

Letter of intent

This letter sets out the intention of the British Society for Immunology (BSI) and the Chinese Society for Immunology (CSI) to establish a collaborative partnership, following the success of the first joint symposium (Shanghai, May 2017).

Our societies share a common mission to pursue excellence in immunology research, scholarship and clinical practice, with the aim of benefitting human and animal health. We both believe that immunology flourishes when it works across borders.

We intend to further our joint mission in the following ways:

1. To enhance the sharing of knowledge and innovation by supporting both BSI and CSI Congresses through speaker invitations and reciprocal travel awards.
2. To discuss future meetings between leading immunologists from both countries to foster greater understanding, networking and collaboration.
3. To seek funding for early career researchers from British and Chinese laboratories to spend time in each other's laboratories in the form of short visits or sabbaticals.
4. To showcase the best of UK and Chinese immunology partnerships on our websites, so that our members, funders and the public can see the benefit of 'immunology without borders.'
5. For the BSI to support the CSI's organisation of the IUIS conference in Beijing in 2019, helping to nominate speakers or advise where necessary.
6. To promote women in immunology in both countries, sharing knowledge about career opportunities and challenges, spreading examples of best practice.
7. BSI and CSI to consider a future project to identify priority areas for future research, looking at funding gaps, involving our senior members in the discussion about opportunities.
8. Enable our respective universities to know more about immunology research in each other's countries, acting as a hub to link up researchers where necessary.

This agreement builds on our shared commitment to work with other immunology societies to advance mutual interests and complementary research approaches.

Both societies commit to having a further meeting in 2017 to take forward the proposals.

We commit to reviewing this partnership by the end of 2018.