

Trustee role description and person specification

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| Role title: | Co-opted Trustee: Legal |
| Accountable to: | Board of Trustees |
| Term of office: | Four years |

The British Society for Immunology (BSI) is a dynamic membership organisation and learned society, with a mission to drive scientific discovery and make a positive impact on health. With over 4,900 members and a remit across academia, industry and healthcare in the UK and globally, we run many valuable initiatives, to connect our community, champion career development for our members and to catalyse change for the benefit of research, clinical delivery and public health

The Board of Trustees has up to 10 elected members, and five co-opted individuals with specific expertise. Trustees make active and dynamic contributions to the Board, using their wide-ranging skills, knowledge and experience to ensure good governance and the development of the strategy for the Society.

Elected Trustees include the President, Treasurer, Chair of Forum, Clinical Secretary, two Early Career Trustees and four General Trustees, all are members of the Society. Co-opted Trustees are appointed by the Board for their skills and expertise in finance, legal matters and other areas deemed necessary to ensure that the duties and obligations of the Board are fulfilled.

Trustees are appointed for four years, may be elected for a second term, and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The role holder is expected to attend four Board meetings per year held both virtually and in person in London. These are unremunerated positions but expenses such as travel are met by the Society.

Board meetings are chaired by the President and are attended by the Chief Executive and other senior staff. Other appointed Secretaries, Chairs of sub-committees and Editors-in-Chief of the Society's journals are invited to attend Board meetings to report on BSI activities annually.

In addition to the responsibilities and person specification below, **for this co-opted appointment we are specifically seeking an individual with legal expertise**. Such expertise and experience do not need to be in any specific practice area or discipline whether advisory or non-contentious or in private practice or in-house and is not aimed solely at advisers with charity law experience (the Society has existing relationships with external advisers). The role would lend itself equally to lawyers with experience in general corporate/commercial; education; pharma/life sciences; publishing; intellectual property; regulatory; employment and pensions; public law; real estate; or litigation, etc.

Additional roles and responsibilities of Trustees:

- Ensure that the Society is carrying out its purposes for which it is set up, as set out in its governing documents, the Articles of Association and the Rules.
- Comply with the governing documents and charity law requirements, having training where needed and taking advice on charity or company law changes.
- Are responsible for the sound governance of the Society, ensuring openness and following good charity practice, working with other trustees to make balanced decisions.
- Work with other Trustees to agree and set the BSI's five-year strategy, setting annual strategic and operational goals and evaluating the delivery of activities and goals against annual targets.
- Manage the BSI's resources responsibly, ensuring that there is proper financial oversight and responsibility for expenditure and investment policies.
- Oversee the risk register to ensure that all risks are regularly recorded, understood and acted upon where necessary.
- Ensure that the mission and the values of the Society are safeguarded. Oversee the effective operation of the Society, working with the Chief Executive and senior management team to guide and improve the delivery of activities.
- Appoint the Chief Executive and monitor their performance, carrying out an annual appraisal.
- Work with the BSI committee members and staff to advise and guide on various areas of Society's work, attending Congress where possible and attending meetings with external bodies.
- All Trustees must understand and accept the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.

In addition to compliance with statutory duties, every Trustee should use their specific skills, knowledge, or experience they have to help the Board of Trustees reach sound decisions.

Person specification:

- A demonstrable commitment to the Society and to immunology
- Fair, independent judgement and a willingness to speak their mind
- Adhere to and promote the [BSI Code of Conduct](#)
- Aligned with the BSI values – ambitious and committed, evidence-based and responsible; collaborative and inclusive; agile and energetic
- An ability to work collaboratively and collectively, accepting consensus
- A willingness to deal with conflicts of interest and loyalty
- Must use reasonable care and skill, making use of your skills and experience and taking appropriate advice when necessary
- Should give enough time, thought and energy to your role, for example by preparing for, attending and actively participating in all trustees' meetings
- A willingness to engage with members, act as an 'ambassador' for the BSI and promote its values and purpose

BSI Values and Behaviours

We are:

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

Ambitious and committed

Solution focussed
High performing
Forward thinking
Determined
Driven
Realistic

Evidence-based and responsible

Promoting science
Creating a platform for experts
Championing immunology
Act with integrity
Reflect and learn
Rigorous

Collaborative and inclusive

Compassionate and supportive
Fostering new partnerships
Valuing and seeking opinions
Open minded
Respecting and promote diversity
Communicate clearly

Agile and energetic

Courageous
Acting decisively
Flexible
Proactive
Enthusiastic
Empowering