune research

Our Connect Immune Research alliance continues to deliver impact across the spectrum of its activities. This year, the alliance has attracted new partners to join, so that it now comprises 10 organisations who have a commitment to understanding the underlying causes of autoimmunity. We also launched our lab exchange grants to allow early career researchers working on one autoimmune disease to visit the laboratory of a senior scientist working on a different disease.

Throughout the year, Connect Immune Research's partnership with The Lorna and Yuti Chernajovsky Biomedical Research Foundation continues to go from strength to strength. Following the award of 10 pilot grants totalling £1 million last year to research projects to identify the underlying causes of autoimmune diseases and generate new treatments, we have continued to monitor delivery on these projects over the course of the year. As the end of the funding period approaches, we have been hard at work with plans to bring the funded researchers together to build further collaborations and to develop plans for phase two of the funding.

"Building meaningful partnerships that deliver impact for immunology is key to the BSI's strategy to deliver positive outcomes for health."

Dr Doug Brown, BSI CEO

Public engagement

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

Resources for engagement

We have continued to develop a range of engagement resources around vaccines, including updating our highly rated comprehensive 'Guide to COVID-19 vaccinations' and creating an infographic to explain the importance of booster COVID-19 vaccines.

We also significantly updated our 'Guide to childhood vaccinations' which explains how vaccines work and provides latest information on the UK immunisation schedule, along with developing a new infographic to complement London's catch-up polio vaccination campaign. Finally, in partnership with the CARINA Network, we launched a new 'Guide to vaccinations for adults over 65' to inform older adults about the vaccines they are eligible for in the UK and answer common questions.

Additionally, our cancer immunotherapy darts activity featured in the 2023 British Science Week activity packs that were shared with primary schools and community groups across the country.



BSI members volunteering at our stand at the Lambeth Country Show

#VaccineConversations

Empowering our members to engage with family, friends and communities to have meaningful conversations about vaccines has continued to be a core part of our work. We held our annual online vaccine engagement day and encouraged members to use their expert voices for a day of education and celebration to champion the important role of vaccines. These conversations from trusted individuals are incredibly important in strengthening public understanding and helping people make informed decisions about vaccination.

This year, we were excited to return to in-person events, using our interactive activities and resources to engage with all ages about the components of the immune system, the importance of vaccination and herd immunity. We participated in the Cambridge Big Biology to engage with school-aged children and families, the Science Museum 'Lates' aimed at adults over 18 and the Lambeth Country Show to reach communities in London who wouldn't normally engage with immunology.



Partnership for maximum impact

To build public trust and confidence in vaccines, it's important that we work with a variety of organisations to increase our reach into different communities. We partnered with the London Borough of Bexley to create short videos featuring BSI members answering common questions about childhood vaccinations, which are played in GP surgeries, shared across community groups and featured online. We supported NHS England with their social media 'fact cards' answering common questions about COVID-19 vaccine boosters targeted for Black African, Black African Caribbean and Asian communities. These were also used to engage local and national community groups, for example shared by the British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA) and mosques in their WhatsApp groups. We also collaborated with NHS England to develop a new animation about routine vaccinations aimed at families. The animation is shared widely on YouTube and social media.

This year saw a revamp of our public engagement grant scheme, offering our members financial support to run their own activities. We funded 12 successful applications, including a public engagement stall at Glastonbury Festival around the immune system and gut microbiome. The stall interacted with an estimated 1,200 people and feedback was positive, with visitors expressing their interest in immunology and microbiome research.



Training community champions to have effective vaccine conversations

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. This year, we collaborated with Birmingham City Council on a programme to train 'vaccine champions' within community groups to have effective conversations with their peers about vaccinations, including on COVID-19, childhood, HPV and flu vaccines.

The training was co-designed with the local authorities' public health teams and their residents, addressing specific questions and key concerns raised by participants and their communities. The programme consisted of accessible online sessions for one hour each week over four weeks. The sessions were led by BSI members who have specialist knowledge of vaccines and honed skills in engagement and communication. They focused on building understanding of how vaccines train the immune system, as well as developing skills in listening to and answering common questions and sometimes complex worries. They were also supported by our public-friendly resources about vaccines that participants can use and signpost people to.

After completing the training, 100% of community champions in Birmingham agreed that they felt informed and knowledgeable about vaccines as well as confident to have effective conversations about vaccines. Encouragingly, all community champions reported an increase in the number of people they regularly talk to about vaccinations.

"I feel much more confident having effective conversations around vaccines because the sessions have developed my understanding about different vaccines and the diseases they protect against. They gave such an excellent broad overview, with just the right amount of detail, and informed me about how people may respond and how to approach people in different ways depending on the circumstances, their views and background."

Training participant

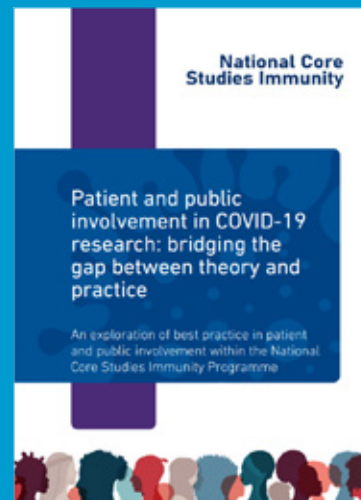
Patient and public involvement

Following our delivery of patient and public involvement (PPI) within UK-CIC, we published our experiences as a paper in the journal *Research Engagement & Involvement* detailing the positive impact of PPI in the UK-CIC. The paper was co-authored with public contributors who worked with us in the PPI panel within UK-CIC and shared our experiences of running the project and lessons learnt. 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 year, we continued to manage PPI within the National Core Studies Immunity programme, bringing together researchers and public contributors to discuss the ongoing research in detail. As part of this, we were proud to launch our new report on this work 'Patient and public involvement in COVID-19 research: bridging the gap between theory and practice'. This explored the impact of PPI on COVID-19 research with the aim of encouraging more research teams to consider involving patients and the public in their work, and to provide practical examples of how this can be done

to great effect.

It was produced with substantial contribution from a group of patients, carers and members of the public, and described how National Core Studies Immunity research teams involved patients and the public in their work, as well as what it means to involve public contributors in research more generally.



"The BSI built relationships with us. I felt that I could reach out with any concerns and comments, both positive and negative. Thank you to all at the BSI for all that you are and everything that you do. You have been approachable, reflexive and it's been a joy to be involved with you."

Public contributor, National Core Studies Immunity



Policy highlights

This year, the Society has continued to use our powerful voice to advocate for immunological science and health, 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 in partnership with BSI members and with 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.

Engaging with stakeholders

Over the past year, through our policy and public affairs work, we have:

- Responded to several policy consultations on topics including the future of cancer therapies, prevention strategies in healthcare, misinformation and trusted voices, NHS vaccination strategy, and people and skills in STEM
- Participated in a number of Parliamentary events run by the Royal Society of Biology including Voice of Young Science and Parliamentary Links Day
- Seen several of our response themes adopted in the publication of the Cabinet Office's new national biosecurity strategy document, including stepping up surveillance efforts, continuing investment in vaccines and therapeutics, and building and strengthening links with our international partners
- Had our proposal for 'Vaccinations' as a workstream adopted by the House of Commons' Health and Social Care Select Committee's Inquiry on Prevention. They have subsequently published a report to advise on how the UK can remain at the forefront of global vaccination policy
- Seen the BSI's community vaccine engagement work highlighted in the oral evidence sessions of the House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's enquiry on 'Misinformation and trusted voices' as an exemplar of why learned societies are valuable partners in the fight against misinformation
- Had almost 50 parliamentary questions answered on a wide range of topics including Horizon Europe, barriers to pursuing careers in scientific research and support for predictive vaccinology research
- Seen our proposal to the National Screening Committee on the benefits of screening for human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV) in high-risk populations leading to a wider consultation to explore this proposal further.



Case Study

MSD fully funded and attended the round table meeting. The final report was fully funded by MSD and was fact checked for accuracy and balance only.



Professor Alex Richter, who chaired the roundtable for this report, at our launch event at the Houses of Parliament.

Measuring vaccine-induced immunogenicity

We published a new policy report 'Measuring vaccine-induced immunogenicity: Leveraging a COVID-19 legacy for improved public health' which calls for further study of immunogenicity to improve the evaluation of the effectiveness and value of vaccines for the advancement of public health. This report aims to help policymakers and regulators, as well as clinicians, researchers and industry, to better understand, measure and utilise vaccine-induced immunogenicity for long-term benefit to patients and public health, and stronger pandemic preparedness in the UK.

Informed by roundtable discussions with experts from academia, industry, government, regulators and clinical medicine, the report lays out recommended interventions to cement the legacy from COVID-19 and ultimately, bolster the UK's pandemic preparedness and greatly benefit the NHS and the public. The overall message of the report is that we must leverage the progress in understanding and measuring immunogenicity from the COVID-19 pandemic into even more effective vaccines to protect and boost health for future generations.

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 continues to grow and evolve, we aim to evolve too to ensure we engage with, support and are relevant to immunologists from across the spectrum of our community. 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.



4,451

members*

1,388

Full

659

Early career

1,366

Postgraduate

596

Undergraduate

442

Concessionary

* Figures correct as of 30 June 2023

Providing the best service for our members

One of our key aims is to ensure that we increase our support and engagement with our members from all sectors and at all career stages. To support this work, this year we carried out a major project to embed a new membership management system to allow us to provide better, more joined-up and holistic support and service for our members. Alongside this, we also upgraded our website to increase functionality and accessibility as well as making it easier to navigate. Both of these projects have now been successfully implemented resulting in a seamless experience for our members to better interaction with our services.



Keeping you informed

The BSI works hard to ensure good communications channels with our members and the wider world. Our flagship membership magazine, *Immunology News*, is published quarterly and includes regular feature articles from leading immunologists, profiles of individuals from across the breadth of our membership, education and careers updates and more information on the Society's activities.

Additionally, our monthly e-newsletter continues to be hugely popular among members and non-members alike and successfully drives readership to our website.

BSI Clinical Immunology Professional Network

Following the successful merger between the British Society for Immunology (BSI) and the UK Primary Immunodeficiency Network (UKPIN) in early 2023, we have established the BSI Clinical Immunology Professional Network (BSI-CIPN) – a new network championing clinical immunology within the BSI.

In combining the expertise of the BSI and UKPIN, the network aims to foster closer links between clinical practitioners and basic scientists and strengthen the voice of clinical immunology in policy and public arenas. The BSI-CIPN will also share best practice through a range of resources and activities, including dedicated events, clinical sessions at BSI Congress, development of clinical guidelines, training provision and much more. By providing this strong platform for UK clinical immunology, our ultimate aim is to improve care for patients.

The activities of the network are overseen by the BSI-CIPN Steering Group, chaired by Dr Sinisa Savic, supported by Deputy Chair Dr Suzanne Elcombe. The network welcomes members from all aspects of clinical immunology including clinicians and trainees, nurses, healthcare scientists and pharmacists.

Having spent this year embedding the network within wider BSI activities, we now have an eye on the future and an exciting programme of activities planned for the next 12 months. Watch this space for more details.

Immunology Nursing Competency Framework

In May, we were delighted to publish the first ever competency framework for immunology nursing in the UK to advance patient care and nursing practice. Immunology nursing plays a vital role in the healthcare system, providing essential support to individuals with complex and diverse immune-related conditions, and demanding a highly skilled and competent nursing workforce. By combining underlying immunology knowledge with clinical best practices and the latest therapeutic advances, this framework provides a comprehensive roadmap for mastering the skills and knowledge required in immunology nursing, covering all career grades from newly entering into the speciality to undertaking nurse-led clinics. Our aim is for this framework to be flexible and to empower immunology nurses to stay abreast of advancements while working innovatively to improve standards of care for patients.



BSI-CIPN meeting

To celebrate the launch of the BSI-CIPN, we held a one-day conference in tandem with the BSI Congress, to bring together the clinical immunology community, on the topic of 'Expanding horizons within clinical immunology: Redefining the scope of clinical practice'. The successful event brought together over 100 professionals working in clinical immunology to discuss diverse topics such as COVID-19 and primary immunodeficiencies, the new UK perioperative anaphylaxis network as well as learning more about the aims and ambitions of the BSI-CIPN.

"The formation of the BSI Clinical Immunology Professional Network is a great development for UK clinical immunology and will hopefully strengthen connections between clinicians and academics in our field as well as allowing further collaboration between organisations working in allergy and clinical immunology."

Dr Tomaz Garcez, Clinical Representative, BSI Forum member

Diversity and inclusion

The BSI wants diversity and inclusion to be at the heart of the ethos of our community. This year, we have continued to build on the promises laid out in our 'Diversity and Inclusion Framework', which outlines 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. By building on past and ongoing activities, this framework sets out our long-term plan of action for diversity and inclusion at the BSI.

This year, we have made significant steps forward in our EDI commitment, carrying out an organisational wide review of how EDI is embedded within our activities and how our staff are supported in delivering these and developing their knowledge of best practice in EDI. We have also engaged much more deeply with our wider membership around understanding their views of the BSI's role in supporting EDI within immunology, what we are doing well and what we could do better. In September, we held two focus groups with a wide cross-section of our membership and received some incredibly useful feedback as well as ideas and suggestions for future activities that we are taking forward. Watch this space! We also ran a session at BSI Congress on EDI, highlighting some successful case studies from our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Activity Grant scheme as well as getting members' feedback on the implementation of our Diversity and Inclusion Framework.

Finally, we have been engaging deeply with the wider scientific community to spread best practice on how we developed our framework and to learn from their experiences of similar activities.



Case Study

Edinburgh Immunology EDI Summer School

Attending university can be a wonderful experience, but it can also be accompanied by stress and anxiety. Every interaction, positive and negative, shapes the student experience helping them make informed decisions about their future. Therefore, equity in choosing a career in immunology requires space for every student to gain the knowledge and skills necessary, as well as to make connections, talk to people and be aware of what opportunities are out there.



Following the EDI symposium at BSI Congress 2022, we discussed with colleagues how we could use the BSI Diversity & Inclusion Framework to make a tangible impact on our student body and enhance the student experience. Our goal was to create a week-long summer school that showcased immunology, while also helping students to develop core skills and graduate attributes that will be important in the final two years of their degree. We focused on providing a safe and welcoming space for students. Interest was high, with 73 applicants leading to 30 students attending. For those unable to attend, sessions were recorded and made available online. We designed a varied programme aimed at developing key graduate attributes, providing a peek into the immune system, an opportunity to develop skills and a space to build a community between the staff and students.

We were extremely pleased with the outcomes and feedback from participants. The students have praised the efforts put into designing and delivering the sessions, while highlighting the benefit of the programme to their studies. We feel we have managed to empower students and to boost their confidence to begin carving out a career path.

**Dr Jason Mooney, Dr Alan Hayes & Dr Patricia Castro,
University of Edinburgh**

This project was supported by a BSI Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Activity Grant.

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. While traditionally we have relied heavily on our journal income to fund charitable activities, our shift to bring in new long-term and stable income sources is now well under way. The development of new income streams is never 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 the organisation through this transition – and their use is now carefully planned.

Consolidating our approach

Last year, we reported on changes to our journals with the aim of moving our financial reliance away from traditional subscription journals to develop a modern publishing portfolio that also meets the needs of our members and wider immunology community. This work is now well underway, and this year saw the growth of our two new Open Access journals, *Immunotherapy Advances* and *Discovery Immunology*, which are proving popular additions to the BSI portfolio. Both journals have met key milestones this year on their journey towards gaining an impact factor (see page 10) and stabilising our future journals income.

Our new activity to provide support to wider immunology research efforts is also paying dividends and we have built up a strong reputation within the sector for assisting the smooth running, effectiveness and impact of large research consortia. Prestigious projects we have worked on over the last 12 months include UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium, SIREN (SARS-CoV-2 immunity and reinfection evaluation) study, National Core Studies Immunity, the CARINA (CATalyst Reducing ImmuNe Ageing) Network and STRAVINSKY (Stratification of Clinically Vulnerable People for COVID-19 Risk Using Antibody Testing) – see page 11 for more details. Our participation in this type of funded project continues to be an important source of income while allowing us to meet our wider goal of supporting the national immunology research effort.



New endeavours

This year has seen the launch of several new projects, which fulfil our goals of making a positive contribution to the immunology sector while also diversifying the BSI's income. Chief among these has been the launch of a BSI training function to support immunologists and the wider research community to keep their skills up to date and relevant (see page 15). Our first training offering on bioinformatics, delivered in partnership with Glasgow Bioinformatic Core, has proved hugely popular, with exceptionally positive feedback, and provides vital training in a growth area for immunology. We also piloted a training course for researchers in public and patient involvement, which we hope to roll out further next year. These courses, along with several new offerings in pipeline which particularly focus on the clinical sector, mean the BSI is well on our way to establishing ourselves as a leading training provider in the immunology sector.

We are also enhancing our partnership and sponsorship areas of work with industry, establishing mutually beneficial routes for collaboration to highlight, celebrate and champion the immunology sector, which has been core to our strategic development of this area of work. Notably among these is the launch of our new Immunology Awards ceremony (see page 16) which brings together leaders from across the immunology sector to celebrate the potential of immunology to make positive contributions to wider society and public health.



Who we are

The British Society for Immunology is the leading UK membership organisation working with scientists and clinicians from academic, industry and clinical settings 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. Membership listed is correct as of 30 June 2023.

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 Tracy Hussell** – President
- Professor James Brewer** – Chair of Forum
- Dr Emma Chambers** – Early Career Trustee
- Dr Fiona Culley** – Treasurer
- Robert Davies** – Co-opted Trustee
- Professor Colin Dayan** – Clinical Research Secretary
- Professor Deborah Dunn-Walters** – Trustee
- Professor Matthias Eberl** – Trustee
- Paul Harding** – Co-opted Trustee
- Dr Edith Hessel** – Co-opted Trustee
- Professor Teresa Lambe** – Trustee
- James Lowe** – Co-opted Trustee
- Professor Allan Mowat** – Trustee
- Dr Sinisa Savic** – Co-opted Trustee; Chair of BSI-CIPN
- Dr Matthew Siggins** – Early Career Trustee

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 Matthias Eberl** – Public Engagement Secretary
- Dr Donald Palmer** – Careers & Education Secretary
- Professor Mark Travis** – Groups & Meetings Secretary



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 James Brewer** – Chair of Forum
- Lauren Campbell** – PhD representative
- Dr Patrick Cao** – Scotland representative
- Dr Simone Cuff** – Wales representative
- Dr Karim Dib** – Northern Ireland representative
- Professor Matthias Eberl** – Public Engagement Secretary
- Dr Tomaz Garcez** – Clinical representative
- Dr Gareth Rhys Jones** – Clinical representative
- Dr Julia Makinde** – England representative
- Dr Rebecca McLean** – Veterinary representative
- Dr Donald Palmer** – Careers & Education Secretary
- Dr Edoardo Prediletto** – Early career representative
- Dr Niamh Richmond** – PhD representative
- Dr George Robinson** – Early career representative
- Dr Louise Topping** – Early career representative
- Dr Faith Uwadiae** – Early career representative
- Dr Federica Villanova** – Industry representative

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 Tracy Hussell – 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

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-CIPN Steering Group

This Group directs the activities of the BSI Clinical Immunology Professional Network (BSI-CIPN), our dedicated network for individuals working within clinical immunology.

Dr Sinisa Savic – Chair
Dr Suzanne Elcombe – Deputy Chair
Dr Manisha Ahuju – Postgraduate doctor in training representative
Dr Claire Bethune – CRG representative; ex-officio member
Sarah Denman – Pharmacy representative
Jill Edmonds – Nursing representative
Dr Kimberley Gilmour – Clinical/Biomedical Scientist Representative
Dr Sarah Goddard – QPIDS representative; ex-officio member
Professor Alex Richter – Guidelines lead
Dr Ravishankar Sargur – Member
Dr Catherine Stroud – Membership lead
Dr James Thaventhiran – Conference lead; co-opted member
Dr Austin Worth – Paediatric representative & PID registry representative; ex-officio member
Dr Patrick Yong – Training & Education lead

Regional & Affinity Groups

We have 31 active Groups who represent different subject areas and regional grouping in immunology. We are indebted to our Group members who volunteer their time and expertise to bring sections of the membership together by organising meetings, arranging seminars and putting on public engagement events.

Our members

The BSI has over 4,500 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 go to our whole immunology community.

Staff

Our staff team of 20 brings together specialists from a wide range of sectors to take forward the Society's work in supporting immunologists and bringing the voice of the discipline to a wider audience.



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
Beckman Coulter
Charles River
InvivoGen
Mabtech
Miltenyi Biotec
MSD
NanoString
Standard BioTools

Silver members

Abcam
Bio-Rad
STEMCELL Technologies

Bronze members

BD
InBio
NG Bio

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 2023

Grants, sponsorship and donations

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

- The Kennedy Trust
- Lorna and Yuti Chernajovsky Biomedical Research Foundation
- Merck Sharp & Dohme (UK) Limited

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 – provision of community vaccine champion training and educational services around vaccines.

National Core Studies Immunity (NCSi)

– provision of PPI and communications support, including running the UK Covid Vaccines Research Hub website. 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 (UKHSA), with BSI involvement funded through UKHSA and MRC grant.

STRAVINSKY (Stratification of Clinically Vulnerable People for COVID-19 Risk Using Antibody Testing)

– provision of PPI, communication and governance services to this project. STRAVINSKY is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

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 NIHR.

UK SPINE – provision of public engagement services to support their work on healthy ageing. UK SPINE is funded by Research England's Connecting Capabilities Fund.

Financials

Message from the Treasurer

During a busy and productive year, the finances of the British Society for Immunology have remained healthy. 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 both financial and risk management.

Transition period

As discussed on page 26, the BSI continues our transition period following last year's changes to our publishing portfolio. Our significant focus on income diversification continues to go to plan. This year, the annual net deficit was reduced by 35% from £0.63 million last year to £0.41 million for the 2022–23 financial year. The operating deficits before investment were better than budget.

Record income

As the BSI focuses on new income sources, in 2022–23 we recorded our highest ever overall income, reaching £2.45 million. While publishing remains the BSI's largest source of income, its significance within our income portfolio continued to fall from 41% of total BSI income last year to 31% this year. This fall was offset by increases in income from Congress and from grants and donations. In particular, the BSI Congress 2022 attracted a record number of delegates and increased income from exhibition space hire and sponsorship.

This year, the Society has continued our success obtaining funding for our work supporting immunology research. Total grants received were over £0.2 million for the second consecutive year. Total donations of £0.21 million were received in 2023. This includes £0.18 million from the UK Primary Immunodeficiency Network (UKPIN) following their merger with the BSI during the year.

The newly launched BSI Clinical Immunology Professional Network (BSI-CIPN) held its first meeting in December 2022, which attracted over £100k of sponsorship income. It is anticipated that the BSI-CIPN will assist in creating partnerships with industry, leading to exciting projects in future years.

Supporting members

Now in their second year, the BSI-funded Career Enhancing Grants supported a wide range of projects and training opportunities for members. During the scheme's second year, total grants of £121k were awarded.

Future plans

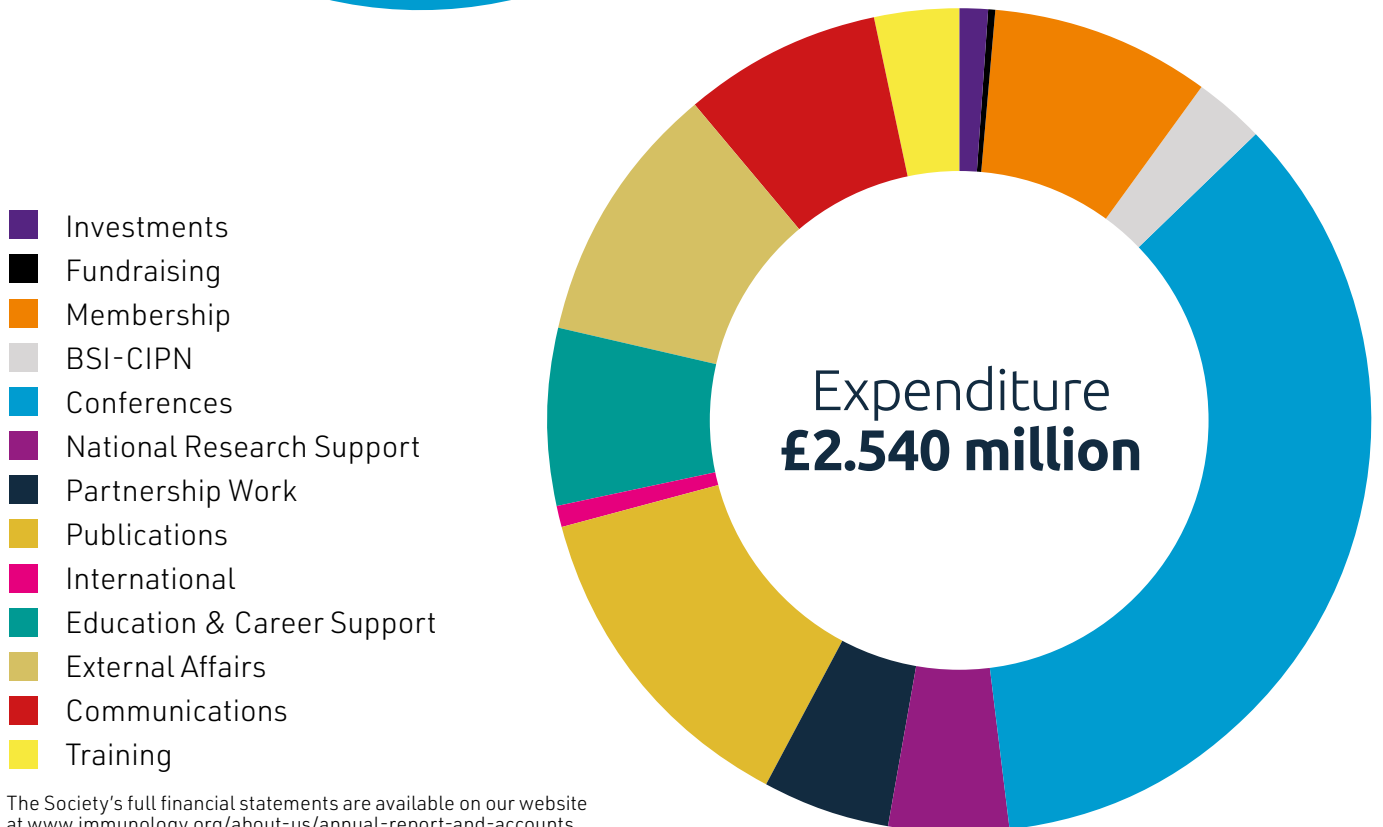
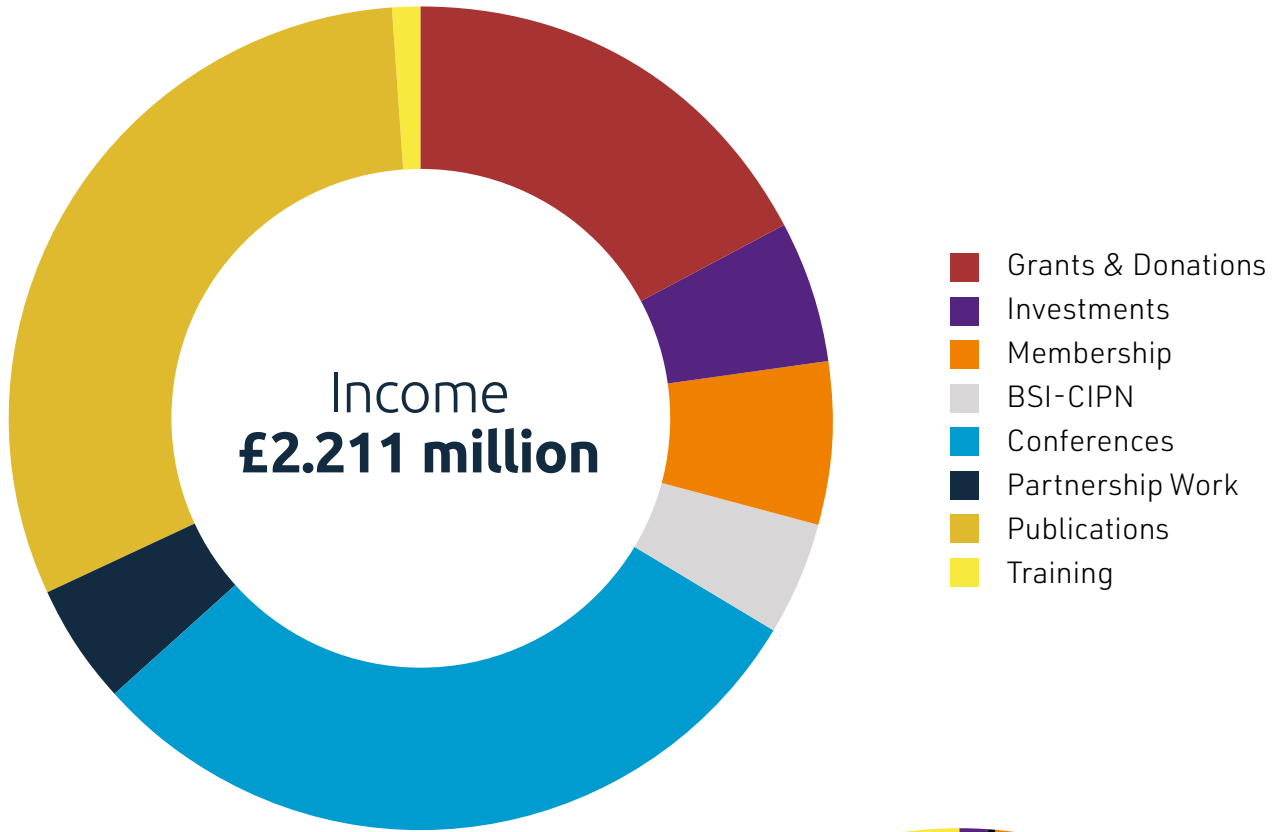
The development of new sustainable income streams continues to be a focus for the BSI team. There are several projects under development, which all fulfil our goals of making a positive contribution to the immunology sector while also delivering new sustainable income streams. Excitingly, the BSI launched our first training courses during 2022 (see page 15), a significant part of these plans. The expansion of this training portfolio is a key project 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 requires investment, which is planned and will come from our reserves. We are forecasting costs to exceed income over the next few years until the new income streams start generating sufficient funds.

Fiona Culley
BSI Treasurer



Income and expenditure for 2022–2023



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
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research 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
Francis Crick Institute
Glasgow Bioinformatic Core
Inequalities in Health Alliance
International Union of Immunological Societies
JDRF
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