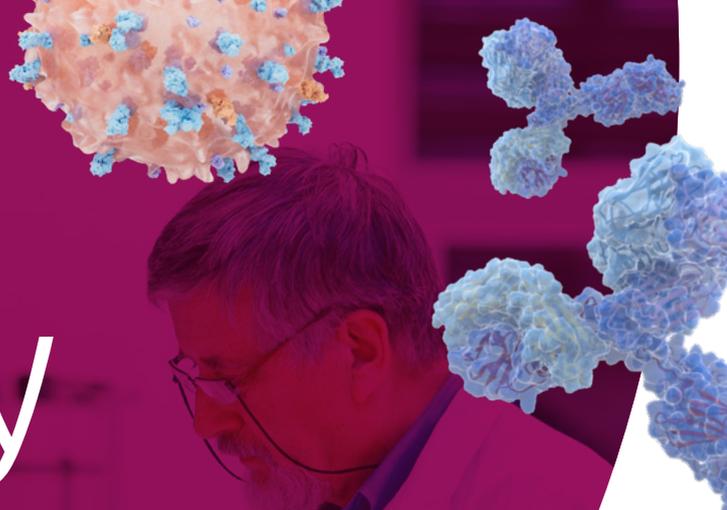


British Society for Immunology



# Strategy

2026–2030



# Foreword from our President

Immunology has a vital role to play in tackling many key health challenges facing the world today. As an immunologist, I understand the vital role that the British Society for Immunology (BSI) plays in meeting these challenges and in supporting our wider disciplinary ecosystem, across academia, industry and clinical sectors, to drive forward research and clinical application to improve health. It is my privilege to introduce our new strategy describing how the BSI plans to make a meaningful difference over the next five years.

## **Our achievements**

Our previous strategy enabled the BSI grow in ways that make me immensely proud. We delivered on our core goals: bringing together our community, providing sector-leading support to enhance careers and influencing the external environment to enable immunology to thrive. Highlights for me include our wonderful BSI Congresses, allowing our community to network and drive forward research priorities, the launch of our new journals to diversify our publishing portfolio, and the introduction of a new career support package, including our innovative career enhancing grants. Externally, we have been a vocal and effective advocate for immunology, addressing broad issues such as funding, and discipline-specific matters such as vaccine policy and engagement.

## **Working in partnership with our members**

The BSI is its members. We couldn't achieve everything we have to date without the support, engagement and trust of our diverse membership. We are immensely grateful to all those who generously volunteer their time to help us deliver better health for all through immunology. We hope you will continue to support and work with us through this next stage of our development.

## **A new phase**

To create this strategy, we engaged with and listened to representatives from all sections of our membership through our committees and surveys, as well as conducting wider stakeholder engagement. I would particularly like to thank our Board and committee members, who collaborated with us to share their insights and helped us to shape this new strategy that responds to members' needs and the wider external environment.

2026 marks the launch of this new strategy and the BSI's 70th anniversary. We approach this new phase of the Society's development with ambition, with energy and with commitment. For me, it is a privilege to be an immunologist and a privilege to lead and be part of the BSI community. This strategy lays out how we plan to play our part in realising our vision of better health for humans and animals through immunology. I hope you will join us on this journey.

## **Professor Tracy Hussell**

BSI President



# Foreword from our CEO

There has never been a more exciting time to be an immunologist. Breakthroughs in our understanding of how the immune system works, coupled with the development of new immune-based therapeutics for a plethora of diseases, make immunology the jewel in the crown of the life and medical sciences.

However, it is also a challenging time for all professional societies, with the need to develop sustainable funding models, navigate a fast-paced policy and external environment, and deliver significant impact for members. This exciting strategy sets out how the BSI will meet these challenges as well as seizing the huge opportunities available to us. It is an honour to work with the Board of Trustees to lead the organisation through this next iteration.

## Our strategic priorities

We will concentrate on four core areas to achieve our mission. First, we will focus efforts to enhance our engaged and ambitious immunology community, ensuring that we provide tailored support to immunologists from all sectors and career levels. Secondly, we will innovate to ensure that BSI-led activities across our portfolio drive excellence and advancement within immunology. We will also work with our membership to deliver leadership and empowerment across all our career activities as well providing skill development opportunities. Finally, we will engage with external audiences to be a vocal advocate for immunology, ensuring our discipline continues to flourish and that wider society gains from the outcomes of immunology research.

This is an ambitious and forward-looking strategy that ideally positions the BSI to bring about positive change for our community. To deliver at the highest level, we need the right facilitators, infrastructure and working practices. Chief among these is

ensuring the BSI's long-term financial stability through diverse income streams that deliver on mission impact. We will also renew our commitment to ensure that best practice in diversity and inclusion is a thread that runs through all our work.

## Delivering for our immunology community

We cannot afford to stand still. This strategy allows us to build on the BSI's previous achievements, so we can continue to evolve and successfully face future challenges. It is also our promise to you, and we will work to deliver it with integrity, drive and innovation. We will review our progress each year and adapt as necessary to ensure the BSI remains a shining light at the heart of the immunology community. We are passionate and ambitious for what the BSI can achieve for immunology through this strategy – I hope you will join us in this vital endeavour.

**Graham Blair**  
BSI Chief Executive

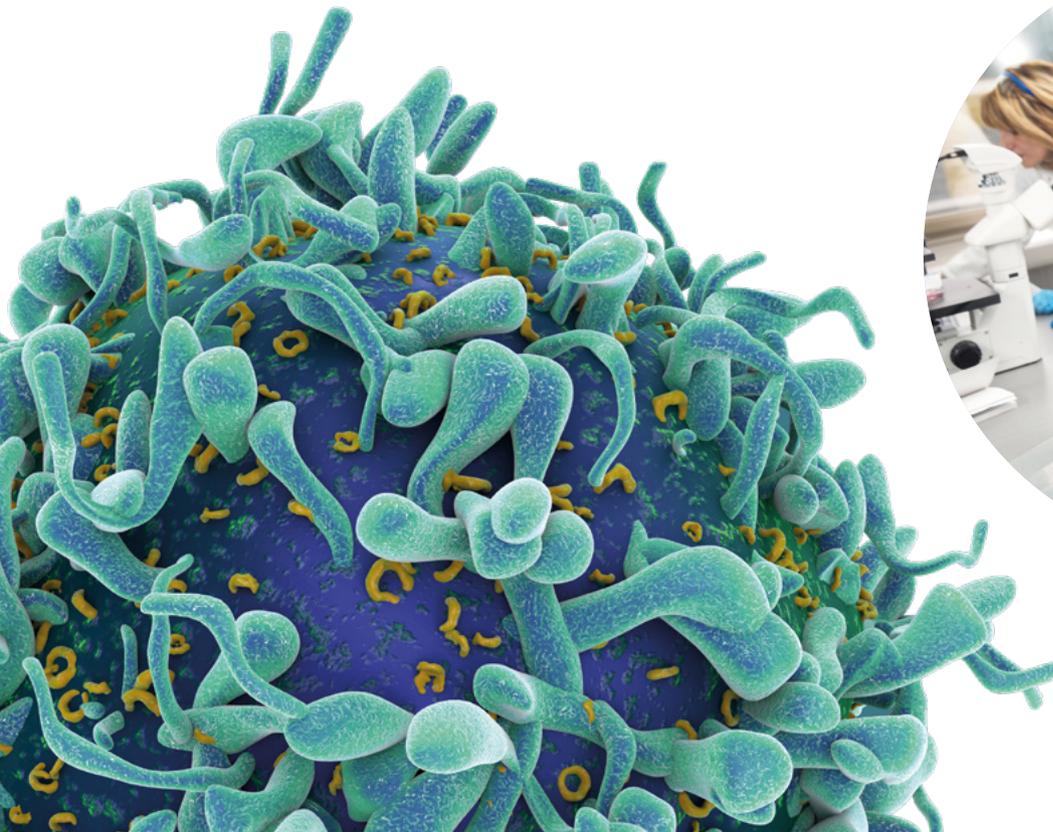


## **Our vision**

Better health for all through immunology

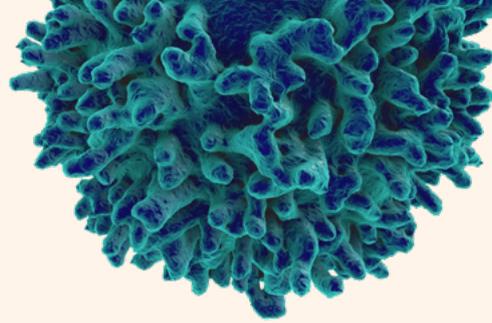
## **Our mission**

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



# About the Society

The British Society for Immunology (BSI) is the leading UK professional society and charity representing scientists and clinicians who study the immune system in humans and animals. As a membership organisation, we act as the focal hub for the immunology community, supporting and empowering immunologists working in academic, industry and clinical settings to drive forward scientific discovery and application together. We also aim to harness the knowledge generated by our membership to reach out to the wider world – policymakers, public, media – to ensure that society is aware of and can profit from the health benefits that immunology research is delivering.



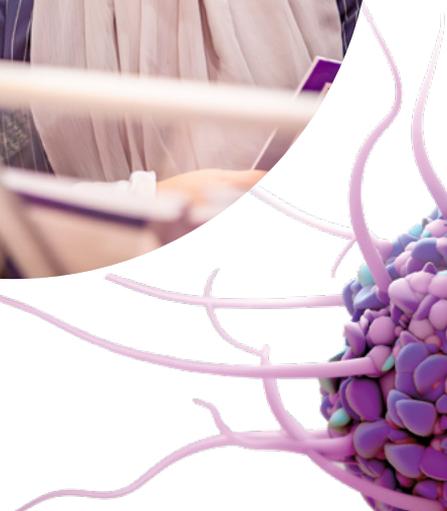
## What is immunology?

Immunology is the study of the immune system in health and disease in humans and animals. It is a critical branch of the medical and life sciences. The immune system protects the body from infection through various lines of defence and can also be primed through vaccination to fight off infections. If the immune system is not functioning properly, it can result in diseases such as autoimmunity, allergy, cancers or immunodeficiencies. Immune responses also contribute to the development of other common health disorders, such as heart disease, dementia and mental health disorders. It is now an exciting time for immunological science as we have lots of new medical therapies and vaccines under development that use the immune system to provide effective prevention and/or treatments for a wide variety of conditions.

# Our strategic objectives 2026-2030

Our strategic plan for 2026–2030 sets the direction and priorities of the British Society for Immunology for the next five years. This strategy has been co-created with BSI Trustees, and through consultation with the Secretaries and committee members, alongside feedback from our 2025 membership survey.

We have identified four core themes for the Society to focus on to deliver our overall mission of supporting our immunology community in driving scientific discovery and making a positive impact on health. Now is an exciting time for immunology research and clinical delivery. This ambitious and forward-looking strategy positions the BSI to drive positive change and support the community to maximise the ability of immunology to deliver on this potential. Working in partnership with members and the wider sector, we are confident that the BSI will play our part in realising our wider vision of better health for all through immunology.



# Support our immunology community in driving scientific discovery and making a positive impact on health

**Maximising Impact:**  
Cultivating the immunology ecosystem to accelerate research and enhance clinical delivery to improve outcomes for health

**Strengthening Our Community:**  
Fostering and supporting an engaged and ambitious immunology community

**Enhancing Careers:**  
Delivering leadership, empowerment and support to ensure a career in immunology is attractive and rewarding

**Catalysing Change:**  
Engaging with the external environment to enable the immunology community to thrive and maximise its impact



# Strengthening our community

## Fostering and supporting an engaged and ambitious immunology community

Immunology occupies a central role in the life sciences and those working in it come from many different sectors, careers and experience levels. At the BSI, our membership and wider immunology community is at the heart of everything we do. All parts of this strategy and the Society's future success rely on us having an engaged and diverse membership that truly represents the diversity present in the immunology sector. Our ambition is that everyone who works with the immune system in some capacity (whether they call themselves an immunologist or not), no matter their career level or sector, sees the BSI as their home. To achieve this ambition, we will redouble our efforts to increase diversity within our membership by ensuring we are proactive in our communications and that we offer a broad range of benefits that allow all to engage with and feel supported by the BSI.



**We will increase membership engagement through a continually evolving and targeted activity programme.**

- Increase the number of members engaging with BSI activities
- Improve our data collection to allow us to better cater for and engage with the different demographics within our membership

**We will ensure that all those in the immunology community see themselves as part of the BSI family.**

- Build our connections and engagement with specific sectors to increase our reach and tailor our communications to provide relevant opportunities to engage with the BSI
- Extend our reach into new membership areas through novel approaches including ambassador programmes and working in partnership with like-minded organisations

**How you'll know if we're successful**

**We will:**

- Attract a bigger, but importantly, broader representation of relevant sectors within our membership
- Have more members engaging with BSI activities

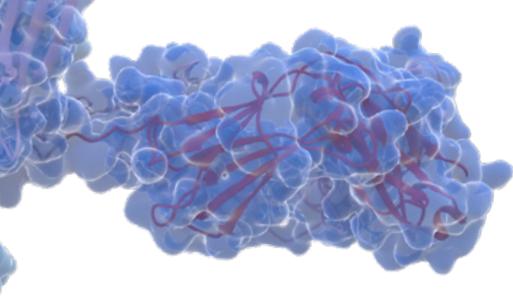


# Maximising impact

## Cultivating the immunology ecosystem to accelerate research and enhance clinical delivery to improve outcomes for health

The BSI offers a wide variety of activities to support immunologists working in industry, in academia and in clinical settings. Through these activities, we have a proven reputation to drive excellence, innovation and change within immunology. Our next step is to ensure we use this power to its full capacity over the next five years, working with our community to take a joined-up approach to deliver significant impact. We will do this through delivering innovative initiatives that bring our broad community together as a cohesive and interconnected immunology ecosystem that supports collaboration and knowledge sharing between sectors and disciplines.





### **We will provide unparalleled knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration-building opportunities for the immunology community.**

- Deliver our world-class events portfolio, from broad scope events such as BSI Congress to more targeted subject-specific events
- Develop a programme of targeted thought-leadership workshops and activities that cover topics at the cutting edge of immunology research and clinical delivery
- Further build the reputation of our journals as publishers of novel, high-quality and impactful research, at the forefront of global immunology innovation and research dissemination

### **We will deliver impact for immunology through running our own major national immunology research and clinical networks and working in partnership with other national consortia.**

- Implement the strategy and activities of the BSI Clinical Immunology Professional Network (BSI-CIPN) to support the delivery of excellence in patient care in clinical immunology
- Develop a strong portfolio of BSI-run cross-sector networks across scientific and clinical settings to grow capacity and strengthen the discipline
- Work with external national research consortia and networks to provide a suite of bespoke services (such as public and patient involvement, communications and training) to support their work and increase their impact

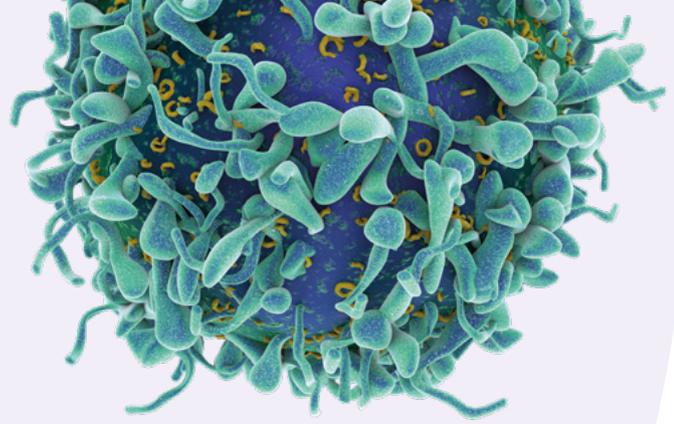
## **How you'll know if we're successful**

### **We will:**

- Strengthen our position as the 'go to' place for knowledge sharing and networking in immunology
- Further position the BSI-CIPN as the lead network for matters relating to clinical immunology through delivering demonstrable impact to improve patient care
- Provide more opportunities for building cross-sector and interdisciplinary collaborations on pioneering topics
- Show demonstrable success in working to accelerate research and improve clinical delivery
- Be an active and trusted partner for major national immunology consortia



# Enhancing careers



## Delivering leadership, empowerment and support to ensure a career in immunology is attractive and rewarding

In an era where immunology is reshaping the life sciences landscape, our discipline's future success relies on its ability to attract and retain talented researchers and clinicians from all backgrounds. Immunology offers the opportunity for a hugely fulfilling career, yet we know the discipline faces a number of challenges in realising this potential. The BSI will be a driving force and constructive influence in confronting and overcoming these challenges. We will do this by working in partnership with our members to deliver our own sector-leading career initiatives as well as providing leadership to spotlight and drive discussion on critical career topics.



## We will be an authority on raising the profile of key issues related to immunology careers and education.

- Provide thought-leadership on careers in immunology across all sectors to bring about positive change
- Champion a more inclusive research culture in immunology through our activities and influence
- Work with our Teaching Affinity Group to advocate for innovative and rigorous immunology education

## We will provide sector-leading immunology-based training and educational support.

- Develop our training portfolio to provide new, innovative courses, both for BSI members and for individuals who use immunology as part of their work
- Modernise and update our BiteSized Immunology educational resource
- Provide additional targeted support and resources for lecturers working in immunology

## We will continually evolve our careers activities to ensure they meet the needs of immunologists from all sectors of our membership.

- Continue to deliver our innovative careers support package including grants, events and mentoring opportunities
- Broaden our dedicated activities for early- to mid-career researchers to support them in reaching their full potential
- Expand our careers activities to ensure there are suitable offerings that meet the needs of those working in the industry and clinical sectors

## How you'll know if we're successful

### We will:

- Run a thriving and highly rated portfolio of training courses
- Show demonstrable impact on immunology careers and education through our thought-leadership and activities
- Be a leader in providing and role-modelling best practice and delivering impact through our careers support



# Catalysing change

## Engaging with the external environment to enable the immunology community to thrive and maximise its impact

We believe immunology can change the world. Immunology is a core life science that is providing the solutions to improve public health across numerous aspects of our lives. It is now an exciting time for immunology research to achieve its potential; however, we need to engage with external audiences to ensure that the immunology community can continue to flourish and that the outcomes from research feed through into real-world benefits for humans and animals.

The BSI has a vital role to play in being a positive force for the advancement for immunology. We aim to act as the discipline's central hub to drive conversation, advocacy and engagement with external audiences, all with the ultimate aim of improving public health. Working in partnership with our expert membership will provide us with the credibility and power to exert significant influence on our external environment and ensure that wider society can gain from the benefits that immunology offers.

### Our priority topics for external engagement

- **Vaccines** – drive initiatives that accelerate the development and deployment of effective, affordable vaccines and increase public understanding of vaccination to deliver patient benefit
- **Immune therapies** – use our unique convening power to connect sectors and drive thought-leadership to accelerate the development and delivery of new therapies
- **Immune ageing across the life-span** – building a network of experts as a world-leading collaborative force on immune ageing to achieve significant benefits for public health
- **Research funding** – work in partnership to ensure immunology is recognised as a central tenet that is critical to the life sciences agenda
- **Treatments to patients** – provide an evidence-based focus on immune-based treatments and diagnostics to improve patient outcomes

## We will be viewed as an expert thought-leader on each of our five priority topics.

- Build on our reputation with policymakers as a 'go to' organisation for each of our five priority topics
- Harness expertise within our membership to drive innovative public engagement work on our priority topics
- Foster enhanced connections with funders to advocate for a more cohesive funding environment that meets the needs of the discipline

## We will engage proactively and in partnership on emerging matters vital to immunology to ensure the voice of immunologists is represented.

- Take a proactive and agile approach to respond to emerging issues that are important to our members and the wider immunology sector
- Work with and through sector-wide organisations to ensure the views of immunologists are represented on issues that span the scientific and clinical sectors



## How you'll know if we're successful

### We will:

- Show demonstrable impact through advocacy and public engagement on our five priority topics
- Ensure that immunology is externally recognised as vital to progress in the life sciences and a core strength of UK research and development
- Be seen as a key partner in sector-wide advocacy and thought-leadership

# Our facilitators

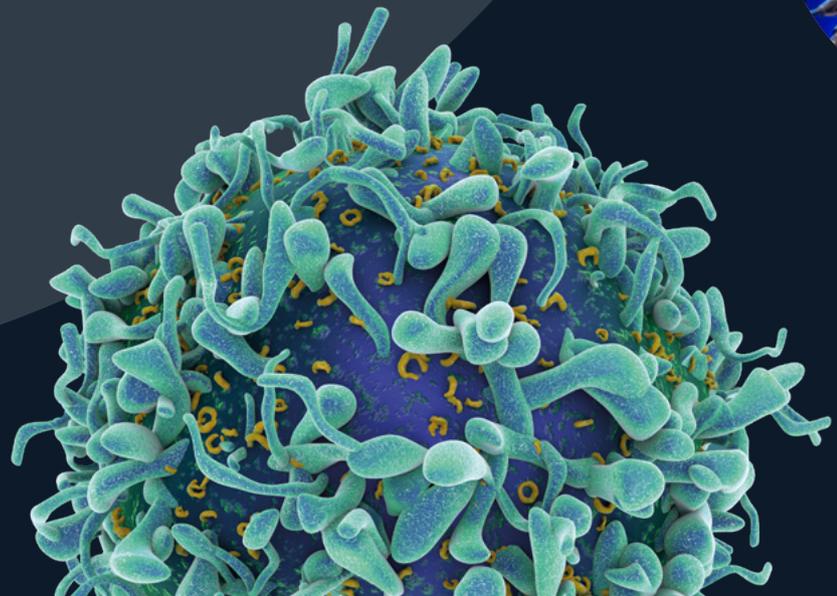


At the BSI, we are proud of the culture we have built and the enablers we have put in place to allow us to deliver at the highest level for our community. However, to maintain our sector-leading status, it is essential that we continue to evolve our working practices to ensure we have the right infrastructure, finances and ways of working in place to deliver our ambitious strategy and support our immunology community in driving scientific discovery and making a positive impact on health.

These areas of focus may not always be immediately visible outside of the organisation but will be priorities across our staff team and committees. They are vital to our ability to be an agile, sustainable and high-performing organisation. They will guide everything we do and how we deliver for our membership.

## Building long-term financial stability

We will continue to diversify our income streams to deliver on mission impact.



## Nurturing our high-performing staff team

We will maintain our positive feedback from staff by building their expertise and experience as well as supporting their wellbeing.

## Living our values

Our values will guide what we do, how we do it and how we work together.



## Supporting our committee members and advisors

We will maintain our productive relationships with committees to ensure they have the tools, support and information in place to engage effectively with and on behalf of the BSI.

## Incorporating the principles of our Diversity and Inclusion Framework in our work

We will follow best practice in equity, diversity & inclusion, and act as a role model within the community.



## Lessening our environmental impact

We will publish an environmental sustainability plan on how we can reduce our own impact and influence the wider sector.

## Working in partnership with like-minded organisations

We will work with others where there is alignment with our aims and values to maximise our impact.

# Our values

We are:

Evidence-based  
and responsible

Ambitious  
and  
committed

Agile and  
energetic

Collaborative  
and inclusive



Our values tell you who we are as an organisation, what we stand for and how we will work to deliver this strategy and meet our mission. Our values will guide how we approach opportunities and challenges, allowing us to maximise the impact that we make for immunology.

# Thank you

**The British Society for Immunology relies on the expertise, dedication and help of a wide variety of people from our community to help us achieve our mission and goals.**

## **Our Board and committees**

The BSI's Board of Trustees and supporting committees are made up of BSI members who work with staff to deliver our strategy. All the Society's committees will proactively support the implementation of this five-year strategy.

## **Our members**

Our members are at the heart of everything we do. Thank you to all members for their ongoing support, engagement and enthusiasm for the BSI and our activities.

## **Our partners and supporters**

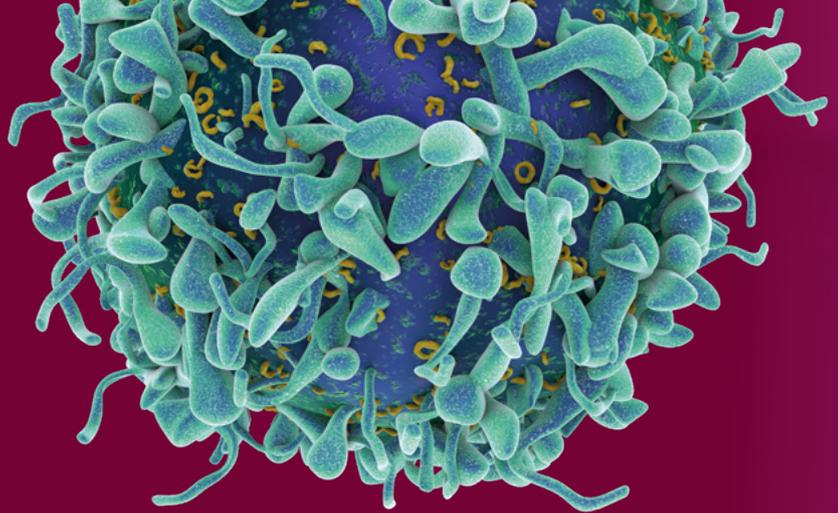
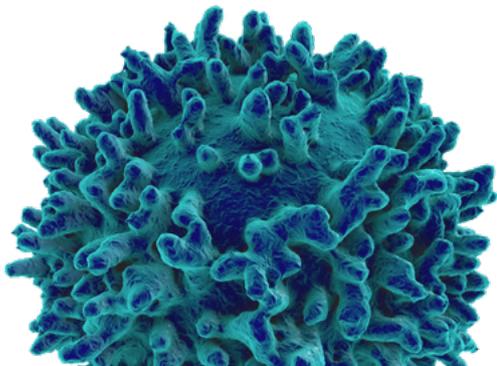
Collaboration is crucial to the BSI's success, and we work with many other organisations across the spectrum of immunology and the wider life sciences to deliver our goals. We would like to thank all our strategic partners, corporate members and other collaborating organisations for their continued support.



# Join us

The British Society for Immunology is an inclusive and ambitious community. We understand the potential that immunology has to deliver huge benefits for society, and we work to play our part in realising that vision.

If you've been inspired by what you've read in this document, please consider joining our community, whether through individual membership, corporate membership or as a partner organisation. We would love to hear from you.



British Society for  
**immunology**

British Society for Immunology

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