

# Annual Review

2017 – 2018



# About the Society

The British Society for Immunology is the leading UK membership organisation working with scientists and clinicians from academia and industry to forward immunology research and application around the world. Our friendly, accessible community consists of over 3,500 immunologists, giving us a powerful voice to advocate for immunological science and health for the benefit of society. Based in our offices in Holborn, London, our staff of 15 work with our Trustees and members to achieve the organisation's aims.

## Mission

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

We accomplish this by:

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

# Contents

About the Society	2
Message from our President and Chief Executive	3
Key achievements for the year	4
Who we are	6
Our community	8
Influence and impact	10
Supporting the next generation	12
Careers in immunology	14
Publishing update	15
International focus	16
Financial report	18



# Message from our President and Chief Executive

It has been another successful year for the British Society for Immunology. We are now mid-way through our strategic plan – our members and the wider immunological community are already benefitting from our many innovations and initiatives. Although we have branched out in some exciting new directions, we have not lost sight of our core mission – to support our members and promote excellence in immunology in all its forms – and are acutely aware of the responsibility we have as the largest of the European immunology societies.

The BSI office staff have done a fantastic job in supporting Trustees and members as we continue to build an even louder voice for immunology, representing our views to funders, Parliament and other senior decision-makers. This has proved remarkably successful and we are fast making a name for ourselves as a powerful and authoritative voice for immunological science in all its forms. The BSI is ensuring that we put immunology centre-stage in the public arena, both in terms of advocating in support of our profession and acting as a reliable, trustworthy voice for immunology in the media and public debate. We have been especially successful in advocating increased investment in, and uptake of, vaccines, both through the work of our vaccine ambassador scheme and in tireless work with journalists and funders.

Our annual Congress in Brighton again proved immensely popular, showcasing outstanding research and innovation from world leaders in the field to over 1,200 delegates. In addition, the networking opportunities and sense of community around the event made Congress stand out as the BSI's flagship activity for bringing our members together. This was complemented throughout the year by our enthusiastic and dedicated Regional and Affinity Groups, whose activities form a vital part of the BSI, facilitating scientific discussions and networking that are invaluable for the continued development of our discipline.

Supporting early career members has always been at the heart of the Society's activities and we have made important strides forward this year. The publication of our landmark 'Careers in immunology' report allowed us a greater insight into the challenges that immunologists in all sectors face over the course of their careers. We also launched our mentoring scheme to allow early career researchers to gain independent, tailored advice from some of the UK's leading immunologists. Feedback on the first year of this scheme has proved very positive and it will become an important method by which we can support those starting out in the field. In addition, our Teaching Excellence Award was launched this year – a key part of our work to recognise the importance of immunology teachers to training the next generation. Congratulations to the inaugural winner, Andrew Foy.

Our two journals, Immunology and Clinical & Experimental Immunology, continue to perform well with great support for the editors, publishers, BSI members and staff. These journals provide vital income to the Society and we are immensely grateful to all those who ensure their present and future success. With an increased emphasis on collaborative working (such as our recent link up the Microbiology Society), we are now considering how best to ensure that they continue to flourish and that we maintain our prominence in the publishing sector.

There has never been a more important time for us to reach out and build fruitful collaborations with immunologists around the world. We continue to work closely with the European Federation of Immunological Societies and International Union of Immunological Societies to facilitate links for our members. This year, we signed a joint letter of intent with the Chinese Society for Immunology to establish a collaborative partnership, an initiative we hope will assist our members by improving engagement opportunities, as well as help inform the wider role we can have in supporting immunology globally.

Both immunology and the BSI have bright prospects. Doug is delighted to have been selected to follow the excellent Jo Revill as Chief Executive. He has a PhD in immunology and brings with him a wealth of experience from the charitable sector and big ambitions for the Society. Peter has really enjoyed his five years as President and looks forward with a mixture of pleasure and regret to stepping down in December. The BSI will be in great hands, with Dr Doug Brown and Prof Arne Akbar (President Elect) taking it forward into the next phase.

The BSI's Trustees and staff are committed to building on our current achievements to ensure that the Society continues to flourish and that we develop innovative programmes to support our members and represent immunology to the wider world. None of this is possible without the assistance of the many members and partners who generously volunteer their time to assist in various aspects of our work. Thank you all – you truly help shape the future of immunology by working with us.

Thank you all!



**Peter Openshaw**  
President



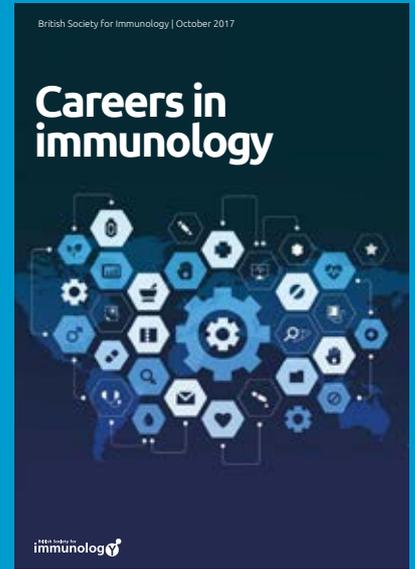
**Doug Brown**  
Chief Executive

# Our Achievements 2017 – 2018

**Ran our very popular Congress, with 98% net promotor score**  
Disseminating the latest findings in immunology to our community



**Published our 'Careers in immunology' report**  
Increasing our understanding of the challenges to the sector's workforce



**Supported our Regional & Affinity Groups to reach a record number of immunologists**  
Championing local and subject-specific research networks



**Launched our new mentoring scheme**  
Supporting professional development for our early career members



**Published our 'Guide to childhood immunisations'**  
Providing evidence-based, easy to understand information to parents about vaccination

## Signed a joint letter of intent with the Chinese Society for Immunology

Building international collaboration opportunities for our members



## Collaborated with the Microbiology Society to curate a microbiome research collection

Working together to highlight the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration



## Celebrated the one-year anniversary of our new Editor-in-Chief at *Clinical & Experimental Immunology*

Developing our official journals to advance immunology and foster innovation



## Partnered with HPV Action to successfully campaign for a gender-neutral HPV vaccine programme

Ensuring the public benefits from immunology's success



## Launched our Immunology Teaching Excellence Award

Recognising and rewarding outstanding immunology educators

## Funded 268 members through our grants schemes

Supporting members in furthering their skills and careers



# Who we are

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

## Trustees



**Peter Openshaw**  
President



**Calum Bain**  
Early Career Trustee



**Edward Chandler**  
Co-opted Trustee



**Anne Cooke**  
Vice-President



**Sheena Cruickshank**  
Public Engagement Secretary



**Fiona Culley**  
Treasurer



**Robert Davies**  
Co-opted Trustee



**Matthias Eberl**  
Trustee



**Sofia Grigoriadou**  
Clinical Secretary



**Paul Harding**  
Co-opted Trustee



**Edith Hessel**  
Co-opted Trustee



**Simon Milling**  
Trustee



**Allan Mowat**  
Trustee

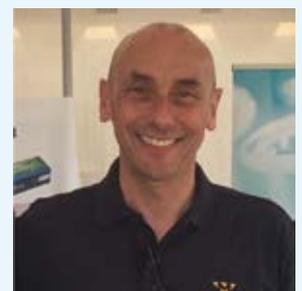
## Secretaries



**Helen Collins**  
Education Secretary



**John Curnow**  
Groups & Meetings Secretary



**Gary Entrican**  
Congress Secretary

## Board of Trustees

Our Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the business activities of the BSI. The members of the Board have the legal responsibility to ensure the Society is well-run, financially sound, and that it meets its charitable aims and objectives. This year, we created two new Board positions specifically for early career researchers to ensure that their voice is represented at the highest level with the BSI. Elections were held in March and we were delighted to welcome Calum Bain as our first Early Career Trustee in June 2018. Emma Chambers will take up the second position in January 2019.

## Forum

Our Forum members represent a diverse mix of immunologists from different career stages, backgrounds and geographic locations. The committee is led by our Trustee Anne Cooke. In addition to some of our Trustees and Secretaries, the following people sit on our Forum: Matthew Buckland, Alice Burton, Louise Cosby, Magdalena Dziadzio, Ceri Fielding, Jayne Hope, Simon Jochems, Helen McGettrick, Fane Mensah, Rebecca Newman, Laura Pallett, Antonios Psarras and Elma Tchilian.

## Committees

The BSI is supported by a number of committees who oversee key areas of our work. These include the Congress Committee who manage the popular BSI Congress, the Clinical Committee who represent our clinical members and oversee engagement with the wider clinical community, and our Patient Advisory Panel who ensure that the voice of the patient is represented in our work. We also have a Grants Panel who assist with marking our grant applications.

## Regional & Affinity Groups

We have 28 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. You can read more about their work on page 9.

## Our members

The BSI has over 3,500 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 or advising on our policy work – our grateful thanks to our whole immunology community.

## Our corporate members

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



## Join us!

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

# Our community

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

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

*“Really well run society, excellent value and I always encourage my students and postdocs to join”*

## 3,625 members

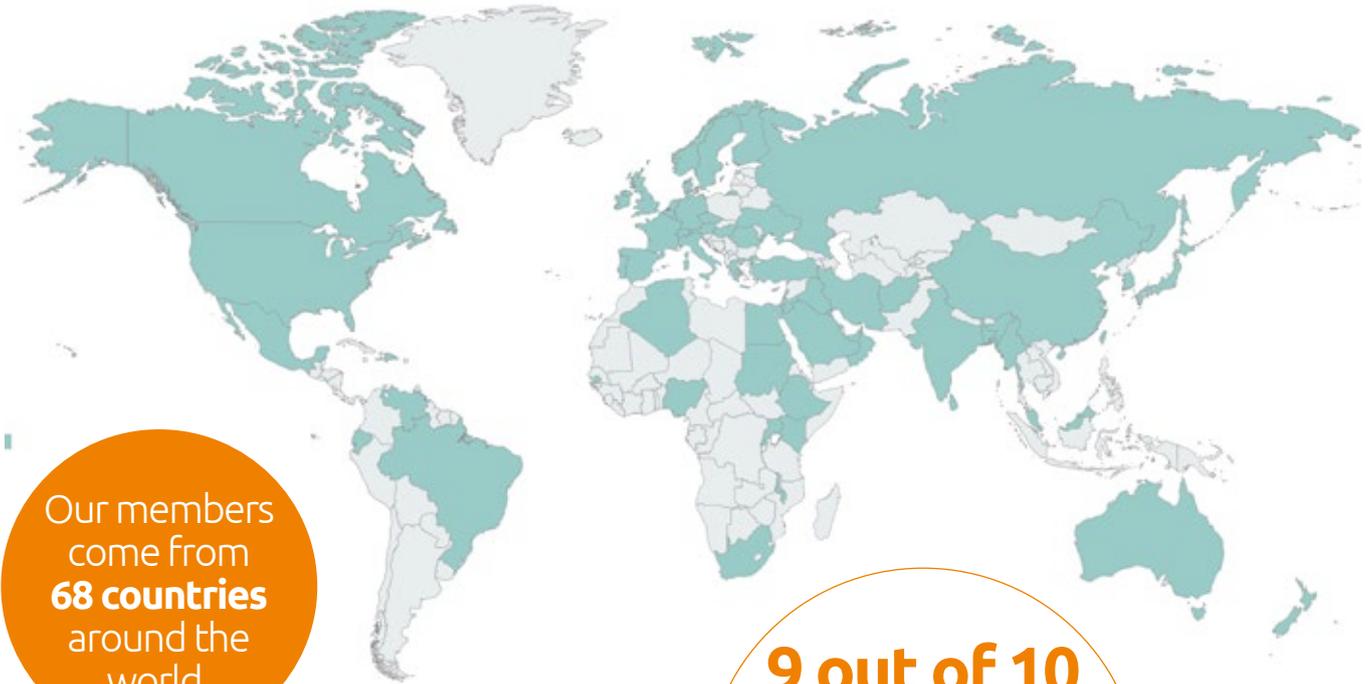
**1,792**  
Full members

**1,055**  
Postgraduate

**255**  
Early career

**229**  
Concessionary

**294**  
Undergraduates



Our members come from **68 countries** around the world.

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

## Regional and Affinity Groups

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

*"I took part in reviving the BSI's Comparative Veterinary Immunology Group (CVIG) at the beginning of 2018. Our mission is to bring together veterinary, human and mouse immunologists and we have already planned two high profile international meetings, organised a logo competition and posted an article in Immunology News. None of this would have been possible without the commitment and dedication of BSI staff, who are always available and have given us endless support. I believe that BSI support to CVIG is invaluable in bringing together veterinary immunologists with other immunologists. Better interactions and sharing of information will help disseminate the latest advances in the field and promote and advance veterinary immunology."*



**Elma Tchilian,**  
Chair, BSI Comparative  
Veterinary Immunology Group

*"With the generous support from the BSI, the South Wales Group ran our largest seminar series to date in 2017–18, with 33 speakers including world-leading immunologists from the UK, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, China, and USA. The seminars have been extremely well attended with active discussions between the audience and speakers forging new collaborations. Additionally, we ran two career events for MD and PhD students, and a public engagement event to raise awareness of antibiotic resistance, which attracted more than 300 visitors. All these activities have greatly benefitted our member, student and public communities."*

**You Zhou,**  
Chair, BSI South Wales Group

17

Regional Groups

11

Affinity Groups

12

Research conferences

116

Seminars

5

Careers events

5

Public engagement events

8,463

Attendees at events overall



## Keeping you informed

The BSI works hard to ensure good communication channels with our members and the wider world, meaning we can be clear about our activities and how they benefit immunology. We also want to engage with and hear back from our members and those interested in our work. Our new website and email communication system greatly assists with these aims in allowing us to provide an improved user experience. Our flagship membership magazine, *Immunology News*, is published quarterly and includes regular feature articles from leading immunologists, an education and careers section and more information on our activities. In addition, our social media channels continue to grow at a steady rate, allowing us to engage with a wider audience, interact with our supporters and spread the word about our work and the wonders of immunology!



**Twitter: 4,928 followers**



**Facebook: 29,872 likes**



**LinkedIn: 2,038 followers**

Correct as of 30 June 2018

# Influence and impact: spreading the word of immunology

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

## Engaging with stakeholders

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

- Been quoted three times in Parliament on Brexit and immigration, Life Sciences Industrial Strategy and neglected tropical diseases
- Met with Minister for Public Health Steve Brine MP on cost-effectiveness of vaccines
- Hosted a session at BSI Congress with Labour MP Peter Kyle to discuss the effect of Brexit on immunology
- Ran a campaign to encourage members to engage with their MP, including producing a toolkit on this
- Held a high-level stakeholder dinner to facilitate collaboration between academia, industry and NHS
- Participated in stakeholder network meetings with the Royal Society of Biology and Association of Medical Research Charities
- Contributed four consultation responses
- Partnered with HPV Action to successfully campaign for a gender-neutral HPV vaccine programme.

## Case Study



### Immigration and immunology

The UK is a world leader in immunology and benefits from attracting the brightest and best researchers from around the world. Our members report significant concerns around the effects of the UK's exit from the EU on the recruitment and retention of the immunology workforce. The BSI submitted evidence to the House of Commons Science & Technology Committee inquiry into what a post-Brexit immigration system should look like. This included highlighting the role of international collaboration in scientific progress. The resulting report made a number of recommendations and referenced the BSI as one organisation calling for government to remove jobs on the shortage occupations list from the Tier 2 visa cap.

## Case Study



Peter Kyle and Naomi Weir take questions from the floor

### Involving our members in public debate

We are keen to engage our members with our policy work and the BSI Congress proved the perfect forum for this. We hosted a session 'Brexit & immunology: where are we now?' featuring Labour MP Peter Kyle and Deputy Director of the Campaign for Science and Engineering, Naomi Weir. The session proved extremely popular with over 500 attendees. Discussions ranged from the current status of Brexit negotiations to the importance of cross-party collaboration on issues of importance to science. One of the most significant questions was around what immunologists could do to make their voice heard. In addition to working with and supporting the BSI in their policy initiatives, the panel provided practical suggestions for how individuals can engage with their constituency MP.

## Public engagement

Ensuring that the public has access to reliable, evidence-based information on immunology is one of the key aims of the BSI. Over the past year, we have been busy creating a strategic programme that will raise the profile of and increase engagement with immunology among the public. We also aim to provide our members with opportunities to build their engagement skills. Our current approach involves focusing our efforts on selected projects, such as #BritainBreathing, our citizen science project in partnership with The University of Manchester and Royal Society of Biology, which aims to engage the UK public to act as a 'citizen sensors' to help scientists discover more about seasonal allergies. Alongside this, we also run science stands at several festivals to allow the public to find out more about immunology – we are very grateful to all our members who volunteer to help us out on these occasions.



BSI members volunteer at the Brighton Science Festival

## Case Study



### Immunity for your community!

Through our public engagement activities, we want to ensure that the public benefits from the successes of immunology. In particular, we look to support the uptake of immunisations and to provide dependable information on vaccines.

In 2017, we successfully ran the pilot of our Vaccine Ambassador Scheme, which facilitates BSI members engaging with new and expectant parents about vaccines and immunity. Vaccine ambassadors attend local nurseries and community groups to lead discussions, with the ultimate aim of making parents feel more confident in their ability to make informed choices on their child's health and vaccines.

To accompany this, we also published our *Guide to childhood immunisations*, a booklet which provides reliable information on how vaccines work presented in an accessible format, and has proved extremely popular. The booklet is free to download from our website or the public can request free print copies.

## Media highlights

Through our media work, we aim to promote evidence-based and accurate coverage of immunology in the news and ensure that journalists have access to relevant experts who can provide knowledgeable responses. We do this through providing expert comment to breaking news stories, working with programme researchers to shape TV or radio broadcasts or through highlighting research from our journals or meetings. This year, we also ran a session at the BSI Congress to provide an introduction to speaking to the media.



BSI Trustee Edith Hessel being filmed at the BSI Congress

58

Media enquiries fielded

350+

Articles in the worldwide press

22

BSI press releases/  
response statements

33

Articles in the UK  
national press

# Supporting the next generation

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



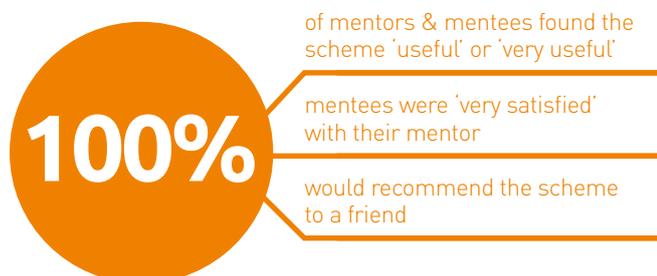
## BiteSized Immunology

BiteSized Immunology is our popular online educational resource which provides a comprehensive overview of the immune system, delivered in short self-contained articles, which highlight major 'take-home' messages. These articles are designed for use by bioscience undergraduates, A-level students and anyone with an interest in the subject. This year, we have carried out significant work on the resource, including commissioning new articles, putting a review system in place to ensure existing articles are up to date and developing new graphics to illustrate the content.



## Mentoring scheme

Our new mentoring scheme launched in December 2017. A key part of our strategic plan, this scheme aims to support professional development among the immunology community, bringing together senior scientists with early career researchers to assist the next generation of immunologists with career development and progression. In this pilot year, we recruited seven mentors and 10 mentees. To date, feedback from the scheme has been very positive.



## Immunology Teaching Excellence Award

To recognise outstanding teachers at higher education institutes across the UK, we launched our inaugural Immunology Teaching Excellence Award in 2017. The winner, Dr Andrew Foey from the University of Plymouth, was presented with his prize, at the 2017 Congress.



Andrew Foey receives his award from BSI Education Secretary, Helen Collins

*"Andy's lively, interactive and surprising teaching elements serve to keep students involved and attentive throughout lectures. He has inspired me to pursue a career in immunology. He has instilled in me a love of research through his infectious passion for the subject and his relentless motivation to inspire the next generation of immunologists."*

**Helene Stern,**  
Research Masters student, University of Plymouth

*"I have got a lot out of this as a mentor, and would recommend the scheme. It does not take up too much time and is a rewarding experience."*

*"The most rewarding feature of participating in the mentoring scheme is seeing the progression made throughout the year."*

## Grants to support you

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



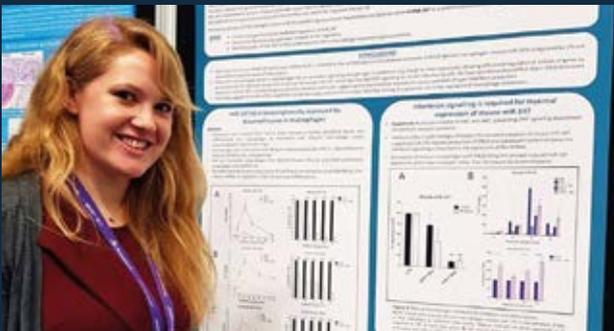
**£126,704**  
in grants awarded to BSI members

**268**  
members benefitted from our grants

### Travel Awards

92 members benefitted from our Travel Awards, with an additional 110 members funded to attend the BSI Congress and 25 funded to attend the European Congress of Immunology.

## Case Study



"As my first major conference, BSI Congress 2017 was a great experience for me to learn from experts in the field of immunology. I appreciated the range of sessions, as it enabled me to attend presentations directly related to my research area, as well as those in which I was less familiar. The importance of this broad immunological education became even more clear to me after seeing some of the overlap between the various sessions, for example the relevance of the microbiome or immunometabolism in other areas of speciality. This also highlighted the need for collaboration within research, and the poster sessions, as well as the Congress party, were great occasions to network with fellow researchers. The opportunity to present my own work in the form of a research poster was very rewarding, and I gained helpful insight and comments that could help in the progression of my project."

**Sally-Anne Clayton**, PhD student, University of Birmingham  
BSI Congress Travel Award recipient

### Summer Placement Awards

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



## Case Study



"As part of an international collaboration with the University of Melbourne in Australia, I had the amazing opportunity to spend five weeks in the research group of Professor Paul Gooley and Dr Christopher Armstrong. The group has their expertise in metabolism, where they

have developed metabolomic methods for studying different diseases, with a focus on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS).

"The aim of our joint project was to study the chemical processes that occur during B cell maturation upon *in vitro* stimulation by studying the conversion of building blocks (metabolites) in culture medium to energy, along with the production of 'waste' metabolites. As an immunologist, this was a great chance for me to carry out interdisciplinary work between the fields of metabolism and immunology, both of which have been central in understanding the aetiology and pathogenesis of ME/CFS.

"I believe my international placement benefitted me so much more than I could have expected and is definitely something I will never forget. If the possibility and opportunities are there I would recommend any PhD student to get some experience abroad!"

**Fane Mensah**, PhD student, University College London  
BSI Summer Placement Award recipient

### Communicating Immunology Grants

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

### Undergraduate Achievement Awards

Through this scheme, we supported 11 departments to promote excellence in the study of immunology at undergraduate level and encourage gifted students to pursue a career in immunology.



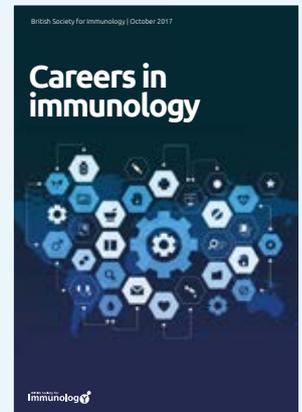
Full details of all Society grants can be found at [www.immunology.org/grants-and-prizes](http://www.immunology.org/grants-and-prizes)

# Careers in immunology

Supporting our members throughout their careers is one of the key aims of the British Society for Immunology. Following feedback from our 2015 membership survey, we undertook a landscape review of immunology careers, tracking the career destinations of people who had completed an immunology PhD in the UK, analysing the current UK immunology academic workforce and conducting a survey of immunologists.

The subsequent report is the most comprehensive piece of work carried out on the sector's workforce to date and provides a snapshot of which areas immunology is excelling in, as well as some pivotal challenges facing the discipline. The report concluded that immunology is a young, growing and dynamic discipline, which offers the potential for a fulfilling career. However, the sector faces several challenges to ensure the future prosperity of the UK workforce. These are:

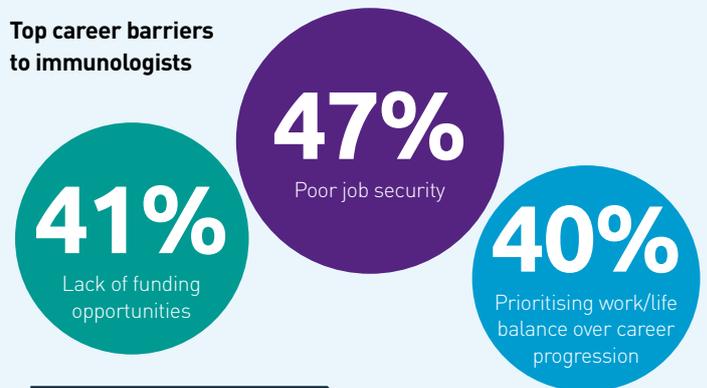
- **Funding** – immunology is funded by a diverse array of organisations and has a high number of staff in early career positions, evidencing the growth of the discipline over recent years. However, the sector now needs a funding strategy and 'jobs pipeline' to make sure this growth feeds through to more senior levels, with the creation of more tenured positions.
- **Skills** – the rapid expansion of immunology requires a highly skilled workforce. We need to build capacity within the sector to ensure the UK meets future demand in specific research areas. Providing targeted training opportunities and building bridges between academia and industry are key to ensuring we have a workforce that is fit for function to tackle the challenges ahead.
- **Culture** – immunologists experience a variety of barriers in progressing their careers, with resilience highlighted as a key skill needed. Working abroad is also an important part of many immunologists' careers, and this ability of UK immunology to both attract talented researchers from abroad, and for British



scientists to spend a period of time working overseas should be recognised. Finally, the report highlights that the sector must intensify efforts to achieve a fair and equal working environment, accessible to all and free from discrimination.

Our view is that immunology's greatest strength lies in its engaged and dynamic workforce. The BSI has made the findings and data from this report freely available ([www.immunology.org/careers-review](http://www.immunology.org/careers-review)) and we now plan to build collaborative partnerships across the sector to address some of the issues raised.

### Top career barriers to immunologists



### Case Study



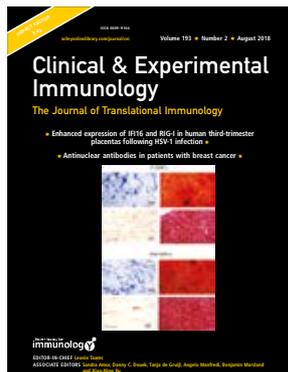
"An academic career is not always straightforward. With short-term contracts, the pressure of getting grants and of publishing fantastic papers, it often feels that 24 hours in a day is not enough. In addition, most of us have many other commitments/

interests/dreams in life besides work. I am (in no particular order) a mother of two small kids, a daughter, a wife, a sister, a friend, a house owner and a cat owner, at the same time as being an academic scientist. With all those 'roles', you often feel that that you are not advancing on any front. There is no universal solution to how to manage your work-life balance but to accept that time is precious and that the different 'roles' will require various degrees of commitment at different times. As both life and science constantly take you in unexpected directions, you just need to do your best and go with the flow. Importantly, remember to enjoy yourself along the way!"

**Cecelia Johansson,**  
Senior Lecturer, Imperial College London

# Journals

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



Over the past year, we have been hard at work to ensure that the journals maintain their competitive edge in the face of the digital and editorial innovations currently taking place in the publishing industry. This includes a review of our in-house journal knowledge, bringing in additional expertise to ensure we are ready to move with the latest innovations. We have also worked closely with Wiley, to ensure that we maximise our working partnership and collaborative opportunities.



Danny Altmann & Leonie Taams

Leadership at *Immunology* has remained steady throughout the year in the capable hands of Editor-in-Chief Danny Altmann, who successfully leads the journal's forward looking and innovative approach. We have introduced a popular monthly topical editorial from Danny to guide readers through the papers published in *Immunology* and to place them in the wider research context. Meanwhile, *Clinical & Experimental Immunology* celebrated the first anniversary of new Editor-in-Chief Leonie Taams taking the helm. In recognition of this, Leonie wrote a number of articles reflecting on her time in post so far and her future plans for the journal. *CEI* also welcomed three new Associate Editors to their team: Sandra Amor, Tanja de Gruijl and Benjamin Marsland.

Clinical & Experimental  
Immunology

Immunology

3.542

Impact factor

3.358

Impact factor

391,628

Downloads  
(Wiley online library)

369,118

Downloads  
(Wiley online library)

53

Number of countries  
submissions received from

50

Number of countries  
submissions received from

## 2017–18 virtual issues

- *CEI*: How innate responses control infections
- Joint: Inflammasomes and inflammatory disease
- Joint: Microbiome: a joint virtual issue from the BSI and Microbiology Society

## 2017–18 review series

- *Immunology*: New tools and applications of immune receptor profiling by high-throughput sequencing
- *CEI*: Immune tolerance in transplantation
- *CEI*: Inflammation and immune resolution

## Cross-disciplinary collaboration

To celebrate World Microbiome Day, the BSI collaborated with the Microbiology Society to curate a freely available collection of microbiome research and review articles published in our journals. This popular and unique collaboration broke traditional disciplinary boundaries and brought the immunology and microbiology communities together. To mark the publication, Society Presidents Peter Openshaw and Neil Gow issued a joint statement encouraging continued support for microbiome research and collaborative working, and Julian Marchesi authored an editorial addressing the importance of advancing microbiome research across disciplines.



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# Supporting international collaborations

## BSI Congress 2017

Our ever-popular BSI Congress took place in the seaside city of Brighton in December 2017. We were delighted to welcome over 1,200 immunologists from around the world – a new record for our Congress as a stand-alone event. Luke O’Neill from Trinity College Dublin gave an outstanding keynote lecture and this was followed by a plethora of plenary talks and invited lectures from leading international researchers from across the spectrum of immunology. Feedback from delegates was very positive, both in terms of the scientific content of the event and the networking opportunities afforded to attendees.



*“Excellent combination of international and national research scientists plus ample opportunity for postdocs and students to present and feel involved in the immunology community.”*



**1,238**  
Attendees from 35 countries

**4** Days of world-class immunology

**470** Abstracts submitted

**79** Hours of inspiring sessions, lectures and workshops

**40** Exhibitors

### Our Bright Sparks winners

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

**Laura Pallett** (London) – Induction of tissue-resident T cell as sentinels for therapeutic vaccination

**Tomas Castro-Dopico** (Cambridge) – Anti-commensal IgG augments intestinal inflammation in ulcerative colitis via IL-1beta-dependent Th17 immunity

### Top five reasons for attending

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



**98%**

delegates would recommend our Congress to a colleague!



Laura and Tomas receive their prizes

# International collaborations

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



Xuetao Cao

## Chinese Society for Immunology

Following our first joint symposium last year, the BSI was pleased to sign a joint letter of intent with the Chinese Society for Immunology (CSI). This collaboration aims to benefit our members by opening up increased information and engagement opportunities between our two societies, leading to greater understanding, networking and partnerships.

Under this scheme, we were delighted to welcome Xuetao Cao, Secretary General of the Chinese Society for Immunology, to the BSI Congress in December, where he gave a plenary talk on 'Epigenetic regulation of antiviral immunity and inflammation'.

Our connections with the CSI were further enhanced by the 2nd Joint CSI-BSI Symposium on Immunology, which was held in June 2018, where a delegation of 13 leading UK immunologists travelled to Chongqing, China, to meet with 14 of their Chinese counterparts, present their latest research and discuss future collaboration ideas. The BSI and CSI also held talks to discuss future activities to bring the memberships of the two societies closer together.

*"This is the second BSI/CSI joint symposium I have attended, and I was extremely impressed by the quality of science presented and post-talk discussion between PIs from both sides. Importantly, it helped greatly to identify potential areas for collaboration between the BSI and CSI, such as student and postdoc exchange programmes as well as to establish a platform for young immunologists from both sides to provide opportunities for training and career development."*



Professor Tao Dong,  
Professor of Immunology,  
University of Oxford

## European Federation of Immunological Societies

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

This year, we have worked closely with EFIS to assist with the organisation of the next European Congress of Immunology, which takes place in September 2018. Both our President Peter Openshaw and our Congress Secretary Gary Entrican sit on the Congress' committee and have inputted to the development of the scientific programme.

In addition, we encourage all BSI members to take advantage of the benefits afforded them through BSI's membership of EFIS. We were delighted when BSI member Muzlifah Haniffa (Newcastle) was awarded the EFIS-ACTERIA Early Career Research Prize in Allergology.



Delegates at the joint CSI-BSI Symposium

# Financial report



## Message from the Treasurer

Despite being amid uncertain times, the finances of the British Society for Immunology continue to be robust, posting an overall net surplus of £352k for 2017/18 from an income of £2.17m. Our most significant activity of the year was the BSI Congress held in December 2017. Income from the conference was £419k against direct costs of £490k and £190k support costs. This Congress was smaller than last year's event, which was held in collaboration with the Dutch Society for Immunology.

During the year, the BSI began providing secretariat and management services to UK PIN (UK Primary Immunodeficiency Network) with whom we have a long running relationship. The BSI receives £25k annually for these services.

2017/18 was the first active year for our trading company, BSI Trading Limited, which has been set up to deal with our sponsorship and exhibition income, along with corporate membership and management and secretarial fees. It generated turnover of £308k, primarily from sponsorship and exhibition income in addition to corporate membership and management and secretarial fees. All profits are transferred by gift aid to the BSI.

## Reserves policy

The Trustees recognise the need to hold sufficient free reserves to ensure the protection of our core activities in the event of income shortfall and/or economic downturns, and to allow balanced long-term strategic planning. The Trustees set a target range for free reserves based on holding sufficient funds to cover two years of operating expenditure. Based on the 2018/19 budget, the target range for free reserves is between £3.0m to £3.5m, which we are currently set to meet.

## Financial position

The overall financial position of the BSI continues to be strong, with total reserves of £3.51m at the year end, of which £3.43m is held in long-term investments to secure the future financial stability of the BSI, although we recognise that volatility in the value of our investments should be expected in these uncertain political times.

The primary source of income continues to be journal royalties together with events income and membership subscriptions. Following the change in investment managers last year and a generally good year for investments, investment income more than doubled to £0.1m. Costs continue to be well managed to ensure the best value for money for BSI members and supporters.

## Fiona Culley Treasurer

## July 2017 – June 2018: our year in figures

**£127K**

Grants awarded

**£352K**

Overall net surplus

**£1,349K**

Income from journals

# Corporate Sponsors

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

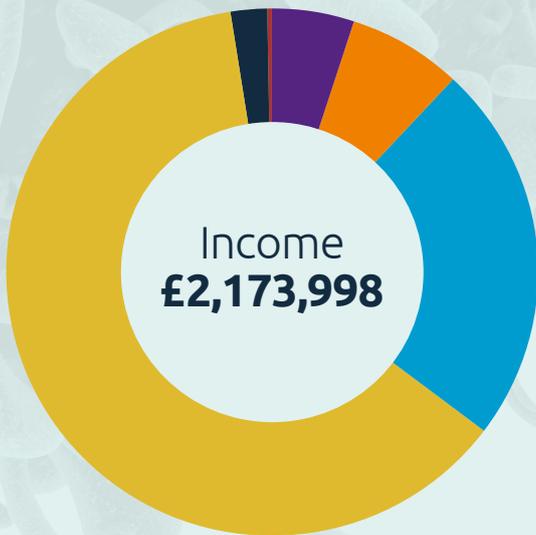
## Gold sponsors



## Silver sponsors



## Bronze sponsors



- Investments
- Membership
- Conferences
- Publications
- Partnership work
- Donations



- Investments
- Membership
- Grants
- Conferences
- Publications
- International
- Education
- Communications, policy and outreach

The Society's full financial statements are available on our website at [www.immunology.org/about-us/trustee-report-and-annual-accounts](http://www.immunology.org/about-us/trustee-report-and-annual-accounts).

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

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

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