



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the British Toxicology Society will be held at 13.30 GMT on Monday 04 April 2022

To be held at the Newcastle Hilton, Gateshead and online (details to be sent separately)

The Business of the 2022 AGM is:

- 1. To receive the reports from the Officers of the Society and the Chairs of the subcommittees.**
- 2. To receive and adopt the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2021 and the reports of the Executive Committee and of the Auditors thereon (to follow).**
- 3. To receive and adopt membership fee increase from January 2023.**
- 4. To review the Society's Auditors for 2022.**
- 5. To receive the report from the UK Register of Toxicologists.**
- 6. To receive the report from the BTS Journal, Toxicology Research.**
- 7. To report on the election of Honorary Fellows of the BTS**
- 8. To report on the election of Fellows to the BTS**
- 9. To ratify the appointments of the President, the Vice President, General Secretary, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee and two Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee.**
- 10. To receive the resignation of the President, General Secretary. Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee.**
- 11. To receive the resignation of the two ordinary members.**
- 12. To consider any other business.**

Dr Carol Courage - General Secretary

Dated: 28th February 2022

By order of the Executive Committee

NOTES:

A Member of the Society entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote instead of him/her.

To be valid, the instruments appointing a proxy and the Power of Attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority must be deposited with the General Secretary of the Society, Dr Diane Benford, BTS Administrator, Executive Business Support Ltd, City Wharf, Davidson Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9DZ not less than forty-eight hours before the time of holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instruments proposes to vote and in default the instrument of proxy shall not be treated as valid.

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting

Monday 04 April 2022 at 13.30 GMT

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes and report of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th April 2021** Prof S Price
3. **Matters arising** Prof S Price
4. **Reports from the Officers of the Society and the Chairs of the subcommittees.** The following have been submitted as written reports. Relevant individuals will present highlights from their reports and respond to questions from the membership present at the AGM.
 - 4.1 Report by the President Prof S Price
 - 4.2 Report by the General Secretary Dr C Courage
 - 4.3 Report by the Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee Dr J Gill
 - 4.4 Report from Education, Training & Career Development Subcommittee Dr TJ Mehta
 - 4.5 Report from the Communications Subcommittee Dr D Woolley
 - 4.6 Report from the Nominations Subcommittee Dr C Powell
 - 4.7 Report from the Public Communications Steering Team Dr P Botham
 - 4.8 Report from the Network for Early-Stage Toxicologists Subcommittee Nevine Amer
 - 4.9 Report from the Membership Facilitator Dr L Godfrey
5. **Finance** Prof R Chilcott
 - 5.1 Report from the Treasurer of the Society
 - 5.2 To receive and adopt the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2021 (Papers to follow)
 - 5.3 To receive and adopt membership fee increase from January 2023.
 - 5.4 To appoint the Society's auditors for the year 2022
6. **To receive the report from the UK Register of Toxicologists** Dr M Hosford
7. **To receive the report from the BTS Journal, Toxicology Research** Prof H Wallace
8. **To report on the election of Honorary Fellows of the BTS** Prof S Price
9. **To report on the election of Fellows to the BTS** Prof S Price
10. **To ratify the appointments to the Executive Committee.** Prof S Price
 - 10.1. To ratify the election of the President, 2022 to 2024
 - 10.2. To ratify the election of the Vice President, 2022 to 2024
 - 10.3. To ratify the election of the Immediate Past President, 2022 to 2024
 - 10.4. To ratify the election of the General Secretary, 2022 to 2024
 - 10.5. To ratify the election of the Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee, 2022-2024
 - 10.6. To ratify the election of the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee, 2022-2024
 - 10.7. To ratify the election of two Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee for 2022 to 2025

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| 11. To receive the resignation of the President, Immediate Past President, General Secretary, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee. | Prof B Lake |
| 12. To receive the resignation of the two ordinary members. | Prof B Lake |
| 13. Confirmation of Members of EC | Prof B Lake |
| 14. Any other business | Prof B Lake |

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

Held Online on Monday 20th April 2020 at 13:00

The following BTS Executive Committee (EC) members were present:

Dr Chris Powell – President (CP)
Dr Diane Benford – General Secretary (DB)
Professor Shirley Price – Vice President (SP)
Dr Elizabeth Martin – Treasurer of BTS (LM)
Dr Jason Gill – Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee (JG)
Dr Ernie Harpur – Immediate Past President and Chair of the Nominations Committee (EH)
Professor Paul Baldrick – Chair of the Communications Subcommittee (PB)
Dr Tina Mehta – Chair of the Education, Training and Career Development Subcommittee (TM)
Professor Brian Lake (ordinary member)
Dr Emma Marczylo (ordinary member)
Dr David Mason (ordinary member)
Dr Fiona Sewell (ordinary member)

Ex-officio members

Professor Heather Wallace (official journal)
Mr Colin Davies (UK Register of Toxicologists)

A total of 49 members of the Society were present (including those noted above)

Meeting duration was 76 minutes

In attendance: Steve Hewitt (Executive Business Services - EBS)
Gail Ryan (EBS)

The President, Dr Chris Powell, welcomed attendees to the AGM and explained the practical arrangements of this first meeting to be held online. He advised attendees that the proceedings were being recorded for the purpose of minute-taking.

The President advised those present that the EC are continuing to regularly review the revised planning of the Annual Congress rescheduled for September 2020. Advance communication will be sent should further cancellation be required, in which case a full refund of registration fees will be available. The BTS currently has a financial reserves policy to ensure sufficient resources in order to continue to operate should there be a significant loss of income or significant expenditure.

No	Item
1.	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from: Professor Ian Kimber, University of Manchester & BTS Nominations Sub-Committee Mrs Bene Afolabi Dr Martin Kohan, AstraZeneca
2.	Minutes and report of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th April 2019 The minutes of the 2019 AGM were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

	<p>There were no votes against the motion and the minutes were approved.</p>
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising that were not included on the agenda.</p>
4.	<p>Reports from the Officers of the Society and Subcommittees of the BTS</p> <p>The following reports were submitted as written reports. Relevant individuals presented highlights from their reports.</p> <p><i>4.1 Report by the BTS President – Dr Chris Powell</i></p> <p>The President announced that membership numbers have increased, primarily the student membership category which has risen from 75 to 220 members. Further details are given in the General Secretary’s report.</p> <p>The finances of the Society are sound. Further details are given in the Treasurer’s report.</p> <p>The administration continues to be provided by Executive Business Support (EBS) who are regularly looking for operational efficiencies.</p> <p>The Memorandum and Articles of Association for BTS have been updated. Further details are given in Dr Ernie Harpur’s report.</p> <p>The approved minutes of all EC meetings are available to members on the BTS website in order to aid the transparency of the Society.</p> <p>Speciality sections continue to operate with several regional networking meetings being organised over the past couple of years with more being organised in the future.</p> <p>Toxicology Research - further details are given in Professor Heather Wallace’s report.</p> <p>BTS provides bursaries and awards for members to attend meetings and conferences and the EC would like to encourage applications for the Gordon Gibson Travel Award. Professor Gordon Gibson passed away over a decade ago and the Society have not yet made an award. Applications are welcome from suitable members.</p> <p>Continual Professional Development - CEP at the Annual Congress will continue in September – 2019 recordings are available on the website without charge for those who attended and can be purchased by anyone who didn’t attend. ACT webinars can be accessed via the website.</p> <p>The Principles of Applied Toxicology and Drug Development (PATDD) course is unfortunately cancelled for 2020.</p> <p>Eleven scientific societies are listed in the report that the BTS currently interact with.</p> <p>Public Engagement – The BTS has a public communications steering group, chaired by Dr Phil Botham and a number of articles have already been posted on the website.</p>

The President acknowledged and thanked everyone that contributed to the running of the BTS over the past year, EC, Officers, Chairs and member of sub-committees, Executive Business Support and all the members who participate in the various activities.

4.2 Report by the General Secretary – Dr Diane Benford

DB corrected an error in the General Secretary's written report – the immediate past president is not an officer but is a member of the Executive Committee as an ex-officio position.

DB encouraged all members to update their communications' preferences in their account on the website whenever appropriate. The BTS now has 250 members who have signed up for the member search facility. It is also possible to sign up for the speciality sections in the communications preferences webpage.

The archived paper documents have now been sent to the Wellcome Library to be digitised. DB thanked Ted Lock and Ernie Harpur for their work in collating the documents. DB is now working on transmitting the electronic documents, which will be a gradual process over the next few months.

Membership – The figures in the report are from the end of February 2020. DB presented an update for the end of March, showing an increase of 71 new members from March 2019. DB thanked EBS who are following up and chasing those who have not yet paid their subscriptions – this stands at 92 at the end of March.

DB thanked the other members of the EC for their support and also thanked EBS.

The President invited any questions - No questions.

4.3 Report from the Scientific Subcommittee (SSC) – Dr Jason Gill

JG thanked the members of the SSC for their work and also the work of the members who have stood down.

There has been a structural change to the committee with the introduction of a Vice Chair (Chair elect) position to replace the Scientific Meetings Secretary, which will be put forward for approval in item 6 of the agenda.

There have been a few changes of subcommittee members, which are highlighted in the report.

The Congress has been postponed to a new date of 22/23 September 2020. Two symposia have had to be removed to accommodate the new 2-day programme but will be included in the April 2021 meeting to be held in Durham. The revised programme is nearly ready to publish with only a couple of speakers still to confirm availability on the new dates.

The CEP will take place on the afternoon of Monday 21st September with a welcome reception being hosted in the evening. All bursary offers will stay the same and will be transferred to the new dates. A few responses are outstanding from a couple of recipients, confirming their attendance on the new dates.

JG advised that the new Mid-Career Achievement Award recipient will be Dr Helen Prior from the NC3Rs.

The SSC has been involved in the organisation of many other scientific meetings mainly led through the speciality sections of the SSC.

The President invited any questions:

- *Could we consider running the 2020 congress virtually if we can't go ahead in September?*

JG responded that we have considered this and it still remains an option. However, the practicalities of it are quite problematic for many reasons, in particular the absence of the social networking aspects of the Congress.

4.4 Report from Education, Training and Career Development Subcommittee (ETCD) – Dr Jyotigna Mehta

TM thanked the subcommittee members for their support and work and continued to highlight a few points from her report.

TM advised that the CEP sessions at the Congress will again be recorded following the success of the recording of the 2019 sessions which are available online for attendees to access for free and for a small fee to non-attendees.

A key event hosted at the Congress is the Early Career Networking evening which will take place on the Monday evening (21st September 2020).

The ECTD also support the training webinars and information for these can be found on the BTS website. In the past 2 years there has been a programme of webinar sessions with a new programme continuing this year.

The outreach activities of the ETCD include attendance at career festivals when possible. In 2019 they attended the Royal Society of Biology festival held in London with a lot of interest and discussion on what the BTS has to offer.

The members of the ETCD are continuing to identify new events on a regional basis in order to promote the activities of the ETCD and the BTS.

The ETCD also have exposure at the New Scientist Live event in London via Public Health England (PHE) colleagues with Helen Nakeeb (secretary of ETCD) promoting the work of the BTS.

The promotional materials and pop-up stands are being updated for future events.

A regional BTS event was organised in November 2019 with topics relevant to the region. This was well attended and further events are planned for the future.

The President invited any questions – No questions

4.5 Report from Communications Subcommittee (CSC) – Professor Paul Baldrick

PB thanked the members of the CSC for their hard work over the past year.

Over the past year, the CSC has worked closely with EBS to make the website navigation easier and clarifying its content. The main pages this refers to are specified in the report. PB asked any member with views on anything that they feel still needs changing, to contact PB.

A social media campaign is ongoing with 703 followers on Twitter and 502 on LinkedIn.

The BTS Ambassadors scheme is continuing with 38 Ambassadors across various institutions/companies and there have been a couple of successful BTS sponsored events organised by Ambassadors over the last year.

David Woolley advised that the Ambassadors have been focused on organising local meetings and thanked them all for their support they have provided and encourage them to promote the BTS around their workplace and to use all social media as much of possible.

Going forward, local webinars will be encouraged using online platforms and to promote all BTS activities.

The President invited any questions – No questions

4.6 Report from the Nominations Subcommittee (NSC) – Dr Ernie Harpur

EH advised that the core work of the NSC is to recommend to EC, nominees for open positions on BTS EC and the equivalent in EUROTOX, as well as recommendations for the major prizes in these organisations. All opportunities are advertised to the membership.

The results are reflected in the full report and in item 8 on the agenda, however since the report was produced, the NSC were unsuccessful in the nomination of Professor Andy Smith for the EUROTOX Merit Award.

The NSC has been particularly active over the past 12 months due to being tasked with looking at succession planning by the EC. The main activity was to look how to amend the recruitment cycle for officers' positions to make them more attractive to members.

On the recommendation of the NSC, EC decided to seek to elect members to the positions of Treasurer and General Secretary (GS) one year in advance of the elected individual taking office, in order to primarily avoid the difficulties in last minute recruitment and also to facilitate a smooth transition by providing some opportunity of work shadowing.

The plan was to implement this with the GS position with DB completing her term in 2021, but unfortunately no-one has applied for the role and the EC will actively continue to seek a replacement.

LM has agreed to continue in the post of Treasurer for a further year whilst a replacement is sought.

The role of the Scientific Meeting Secretary (SMS) has evolved over the past few years and it was decided that the conditions of the role were no longer attractive to the membership. The newly defined position of Vice Chair and Chair Elect of SSC is designed to reflect this evolution of the roles with a shorter term of office of two years.

	<p>This new position means that the Articles of Association require amendment, and approval will be sought in item 6 of the agenda.</p> <p>The President invited any questions – No questions</p>
5.	<p>Finance</p> <p><i>5.1 Report from the Treasurer of the Society – Dr Liz Martin</i></p> <p>LM announced that the BTS made a small surplus of around £3,500 in 2019 which has been updated from the figure quoted in the report.</p> <p>The BTS main income stream is from membership fees, advertising and donations, and LM thanked all institutions who provide such support.</p> <p>The BTS supports the members in many different ways – Annual Congress; financial support to the PATDD course; in 2019 the BTS contributed to a joint meeting with the British Society of Toxicological Pathology (BSTP) and an <i>in-silico</i> toxicology speciality section workshop in Cambridge; as well as supporting several Ambassador events.</p> <p>There are also a number of fellowships and training awards, as well as a range of travel awards with £3,000 being awarded to support members to attend IUTOX and EUROTOX.</p> <p>LM announced that money is also available for summer research scholarships and three schemes were supported in 2019: in Liverpool, Cambridge and Newcastle. Members are encouraged to apply for these.</p> <p>LM thanked the BTS accountants, Bullock Woodburn (Heather Budd) and also the Finance Executive (Shona Hunt) from EBS for the support they provide throughout the year.</p> <p>The President invited any questions – No questions</p> <p><i>5.2 To receive and adopt the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2019 – Dr Liz Martin</i></p> <p>LM requested the adoption of the income and expenditure accounts.</p> <p>Proposed by Professor Heather Wallace Seconded by Dr David Mason</p> <p>The AGM fully supported the adoption</p> <p><i>5.3 To appoint the Society’s auditors for the year 2020 – Dr Liz Martin</i></p> <p>LM proposed the appointment of Bullock Woodburn as the Society’s auditors (external reviewers) for the 2020 accounts.</p> <p>Proposed by Dr David Mason Seconded by Professor Heather Wallace</p>

	<p>The AGM fully supported the proposal.</p>
6.	<p>To receive and adopt a proposal for revised M & A – Dr Ernie Harpur</p> <p>EH announced that the principal reason for amending the Articles of Association was because of the termination of the position of SMS and creation of the new position of Vice Chair of the SSC.</p> <p>It was also decided to take the opportunity to update the document to make it gender neutral.</p> <p>Proposed by Dr David Mason Seconded by Professor Brian Lake</p> <p>The AGM fully supported the proposed changes</p>
7.	<p>To receive the retirement of the current President, the immediate Past President, Honorary Treasurer and one Ordinary Member of the Executive Committee – Dr Chris Powell</p> <p>The President announced the retirement of himself, immediate past president, Dr Ernie Harpur, Honorary Treasurer, Dr Liz Martin and one ordinary member of the EC, Dr Paul Brooker.</p> <p>LM has agreed to continue to act as Treasurer for a further year, in the absence of a successor.</p> <p>The President thanked all those retiring for their work over the years.</p>
8.	<p>To ratify the new appointments to the Executive Committee</p> <p><i>8.1 To appoint the President of the Society for 2020-2022 – Dr Chris Powell</i> The President formally announced the appointment of Professor Shirley Price as new President of the Society and handed to her the chairing of the remaining items of the AGM.</p> <p>SP thanked CP for all his hard work at the helm of the Society and reassured the meeting that she intends to take forward all the work that he, and immediate past president EH, had previously put into the Society and build upon this platform.</p> <p>Special thanks was also given to LM and PB for their dedicated hard work and their contributions to the Society.</p> <p><i>8.2 To announce and ratify the results of the election of the Vice-President of the Society for 2020-2022 – Professor Shirley Price</i> The President announced that Professor Brian Lake was successful in the election as Vice-President and President elect of the BTS.</p> <p><i>8.3 To ratify the election of the Honorary Treasurer for 2020-2022 – Professor Shirley Price</i> The President announced that LM has agreed to continue as Treasurer for a further year, and the EC will continue their search for a replacement.</p> <p><i>8.4 To ratify the election of the Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee for 2020-2022 – Professor Shirley Price</i></p>

	<p>The President confirmed the re-election of Dr Jason Gill as Chair of the SSC.</p> <p><i>8.5 To ratify the election of the Vice-chair of the Scientific Subcommittee for 2020-2022 – Professor Shirley Price</i></p> <p>The President confirmed the announcement of Dr Lesley Reeve as Vice Chair and Chair elect of the SSC for the next two years.</p> <p><i>8.6 To ratify the election of two Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee – Professor Shirley Price</i></p> <p>The President announced the re-election of Dr John Thompson and the election of the Chair of the BTS Public Communications Steering Group, Dr Phil Botham, as Ordinary Members of the EC, and welcomed both to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The AGM approved the appointments.</p>
9.	<p>To receive the report from the UK Register of Toxicologists (UKRT) – Colin Davies (CD)</p> <p>CD, the chair of the UKRT Panel thanked Rosie Wakeham from the Royal Society of Biology for her work as the secretariat, as well as all of the Panel members, in particular Mark Hosford who acts as deputy to CD, who all put in a lot of work and commitment reviewing the applications and helping applicants in the process of achieving ERT status.</p> <p>CD also thanked Meg Parkinson (MP) who completed her term on the Panel this year. The UKRT were above the minimum number of Panel members, so there is no need to replace MP.</p> <p>As of February 2020, there were currently 384 members on the online register, with decisions pending for 52 applications for initial registration and 29 applications for re-registration in 2019.</p> <p>CD emphasised the importance of maintaining CPD to ensure ongoing inclusion. The 5-year re-registration cycle requires proof that members are still actively engaged in a toxicological role and have maintained their CPD over the previous 5-year period.</p> <p>CD reminded BTS members that are also UKRT Members that there is no separate Excel form in which to capture CPD when re-registering and that CPD is now collected though the Royal Society of Biology's online Learning for Life portal. Learning for Life portfolios are submitted automatically, so after 5 years on the online register all that is required is to update mySociety and notify the Secretariat of the intention to re-register.</p> <p>The UKRT awards a bursary to attend the BTS Congress. The qualification criteria are available on the website and everyone is encouraged to apply.</p> <p>The President invited any questions – No questions</p>
10.	<p>To receive the report from the BTS Journal, Toxicology Research – Professor Heather Wallace</p> <p>HW congratulated all of the new appointees and explained that she didn't have a written report to circulate and was presenting an oral report.</p> <p>HW reminded attendees that <i>Toxicology Research</i> was the official journal of the BTS. The Society does not own the journal but does receive a financial contribution on an annual basis.</p>

	<p>Originally the journal was published by the Royal Society of Chemistry publications group but in 2019 the decision was made to sell the journal. As from January 2020, the journal is officially owned by Oxford University Press (OUP) [see https://academic.oup.com/toxres/pages/about].</p> <p>The Editorial Board is currently being revised and refreshed and they are looking for someone from UK or Europe to join them as an associate editor. Interested candidates should contact HW via her university email address. The refreshed editorial board will focus on improving the journal impact and ensuring that it remains an important part of the toxicology community.</p> <p>The President invited any questions – No questions</p>
11.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>The President invited any other business. No other business was raised.</p> <p>The President thanked, on behalf of both CP and SP, all of the members who attended the AGM and all members of the EC for the support they provide to the BTS , as well as all of members of the various subcommittee's for the dedication and hard work to maintain a sustainable Society.</p> <p>The President congratulated all those elected at this AGM and hoped to see everyone in Cardiff in September.</p> <p>Concluded at 14.15</p>

Minutes taken by Steve Hewitt (EBS) for the BTS Executive Committee.

4. Reports from the Officers and Subcommittees of the BTS

4.1 Report by the BTS President, Professor Shirley Price

A reflection on the Society's achievements 2021-2022

As I reflect over my time as your President it certainly has been busy, and I have been pleased with what the Executive Committee have achieved over this last year. As detailed below it has been an extremely eventful year. As a Society we have continued to promote the positive impact of toxicology, and to support and represent members in all areas we represent. I am delighted that we have been able to maintain a constant membership level of 981 members which has been another increase on last year. I would like to thank our members for your continued support of the Society.

September 2021 marked 50 years since the inception of the BTS. It started from very humble beginnings, when in 1971 (the year decimalisation was introduced) two University of Surrey staff members, namely Professors Jim Bridges and Ron Walker, formed the Toxicology Club. It's amazing how a discussion at 2am in the morning in a KUB (Kitchen, Utility and Breakfast room in Surrey speak!!) at the University led eventually to the founding of the British Toxicology Society in 1979- the Society we know now! Those humble beginnings set out the path for a Society whose remit has always been to promote the advancement of the science of toxicology, for public benefit. The Toxicology Club membership initially was made up of UK based toxicologists, but the Society is proud to have, amongst its numbers, many members from across the world. Members total around 900 currently and work in academic, clinical, governmental, and industrial organisations.

The Executive Committee have discussed the 2020-2024 Strategic Vision of the Society at its meetings over the last year to ensure that the aims are being met and, where required, updated. The Strategy for 2020-2024 can be found on the website ([Strategy-of-the-BTS-2020-2024- 2020](#)). This year several updates and commitments to the previous strategy were made taking on board members' feedback. We will shortly publish an updated Strategy which will take the Society through to the end of 2026 and we will share details of this with members over the coming months.

In addition to overarching Strategy 2020-24 we have set out our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy and I am pleased to welcome our EDI co-opted member, Professor Winston Morgan, to the Executive Committee.

Professor Morgan will work with Drs Emma Marcylo and David Mason to drive our EDI agenda. We have also applied to join the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Science and Health (EDIS) organisation to support our work in the EDI arena. EDIS is a coalition of organisations working to improve equality, diversity and inclusion within the science and health research sector, originally established by the Francis Crick Institute, Wellcome Trust and GlaxoSmithKline. I will be able to update the membership at the AGM in April 2022 to confirm if our application to EDIS was successful. For more details on EDIS please visit their website: <https://edisgroup.org/>

Co-opted Members for 2022-2024

At every Annual General Meeting (AGM), I, as your President, need to inform you of those members who have been co-opted to vacancies on the Executive Committee. These positions were advertised to the membership during the year.

Dr Helen Nakeeb has been appointed to the Chair of the Education, Career and Training Development (ECTD) Subcommittee. Dr Nakeeb succeeds Dr Tina Mehta and takes up this position as on the 4th April 2022. Dr Nakeeb applied, and was recommended, for this position to the Executive Committee by the Nominations Subcommittee. The Executive Committee was in full agreement to support this application of Dr Nakeeb for the co-opted position as Chair of the ECTD Subcommittee. As this is a co-opted position it does not need to be ratified at the AGM. The term of office is 3 years, but the Chair can be proposed to serve for a second term. I would like to welcome Dr Nakeeb to the Executive Committee.

Professor Morgan has been appointed to the role of EDI Co-ordinator. Professor Morgan took up this position on 26th January 2022. This appointment was made through a competitive process. All applicants were interviewed, and the decision of the Interview Panel (Drs Carol Courage, Emma Marczylo and David Mason) was ratified by the Executive Committee. This is a co-opted position which does not need to be ratified at this AGM. The term of office is 3 years, but the holder can be proposed for a second term. I would like to welcome Professor Morgan to the Executive Committee.

Awards to our Members 2021/22

Before presenting some of the highlights from this year I would like to acknowledge some of the awards received by our members in 2021/22.

- Our congratulations to Professor Diana Anderson, Established Chair of Biomedical Sciences, University of Bradford, on being awarded an MBE in the 2022 New Year's Honours list, for services to Genetic and Reproductive Toxicology.
- I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Ruth Roberts, PhD, ATS, FBTS, ERT, FRSB, FRCPath for being the first UK recipient of the Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award for 2022. This is awarded to Professor Roberts by the Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS). ATS established the Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award to honour the memory of Dr Christian. The award is conferred upon an ATS Fellow who has clearly demonstrated a lasting impact on toxicological sciences.
- Congratulations to Dr Diane Benford and Professor Ian Kimber, OBE, on being awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership of the Society
- Our congratulations to Professor Faith Williams, the 2022 Paton Prize winner, and Dr Gillian Conway the first recipient of the Malcolm Blackwell award at this year's Annual Congress.
- Congratulations to Dr Any Chadwick who was awarded the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) Lectureship Award 2021.

I am pleased to provide a summary of what has been accomplished since the last AGM and I hope that this is helpful and of interest. Details of some of what is presented below is provided in the relevant reports from the Chairs of the subcommittees.

Risk Register

We took the opportunity to review and update the Society's Risk Register and to consider any effects the pandemic may have had/will have on the sustainability of the Society. I am pleased to report that as a Society the pandemic did not have a significant adverse effect on our finances and the Society remains in a sustainable position.

The main subcommittees of the Society have been very active over the last year, and it has been a pleasure to be able to attend some of their virtual meetings to meet with the members and hear what is going on first-hand.

Membership

The Membership of the BTS has continued to increase, with 981 members as of December 2021. It is good to see this continual increase in numbers, although the Executive Committee are keen to ensure these numbers continue to increase and that we ensure we meet our mission *"To provide the principal forum for toxicology in the UK, to support and enrich the careers of toxicologists, and to promote the importance and advancement of toxicology in the wider and lay communities"*.

My thanks to Lisa Godfrey, our Membership Facilitator who has been undertaking a lot of work to promote membership of the Society and the benefits offered to our members. A list of current benefits can be found here <https://www.thebts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Members-Benefits-June-2020.pdf>

I am sure over the coming months you will be hearing from Lisa to gauge your views as members and what more can be done to support our members and attract new members to the Society.

Retirement Policy

The Executive Committee considered the subscription payable by our retired members and whether we are in line with that of other Societies. It was proposed to increase the fee payable by our retired members from 40% to 50% of the full membership fee.

Following discussions with a Focus Group, representing members of the Society, and chaired by Professor Heather Wallace, they raised a number of points for the Executive Committee to consider:

- that retired members added value to the Society and, in particular at the Annual Congresses. While no one felt the rise in the cost from 40% to 50% of the full membership fee was prohibitive it was agreed that any increase in the fee payable should occur at the same time as other increases in Society membership fees (even if this meant a greater proportionate increase for retirees).
- that the definition of “retired” was to be considered as “a decrease in activity in toxicology to < 25% of previous workload and no significant income from toxicology.”
- that the Society should consider offering the retired members some benefit for their membership and the Executive Committee should consider this and bring any proposals to the 2023 AGM.
- that the Executive Committee consider a reduction in the registration fee for retired members to the Annual Congress from 2023. The proposal was either a 25% reduction in the overall full registration fee or a charge the equivalent of a one-day registration fee to attend the full Congress.

It was clear from discussions that the change in the percentage of the fee payable by a retired member from 40% to 50% of the full membership fee was not an issue from the discussions with the Focus Group, providing any increases in fees were undertaken at the same time as any increases being considered for the membership fees payable by full members. The agreement was that if the fee was to be increased it would not be levied until all membership fees were increased.

The proposal regarding the increase in the fee payable from 40% to 50% of the full membership fee was considered by the Executive Committee at its meeting on the 26th January 2022 taking into account the views of the Focus Group and members of the Executive Committee and the following was agreed following a vote:

- By a majority, the retirement fee should remain at the current level of 40% of the full membership fee.

The proposal by the Focus Group regarding the definition for retirement was considered by the Executive Committee at its meeting on the 26th January 2022.

- The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to adopt the definition of retirement as proposed by the Focus Group. The definition is “Retirement is a decrease in activity in toxicology to < 25% of previous workload and no significant income from toxicology”. This definition will be guidance only.

The other two proposals from the Focus Group will be considered by the Executive Committee at its meetings in the coming year and the outcomes reported to the membership at the 2023 AGM.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Wallace and the Focus Group for their considered comments on this issue.

Risk Register

We took the opportunity to review, and update, the Society’s Risk Register and to consider any effects the pandemic may have had/will have on the sustainability of the Society. As stated above, I am pleased to report that the pandemic did not have an adverse effect upon Society finances and the Society remains sustainable.

Project Co-ordinator: Skills gap in Toxicology

In 2021 the Executive Committee supported the initiative for the BTS to lead on looking at the Skills Gap in Regulatory Toxicology. The Project Co-Ordinator Role was advertised through the BTS website, and we received a number of applications. The Interview Panel (Drs Phil Botham, Emma Barnes, Cath Mulholland, David Gott and myself) considered the applicants and after shortlisting and interviews we were pleased to appoint Dr Sarah Judd, Newcastle University. Sarah who is working as a consultant to the BTS is liaising with industry, regulatory, NGOs and academia representatives to understand and identify gaps in training. This appointment is for a period of 6 months in the first instance working with the Executive Committee and there will be regular updates on progress through the Newsletter and website. A final report will be published later this year as to the findings and conclusions of this exercise.

Work of the Subcommittees

The main subcommittees of the Society have been very active over the last year, and it has been a pleasure to be able to attend some of their virtual meetings to meet with the members and hear what is going on first-hand.

The sustainability of the Society depends on ensuring that there is a clear succession plan in place and the **Nomination Subcommittee (NSC)**, chaired by Dr Chris Powell, oversees this activity on behalf of the Executive Committee and we are in a very secure position going forward. As always, if you would like to be considered as a member of a subcommittee or Chair, please send your name and a short biography to bts@execbs.com

The NSC have also considered exceptional applications for the Paton Prize. The Paton Prize is in honour of Sir William Paton to encourage scholarships in the historical aspects of toxicology. This year the recipient is Professor Faith Williams.

The Mid-Career Achievement Award, made in recognition of the achievements of an exceptional mid-career member of the BTS, will also be awarded at the Annual Congress but at the time of writing the recipient had not been confirmed.

The Society's finances are overseen by our Treasurer, Professor Rob Chilcott, and the **Finance Subcommittee (FSC)**, chaired by Professor Brian Lake. More detail of the Society finances will be provided in the Treasurer's Report.

Our auditor, Nichola Lockwood of SMH BullockWoodburn, reviews the accounts to ensure we meet the requirements of the Charity Commission.

This year the Executive Committee have considered a proposal to increase the membership fees from January 2023. The proposal will be provided by the Treasurer, and this will be considered at the AGM.

One key area to highlight regarding our finances is that donations this year have been very encouraging: the Society received £11,250 in 2021, with a further £7,750 since January this year giving a total of £18,800 for 21/22. The donations help support the work of the Society and we are extremely grateful for this support.

Donating companies for this period were AstraZeneca, Apconix, Charles River Laboratories, Delphic HSE, GlaxoSmithKline, Syngenta, and Unilever. My thanks to all those companies who have supported the BTS through these generous donations this year which allow the Executive Committee to support many initiatives including the Congress, webinars, scholarships, and bursaries.

My thanks also to those companies who have supported the Congress which include: , Apconix, Bibra, Toxicology Advice and Consulting Ltd, Cyprotex, National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), Oxford University Press, Royal Society of Chemistry and Sequani.

The **Scientific Subcommittee (SSC)** which is led by Drs Jason Gill (Chair) and Lesley Reeve (Vice-Chair) has been as proactive as ever, changing tack from a virtual Annual Congress to a face to face Annual Congress

given the lifting of restrictions due to the pandemic which takes time and energy, and I am pleased to report that the Congress this year is of the same high standard as ever.

The 2021 Congress could not be delivered as a face to face meeting in April due to the Pandemic, but the Hybrid meeting was a success and Dr Gill will provide more details in his report. I am, however, pleased that the 2022 Congress is being delivered as an in person meeting at The Newcastle Hilton, Gateshead.

As part of the SSC there are a number of Speciality groups. It is a pleasure to report that the Subspeciality sections have made a significant contribution to the Society and this year is no exception.

The Speciality Sections are thriving and include

- Computational and *in silico* Toxicology (Co-ordinator: Dr Andreas Bender);
- Clinical and Human Toxicology (Co-ordinator: Dr James Coulson);
- Regulatory Toxicology (Co-ordinator: Dr Miriam Jacobs);
- Mechanistic and Discovery Toxicology (Co-ordinator: Dr Muireann Coen);
- Risk Assessment (Co-ordinator: Dr Susie Brescia).

My thanks to all the co-ordinators for their hard work with engaging with members and supporting the Society. Several of the Speciality Sections are providing symposia at this year's Congress. Each of the Speciality Sections have also provided networking meetings which started in October 2020.

Dr Miriam Jacobs chaired a successful two-day workshop in November on "An Awareness Event: Current Status of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for Regulatory Purposes". This event aimed to increase awareness and understanding of current and near future international regulatory developments for NAMs for chemical hazard and human risk assessment. The event addressed the BTS and IGHRC training requirements in raising awareness and understanding of the **current status** of the internationally-accepted regulatory science basis.

The Society has several Prizes and Travel Scholarships available so please do look at what is on offer at <https://www.thebts.org/events-2/awards-and-prizes/>.

The **Education, Training and Career Development Subcommittee (ETCD)**, chaired by Dr Tina Mehta, were able to provide the Continuing Education Programme (CEP) virtually in 2021. The topic, which was well received, was "COVID-19 repurposing therapies and vaccines". The CEP sessions are available as audio recordings to our members on the BTS website.

This year the CEP is on a very topical area "**Risk Assessments - Across the Sectors:**"

The ETCD have also been promoting the mentoring scheme to the membership which is free. Senior toxicologists who are willing to provide individual career advice to other members are listed on the website. It has been suggested that some senior members might also benefit from opportunities to being mentored-known as Reverse Mentoring where a member in their early career enters into a "professional friendship" with someone more senior. For more information, please see

<http://www.thebts.org/membership/mentoring/>

Although the Royal Society of Biology Careers Fair was not available as a face to face event this year there was a virtual meeting in November and members of the BTS ETCD subcommittee provided support to members for careers. The ECTD are currently in the process of working with an external organisation to improve the information provided on career opportunities in Toxicology on the BTS website.

The **Communication Subcommittee (CSC)**, chaired by Dr David Woolley, has maintained communication channels with the membership through initiatives such as the **Ambassadors Scheme** (led by Dr Kirsti Hornigold), the **NewsFeed** (Editorial Team: Drs Guy Healing, David Woolley, Rani Ghosh and David Jones) and promoting social media channels (Drs Malgorzata.Kurzawa-Zegot and Kemal Haque).

We also welcomed Dr Kirsti Hornigold, MRC Toxicology Unit, University of Cambridge, who has taken on the role of Lead Ambassador Co-ordinator for the Society. This role is the focal point between BTS Ambassadors and the BTS Executive Committee and will be to help the BTS build, support, and improve its network of Ambassadors. The BTS Ambassador scheme aims to deliver and promote the Society's vision and objectives for the science of toxicology at a local level. Kirsti will be a member of the Communication Subcommittee (CSC) and work closely with David Woolley who chairs the CSC. Kirsti will be looking forward to speaking with members about the Ambassador Scheme over the next few months. In the meantime, if your company or institution does not have an Ambassador, please contact bts@execbs.com to discuss your interest. Further information can be found [here](#). If you would like to get in touch with your nearest ambassador to find out more about the BTS or to run a local meeting contact bts@execbs.com

Regional meetings for local networking have also been delivered virtually which have been promoted and organised by the BTS Ambassadors. Dr David Woolley co-ordinated the Ambassador's Scheme and my thanks to you, David and the Ambassadors for supporting the Society in so many ways. As normality returns there will be opportunities to host additional local meetings in the coming year and if you are looking to organise a meeting, grants of up to £250 are available from the BTS to cover meeting costs and refreshments.

Drs Malgorzata.Kurzawa-Zegot and Kemal Haque have been working behind the scenes to promote the various social media platforms the Society uses, so if you are not already on the LinkedIn platforms or Twitter, please do consider these outlets to promote the work of the BTS. Our Twitter account is [@BritToxSoc](https://twitter.com/BritToxSoc) so do please use it to promote the Society. The BTS also has a LinkedIn page and this can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.thebts.org/news/bts-joins-linkedin/>

In the past year, the **Public Communication Steering Team** chaired by Dr Phil Botham has produced several public statements which provide authoritative, educational comment on a toxicology related topic of interest. The full list of public statements on our website are

- [Environmental Causes of Cancer](#)
- [Microbiome and Toxicology](#)
- [Micro Physiological Systems](#)
- [Alternative \(In Vitro\) Approaches to Toxicity Testing](#)
- [Safety Testing Vaccines COVID-19](#)
- [Assessing the Safety of Genetically Modified Crops](#)
- [The Safety of Cell Therapies](#)
- [Unravelling Air Pollution with Toxicological Science](#)
- [Use of Animals in Toxicology and Safety Science](#)
- [Distinguishing Hazard and Risk](#)
- [Computational Models in Chemical Safety Assessment](#)
- [E-Cigarettes and Vaping Infograph](#)
- [Decade of Toxicological Trends](#)

Drs Bryony Ross and Trudy Knight joined the Public Communications Steering Team in 2021 following interviews for these positions.

The Executive Committee also recognised that our early career scientists have a particular role to play, both within the BTS and in the broader scientific community. Having looked at our membership of subcommittees and the Executive Committee it was felt that the voices of those at an early stage in their career were under-represented. We have now established the '**Network for Early Stage Toxicologists' (NEST)** as an opt-in community, making best use of social media, as well as face to face networking opportunities at congresses, to build a community and feed ideas into the Executive Committee to support those at an early stage of their career.

The NEST, chaired by Nevine Amer, University of Hertfordshire, is tasked with coordinating early career networking, as well as career's outreach in universities, giving scientific input to help shape the BTS Congress,

and also providing early career representation on the various subcommittees of the Society and in particular Scientific, Communication and Education, Training and Career Development (ETCD).

NEST have been very active in organising Podcasts with some of our established toxicologists and these will be an addition to the website in the months to come.

From April 2022, Nevine will also be a member of the Nominations Subcommittee to ensure our early stage toxicologists are represented.

We were also pleased that in this 50th year we are also able to celebrate the first recipient of the Malcom Blackwell Award to Dr Gillian Conway, Swansea University. This award in recognition of an individual deemed inspirational, impactful and a role model to members of the NEST. Dr Conway will be presenting her lecture, "Using In Vitro 3D Liver Models for the Development of Hazard Assessment Protocols Following Exposure to Engineered Nanomaterials" at the Annual Congress on **Monday 4th April at 17.45** where she will receive the award and deliver the NEST invitation lecture.

As the BTS is a registered charity, committee members of the BTS are volunteers and without their willing help, the Society would simply not be able to exist. There are always opportunities for members to get involved. If you are interested in helping the Society by being a member of the Executive Committee or the subcommittees, please contact bts@execbs.com. Even if no suitable opportunity is available now, it is very helpful for planning purposes, to be aware of expressions of interest for roles on committees from our members.

BTS Website Update

The Executive Committee decided, based on feedback from members, that the website needed an overhaul. A tendering process was undertaken, and Insights Design and Printing Ltd undertook this project and the website will be launched following the AGM. My thanks to Dr Fiona Sewell for leading on this project.

Toxicology Research

The Official Journal of the BTS, **Toxicology Research**, now published by Oxford University Press (OUP), has increased its impact factor to 3.524. We are delighted to work with OUP and its Editor-in-Chief, Professor Heather Wallace. We are happy to have negotiated a great discount for our members for online subscriptions to the journal. The cost to BTS members is just £60, which is less than 4% of the institutional subscription. If you would like to take up this offer, you can apply at: <https://academic.oup.com/toxres/subscribe>. Professor Wallace is also a co-opted member of the Executive Committee.

I am also pleased to report that the OUP are supporting the BTS with a prize for the best student communication to the value of £100.00 of OUP books.

Interaction with other Societies

One of the strategic objectives of the BTS is to promote interactions with other scientific societies and organisations to meet our vision to "*drive excellence in toxicology*". Our work with other Learned Societies and Professional Bodies ensures we have a voice, feed into consultations applicable to the discipline of Toxicology and have seat at the table to lobby the Government where required. It is a pleasure to work closely with the following organisations:

- **UK Register of Toxicologists** – the BTS is a sponsoring organisation and work closely with the Chair of the Panel of the UK Register, Mark Hosford, who is also an ex officio member of the BTS Executive Committee and provides an annual report to the Annual General Meeting of the BTS. The UK Register also provides a bursary to support the cost of attendance at the BTS Annual Congress. My thanks to Colin Davies who stepped down in January of this year as Chair of the UKRT.
- **Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)** – The Toxicology Interest Group promote toxicology and support the BTS and awards a poster prize at the BTS Annual Congress. This year the RSC Toxicology Group,

along with the Computational and in silico Toxicology Speciality Section, have organised a symposium at this year's Annual Congress on "Building confidence in computational models for decision making in Risk Assessment"

- **The Royal Society of Biology (RSB)** - the BTS is a Member Organisation. This facilitates communication and the BTS can contribute to consultation papers and policy documents which are coordinated by the RSB. The RSB also hosts an annual pre-Christmas Parliamentary Reception which was virtual this year, at which the BTS is represented. There have been other Parliamentary events provided by the RSB and the BTS are represented on these.
- **EUROTOX** – as the UK National Toxicology Society, the BTS participates in the Annual Business meeting of EUROTOX which is held at the annual congress. Despite recent political changes in Europe, links between the BTS and other European Toxicology Societies remain strong and active. The current president of EUROTOX, Professor Heather Wallace is a former president of the BTS.
- **International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX)** – represents more than 25,000 members and the BTS is one of approximately 60 different member societies. IUTOX organises a scientific congress at 3 yearly intervals. Along with other member societies, the BTS contributes financially to IUTOX via levy, which is based on the number of BTS members. The BTS is represented at meetings of the IUTOX General Assembly, can nominate candidates for appointment to committees and can vote at business meetings. Professor Heather Wallace is an advisor on IUTOX.
- **American College of Toxicology (ACT)** - The BTS co-sponsors the Practical Application of Toxicology in Drug Development Course (PATDD) at the University of Cambridge. The Programme Committee includes representation from the BTS (Drs Chris Powell and Ernie Harpur), ACT and the University of Cambridge. Together with the ACT the BTS co-sponsors the signature webinars which are available free to our members.
- **Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH)** – the BTS has a representative (Professor Shirley Price) on the RCPATH Specialty Advisory Committee on Toxicology. The RCPATH offers professional examinations in Toxicology and BTS Members can participate in the RCPATH scheme for recording and accreditation Continuing Professional Development.
- **National Centre for 3Rs (NC3Rs)** -The BTS continues to work closely with NC3Rs to promote the reduction, refinement, and replacement of experimental animals. In collaboration with the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Division, the NC3Rs hosted a two-day virtual workshop "Increasing confidence in New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for regulatory decision making".
- **In Vitro Toxicology Society (IVTS)**- awards a poster prize at the BTS Annual Congress each year and fully supports the BTS. This year the IVTS are supporting the symposium "In Silico Toxicology – Data, Concepts, and Pitfalls" at this year's Congress. Dr Martin Clift is the IVTS representative on the Scientific Subcommittee.
- **UK Environmental Mutagen Society (UKEMS)** –the BTS works with UKEMS in supporting the scientific training for genetic toxicologists.
- **The British Society of Toxicological Pathologists (BSTP)** –the BTS works closely with the BSTP and have in the past organised joint meetings. Dr Catherine Ross is the BSTP representative on the Scientific Subcommittee.
- **Integrated Toxicology Training Partnership (ITTP)**- The ITTP is an initiative launched by the MRC with the aim of improving and boosting capacity in the toxicological sciences by sponsoring PhD studentships. The ITTP is managed through the MRC Toxicology Unit with an expert Steering Committee and seeks to provide to relevant stakeholders in academia, industry and government the expertise in toxicology and related disciplines that is required to ensure the safe and effective development of drugs and exposure to chemicals. The BTS has very close links with the ITTP programme and Professor Marion Macfarlane is the ITTP representative on the Scientific Subcommittee.

The Executive Committee are looking to establish closer links with other Professional Bodies and Learned Societies such as the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC).

In Memoriam

As we come to the end of this Society year 2021/22, we should take a moment to think of those members who passed away. The following members gave so much to the Society, its members, and the science of toxicology namely:

- Dr Frank Sullivan
- Dr Malcolm Blackwell
- Professor Kevin Park

Gratias Tibi

Finally, I would like to thank a few people who have worked extremely hard on your behalf, the membership.

Firstly, thanks to our immediate Past President and Chair of NSC, **Dr Chris Powell**, for his sterling leadership over the two years 2020-2022. Chris has been supporting the Society through several roles and in total has provided 16 years' service.

My thanks to **Dr Carol Courage** for her sterling work as the General Secretary (2021-2022). A role that is key to the Society and one that requires stamina and diplomacy. Carol has served as the General Secretary keeping the Society and the Executive Committee on track: not an easy task! Carol, you have been a fantastic General Secretary and my thanks for the support you have given me as President and the support given to the Society.

Dr Tina Mehta (2016-2022) leaves the role as Chair of the ETCD Subcommittee and an ordinary member of the Executive Committee. Tina has served in this role and as an ordinary member since 2016. My thanks to you, Tina, for your support of the Society in your various roles.

Dr Jason Gill (2018-2022) leaves the role as Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee of the Executive Committee. Jason has served in this role since 2018. My thanks to you, Jason, for your support to the Society through chairing the Scientific Subcommittee during a difficult time due to the Pandemic.

I would also like to thank **Dr Guy Healing** who steps down from the **NewsFeed Editorial Team** after 6 years. Thank you, Guy, for your contribution to the Team and to the Society in the many roles you have held including that of the Treasurer.

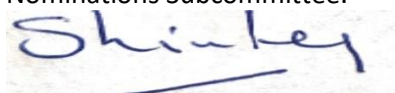
Finally, to the Officers and members of the Executive Committee who give their skills and time freely to help run the Society and promote Toxicology my thanks to you all for the support you have given the Society and to me personally as President over the last two years

Thanks are also due to the Chairs, Co-ordinators, members of the BTS subcommittees and Speciality Sections, the Editorial Team and Ambassadors for your support also.

As ever, I am extremely grateful to our secretariat Executive Business Support Ltd (EBS) for the administrative support provided to the Society and in particular to Gail Ryan, Steve Hewitt, Freya-Louise Andrews and Shona Hunt for their valued assistance in the support given to the BTS and to me personally.

Finally, my thanks to you, the members, for your support and loyalty to the BTS.

I now sign off as your President and it has been a fantastic opportunity to be at the helm and working with such a great team. Thank you all for your support. I now pass the reins to Professor Brian Lake and wish him well in the role. I look forward to another exciting year as your Past President and as Chair of the Nominations Subcommittee.



Professor Shirley Price,
President of the BTS
20th February 2022

4.2 Report by the General Secretary, Dr Carol Courage

The Executive Committee of the BTS for 2021/2022 comprised the following individuals:

Officers:

Prof Shirley Price	President
Prof Brian Lake	Vice President and Chair of the Finance Subcommittee
Dr Carol Courage	General Secretary
Prof Robert Chilcott	Treasurer
Dr Jason Gill	Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee

Ordinary Members:

Dr Phil Botham	(Chair of Public Communications Steering Team)
Dr Emma Marczylo	
Dr David Mason	
Dr Tina Mehta	(Chair of Education, Training and Career Development (ECTD) Subcommittee)
Dr Fiona Sewell	
Dr John Thompson	

Other members of the Executive Committee

Dr Chris Powell	Immediate Past President and Chair of the Nominations Subcommittee
Dr Lesley Reeve	Vice-Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee

Co-opted Members:

Dr David Woolley	– Chair of the Communication Subcommittee
Dr Lisa Godfrey	– Membership Facilitator
Prof Heather Wallace	– Editor in Chief of Toxicology Research
Mr Mark Hosford	– Chair, UK Register of Toxicologists
Nevine Amer	– Chair of the Network of Early-Stage Toxicologists (NEST)
Prof Winston Morgan	– Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

The major activities of the Society are documented in the reports from the President, Treasurer and Chairs of the Subcommittees, so this report will highlight some of the developments I have been involved in over the past year, ably supported by EBS.

The Executive Committee held four online committee meetings and the President's strategy meeting in 2021/22. In addition, the Officers held three meetings by teleconference, each meeting preceded by the Finance Subcommittee meeting. It is likely that this way of working will continue in the future with only occasional face to face meetings.

Over the last year each of the Speciality Sections has had at least one virtual meeting and as mentioned in the President's report, we have had a virtual two-day meeting, both hosted by EBS. This has led to some discussions on ways of working and as a result we have developed two new procedures:

- Procedure for organising BTS satellite scientific meetings, events and webinars.
- Procedure to set up speciality sections.

I have also been working closely with EBS to facilitate our new ways of working, reviewing procedures and contracts.

We have worked hard to set out our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and we are delighted to have Professor Winston Morgan to head up our EDI programme, working closely with Emma Marczylo and David Mason.

Policies have been reviewed and are available on the public-facing part of the website.

<https://www.thebts.org/information/policies/>.

The General Secretary would usually give an update on BTS membership, but this task now falls to our membership facilitator, Lisa Godfrey and the update is provided in her paper.

This is my last report as BTS General Secretary. I would like to thank our Secretariat, EBS for their support, and particularly acknowledge Steve and Gail for their good-humoured perseverance and prompt responses to queries and emails. I would also like to thank all members of the Executive Committee for the help, support and advice they have provided to me as General Secretary over the past year, in particular Shirley, who has patiently answered my many queries as I settled into the role.

Carol Courage, General Secretary
February 2022

4.3 Report by the Scientific Sub-Committee, Dr Jason Gill

In the period since the last AGM report, the SSC has met on three occasions, March 18th (T/C), July 8th (T/C), October 18th, 2021 and is scheduled to hold a meeting in March 2022. All other business has been conducted by emails during this period.

Composition of the SSC

Dr Jason Gill chaired the meetings during this period. He is serving his second term, which began at the AGM of 2020 and ends at the AGM in 2022.

Dr Carol Courage stood down as a member of the SSC and co-ordinator of the Risk Assessment speciality section in May 2021 due to taking on the role of BTS general secretary. The SSC extend their gratitude to Carol for the valuable contributions and dedication to the SSC during her term-of office and beyond.

Dr Susy Brescia was appointed to the SSC in June 2021 in her role as an ordinary member and co-ordinator for the Risk Assessment speciality section.

Ms Linda Reilly was confirmed as the Network of Early Stage Toxicologists (NEST) representative on the SSC. Ms Reilly replaces Ms Phumzile Sikakana who completed her term of office. The SSC extend their gratitude to Phum for her valuable contributions and input to the SSC and wish her every success in her future.

The co-ordinators of the speciality sub-sections are: Dr Muireann Coen & Dr Carolin Schramm (Mechanistic & Discovery Toxicology sub-section), Dr Andreas Bender (Computational and *in silico* sub-section), Dr Miriam Jacobs (Regulatory Toxicology sub-section), Dr Susy Brescia (Risk Assessment Sub-section), and Dr James Coulson (Clinical & Human Toxicology sub-section).

Dr Camilla Alexander-White, Dr Catherine Ross, Dr Martin Clift, Dr Fiona Sewell and Prof Marion MacFarlane represent the RSC, BSTP, IVTS, NC3Rs and MRC ITTP respectively as co-opted members.

All members of the SSC have been engaged and hard working in their support of the BTS. The chair would like to record thanks to all members of the committee for their commitment during this very challenging year. The chair would also like to record thanks to EBS, particularly Steve Hewitt, for support with organisation of the congress.

The current composition of the SSC is as follows. Term lengths where applicable are 3 years with the exception of the Chair and Chair-Elect which is 2 years:

Name	Role	Affiliation	Term	End of term
Jason Gill	Chair	Newcastle University	2nd	AGM 2022
Lesley Reeve	Chair-Elect / Vice Chair	Covance	1st	AGM 2022
Andreas Bender	Ordinary member and Co-ordinator of Computational and <i>in silico</i> Toxicology Speciality Section	Cambridge University	1st	April 2022
Muireann Coen	Ordinary member and Joint Co-ordinator of Mechanistic and Discovery Toxicology Speciality Section	AstraZeneca / Imperial College	2nd	April 2022
James Coulson	Ordinary member, Co-ordinator of Clinical and Human Toxicology Speciality Section, and Abstracts Co-Editor	University of Cardiff	2nd	April 2024
Susy Brescia	Ordinary Member and Co-ordinator of Risk Assessment Speciality Section	HSE	1st	June 2024
Miriam Jacobs	Ordinary member and Co-ordinator of Regulatory Toxicology Speciality Section	PHE	1st	Sept 2022
Sarah Judge	Ordinary member and Abstracts Co-Editor	Newcastle University	2nd	Jan 2023
Carolyn Schramm	Ordinary member and Joint Co-ordinator of Mechanistic and Discovery Toxicology Speciality Section	UCB	2nd	Jun 2024

Linda Reilly	Ordinary Member & NEST representative	Swansea University	1st	Jun 2024
Robert Chilcott	Ex-officio: BTS Treasurer	University of Hertfordshire	N/A	
Co-opted members				
TBC	BTS Communications Sub-Committee	N/A		
Camilla Alexander-White	RSC Representative	RSC	N/A	
Martin Clift	IVTS representative	Swansea University	N/A	
Marion Macfarlane	ITTP representative	MRC Toxicology Unit	N/A	
Catherine Ross	BSTP representative	Covance	N/A	
Fiona Sewell	NC3Rs representative	NC3Rs	N/A	

Responsibilities and work of the SSC: Annual Congress

The SSC is responsible for the program of the Annual Congress with endorsement from the Executive. Each of the speciality sub-sections is responsible for developing a symposium focused around the interests of their membership. The remaining symposia are invited from the membership and partner organisations to the BTS. Sessions are chosen with a view to achieving balance in the program for all Toxicology Sectors and the further education of all attendees at the Annual Congress. Suggestions from BTS members for sessions at the Annual Congress should be directed through the relevant speciality sub-section, or via the form available on the BTS web site.

The COVID pandemic resulted in the delivery of the 2021 congress online, which was deemed a success in the circumstances.

Due to the anticipated reduced impact of COVID and changes in legal restrictions, the SSC agreed to develop the BTS annual congress 2022 as a blended meeting. The expectation being that the majority of delegates and speakers would be on-site to facilitate in-person interactions, but with capacity to accommodate those speakers and delegates who were unable to attend in-person. A full programme was developed, with the congress to be held across Mon April 4th – Weds April 6th.

The SSC is responsible for choosing the bursary recipients for the Annual Congress. For the 2022 congress there were 10 pre-doctoral and 4 post-doctoral bursaries available for NEST members which could be applied for with the submission and acceptance of an abstract for the Annual Congress. The successful awardees will be notified in early March 2022 and the recipients announced at the BTS annual congress.

The SSC under the direction of the abstract's editors (Dr Sarah Judge & Dr James Coulson) is responsible for peer review and acceptance of the abstracts for the Annual Congress. For 2022, at the time of writing, 43 abstracts were received by the SSC. These are currently being assessed against the submission guidelines and for suitability as oral or poster communications.

The BTS annual congress 2022 will include the Paton prize lecture, awarded to Professor Faith Williams (Newcastle University), the Malcolm Blackwell Award & NEST Lecture, awarded to Dr Gillian Conway (University of Swansea), and the ASCEPT Invitation Lecture, awarded to Dr Ian Musgrave (University of Adelaide).

Applications to the biennial mid-career award have been invited. The SSC is responsible for judging the applicants for these awards. The successful awardee for 2022 will be ratified by the Executive Committee and notification of the successful awardee to the membership communicated through congress correspondence.

The SSC reviewed feedback from participants of the 2021 Annual Congress, held virtually online. All the presentations were well reviewed with feedback regarding the congress being very supportive and encouraging, with significant praise for the SSC and congress organisation. A limitation indicated by BTS members was the lack of ability for audience engagement using the online platform. Based on feedback received, the decision was made to host a blended congress in 2022, a decision supported by the BTS Executive. A review of the 2022 congress and blended approach will take place by the SSC at the next meeting and reported to Executive.

Responsibilities and work of the SSC: Speciality sections networking meetings:

The SSC were very encouraged by the outputs of the BTS survey indicating that the membership valued the speciality sections and could clearly see their value and worth. However, the low number of members who identified as being a member of at least one speciality section and having an active involvement in these sections was a concern. The SSC, with the support of the BTS Executive, agreed to actively focus on these areas, improve communications by these sections, and facilitate greater visibility of the speciality sections to the BTS membership.

The SSC developed a process and procedure for the nomination and development of new speciality sections by BTS members. This was accepted and adopted by the BTS.

The SSC speciality sections agreed to develop, and host dedicated 'drop-in' sessions for their respective members. The content of each session being a mix of invited speakers and an open-discussion forum. These sessions are being scheduled twice-yearly beginning mid-2022.

Responsibilities and work of the SSC: Scientific Meetings

The SSC has responsibility for facilitating co-hosted meetings with other learned societies and partner organisations. These meetings are co-ordinated through the respective speciality sub-section and proposals for their support presented to the SSC. In 2021-22, the majority of planned meetings were cancelled or rescheduled due to the COVID pandemic. However, the following meeting was supported:
a. Regulatory speciality sub-section: *BTS-IGHRC-UKHSA workshop: Current status of NAMs for regulatory purposes*. This interactive workshop was held 22nd- 23rd November 2021 and was well received

The SSC developed a process and procedure for development and hosting of BTS supported satellite meetings, with indicative responsibilities and roles for the proposer, SSC, BTS executive committee and EBS. This process was accepted and adopted by the BTS.

Jason Gill, Chair
February 2022.

4.4 Report by the Education, Training and Career Development (ETCD) Sub-Committee, Dr Helen Nakeeb

Over the past 12 months, the ETCD committee have conducted their business by telephone meetings.

1) ETCD Subcommittee Membership is as follows:

Tina Mehta – Chair – Adama

Helen Nakeeb (nee Smith) – Secretary – PHE Chilton

Jason Manton - Ordinary member – Penman Consulting

Amy Chadwick (nee Mercer) – Ordinary member - Univ. Liverpool

Kristina Ulrich – Ordinary member – Mission Therapeutics

Claire Pottle – Ordinary member (Early career) – Sequani

Susanne Walker– Ordinary member - Covance

Louise Coleman – Ordinary member - Charles River Laboratories

Co-opted from the Scientific Subcommittee – Lesley Reeve – LabCorp

Co-opted from the Communications Subcommittee – Kirsty Hornigold – MRC

Co-opted from NEST – Georgia Reynolds - Unilever

Executive Committee represented by Tina Mehta

ETCD input into 2022 Annual Congress.

An outline of the planned 2022 CEP programme is given below:

CEP Title: Risk Assessment Across Industry Sectors

Scope: Overview of risk assessment approaches in each sector, if possible, to include information on exposure and regulatory considerations in addition to general approach.

Chairs: Jason Manton (Penman Consulting) and Georgia Reynolds (Unilever)

Presentation 1: Risk Assessment in the Chemicals Industry

Speaker: TBC

Presentation 2: Risk Assessment in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Speaker: Dr Ernie Harpur

Presentation 3: Risk Assessment in the Agrochemical Industry

Speaker: Neil Morgan (Syngenta)

Presentation 4: Risk Assessment in the Consumer goods Industry

Speaker: Sophie Cable (Unilever)

Continuing Education Programme for 2023 Annual meeting and beyond

The ETCD subcommittee maintains an evolving list of potential future topics for CEPs on both established and newly emerging science in toxicology. This list is updated regularly based on feedback from the congress. The committee welcomes suggestions from BTS members on future CEP topics.

Webinars

- i) ACT basic Training in Toxicology Webinars

Three ETCD subcommittee members (Kristina Ulrich, Helen Nakeeb and Emily Butcher) attended regular planning teleconferences with the ACT, to develop the programme of webinars and review speaker presentations. From 30th March 2016 – 13th December 2017 a series of 12 live webinars were run. The intention of these educational modules was to provide modules of basic toxicology training by experts in the field to professionals and students worldwide. The content of these webinars was reviewed and updated and are available for a fee as an on-demand online learning resource (until 31st December 2024) at: <https://www.actox.org/education/elearning/basic-topics-tox/about.asp>.

ii) ACT Signature webinars

The BTS also co-host signature webinars with the ACT, which are available as a free on-demand learning resource on the ACT website at: <https://www.actox.org/education/webinars.asp>.

iii) Careers webinars

The ETCD (lead by Jason Manton) are in the process of developing a series of careers webinars covering CV and Interview skills.

BTS Website

A sub-group of the BTS ETCD have reviewed and updated the BTS webpages relating to careers, mentoring, and webinars.

BTS ETCD members have drafted new career profiles which we hope to add to the website during the next phase of its development.

Mentorship

The ETCD have focused on developing the mentorship scheme as this scheme has not been taken up by many BTS members.

New content for the website mentorship pages has been developed (by Louise Coleman), which includes an online form to recruit mentees/mentors and 'case studies' from those who have used the scheme before. It is hoped that the new website content will make the scheme more accessible and provide more information on what can be offered to members.

A member of the ETCD (Kristina Ulrich) has been mentoring a BTS member and has received positive feedback about the scheme. The ETCD are exploring holding a drop-in session during future BTS congress' coffee breaks where Mentors and her Mentees could provide information on what the mentorship scheme can offer. The ETCD also hope to promote the scheme using i) the rolling slide deck at the BTS congress, ii) BTS newsletter (once new webpage has been published), iii) a BTS mentorship pull up stand and iv) social media post.

Future ETCD activities

The ETCD has reviewed the ongoing brainstorming exercise to identify future activities relating to Education, Training and Career Development. Some of the ideas that will be explored by the ETCD are listed below:

- Use BTS website and e-bulletins to make members aware of existing education opportunities.
- Develop resources on BTS website – careers FAQs, Career path examples, example CVs/grant applications.
- Link with other organisations/societies to provide training opportunities – explore what training our members provide in-house and how the BTS can link with/support.
- Use newsletter more – ETCD articles more regularly to promote opportunities/activities/increase presence

- Ask BTS members who present on Postgraduate courses to add BTS slide-set to end of their presentation to further promote Society
- Add information on summer placements to Website.

Further ideas are greatly welcomed.

Dr Helen Nakeeb, Chair
February 2022

4.5 Report from the Communications Sub-Committee (CSC), Dr David Woolley

Committee members:

Chair: Dr David Woolley (DW)

Secretary: Dr Evita Vandenbossche (EV)

Ordinary Members: Dr Kemal Haque (KH), Laura Penn (LP), Dr Malgorzata Kurzawa-Zegota (MK), Kirsti Hornigold (KAH)

Co-opted Member: Dr Phil Botham (PBo; Executive Committee), Julianna Berrie (JB; NEST)

Meetings: Various telecons (no face-to-face due to Covid-19 pandemic)

Departures: Su Moore – the CSC would like to thank Su for her amazing support as secretary to the CSC

Website

- A process for BTS Website update is ongoing to make it more contemporary, provide more functionality and easier to use
- CSC identified that regular update of Executive Committee on website visitation using Google Analytics would be useful to allow comment on what pages are visited and maybe removing those that have become redundant.

BTS Ambassadors

- KAH is the new BTS Ambassador co-ordinator, taking over from DW.
- KAH has begun contacting each Ambassador personally to confirm their agreement to continue as an Ambassador.
- Ambassador breakfast is scheduled to take place at the BTS congress.
- BTS ambassador scheme will be advertised at the BTS congress with the aim of recruiting new ambassadors.
- The new initiative to have Ambassador profiles on the website (in the Ambassador section) is ongoing.
- Unfortunately, due to the pandemic no ambassador-related events occurred in this BTS.

Social Networking

Twitter

- MK (HSE, CRD) is a point of contact for Twitter.

- Since April 2021 (last AGM) BTS Twitter has gained 150 new followers (currently we have 1,217) while tweeting 125 times.
- The profile visits varied between 320 and 3,834 per month and our top followers were Food Standards Agency, EMGS, Oxford Journals and American College of Medical Toxicology to mention a few.
- As noticed in the past the tweets getting more attention are the ones with images or graphics, tweets inviting to register for webinars/courses and the ones admiring work of other scientists and fellow toxicologists.

LinkedIn

- KH is main contact.
- BTS Organisational Page content continues to be mirrored on the Group Page.
- Organisation Page currently has 1208 followers as of Feb 2022 (up from 529 from Jan 2021). Benchmark vs IUTOX (562 followers), ACT (1986 followers), SOT (11944 followers).
- Approx. 60 posts in the BTS feed in last 12 months; Benchmark vs IUTOX (37 posts), ACT (62 posts), SOT (131 posts).
- Site metrics indicated that BTS content (educational infographic/video, Public Statements) were impactful.
- LinkedIn and Twitter communications are coordinated.

David Woolley, Chair
February 2022

4.6 Report from the Nominations Subcommittee, Dr Chris Powell

Members

Dr Chris Powell (immediate past president, Chair),
Prof Anne Willis (MRC Toxicology Unit),
Prof Ernie Harpur (past President),
Prof Heather Wallace (past President),
Dr Phil Botham (Syngenta)
Dr Elizabeth Martin (AstraZeneca)
Dr Tina Mehta (Adama)
Dr Jason Gill (ex officio, Chair of Scientific Sub Committee)

Update on membership of the Nominations Subcommittee (NSC)

Having completed their normal terms of office, Dr D Williams (AstraZeneca) and Dr H Stemplewski (MHRA) both stood down from the sub-committee. The NSC are grateful for their valued contributions to the Society.

From January 2022, Dr Elizabeth Martin and Dr Tina Mehta were each appointed to the NSC.

As is the normal process, at the conclusion of the 2022 AGM, Chair of the NSC will pass to the immediate past president

Update on Nominations

Over the past year the NSC has continued to conduct its business by email, phone calls and video conference calls. All open positions and availability of prizes (BTS and EUROTOX) have been advertised to the membership. Recommendations are made by NSC and forwarded to the Executive Committee, are summarised below:

Nominations VicePresident (President Elect)

Having consulted widely and solicited views from a number of former presidents and potential candidates, the NSC are pleased to report that Dr Phil Botham has indicated his willingness to accept nomination for this important role and this was unanimously endorsed by the Executive Committee.



Vice Chair of Scientific Subcommittee (SSC) - Chair Elect.

The current Vice Chair of the SSC, Dr Lesley Reeve, will succeed. to Chair of the Subcommittee at the AGM. An application for this position was received from Dr Ian Copple, University of Liverpool



Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee

According to normal process, two ordinary members of the Executive Committee will be standing down at the AGM. The availability of these positions has been widely advertised to BTS members and several candidates responded to enquire about the opportunities.

Applications have been received from: Dr Bryony Ross, a Senior Consultant from Blue Frog Scientific and a member of the Public Communications Steering Team



and from Dr Hazem Matar, Associate Professor of Toxicology at the University of Hertfordshire.



Chair of Education Training and Career Development (ETCD) Subcommittee

The current secretary of the subcommittee Dr Helen Nakeeb, Health Security Agency, is nominated as the next Chair and will be co-opted to the Executive Committee.

Vacant Position: General Secretary of the BTS (an Officer of the BTS)

Due to changed circumstances, the current General Secretary has indicated that they wish to stand down at the AGM. Accordingly, this position will become available, and it has been advertised to the membership. At the time of writing, a suitable candidate has not yet been identified. If required, an interim arrangement will be implemented until a suitable candidate for General Secretary has been identified and appointed.

Prize and Award Lectures - BTS and EUROTOX

1. Patton Prize 2022

[Prof Faith Williams](#), University of Newcastle, was nominated and she has accepted the invitation to give this award lecture

2. Malcolm Blackwell Award Lecture: The Network of Early Stage Toxicologists (NEST) subcommittee was asked to recommend a nominee for the initial Award at the 2022 Annual Congress. Having considered potential nominees and held a vote to determine the preferred recommendation, [Dr Gillian Conway](#), University of Swansea was proposed and the NSC concurred with this nomination.



3. Honorary (life) Fellows of the BTS

Two distinguished members of the Society were nominated as lifetime Honorary Fellows of the BTS and endorsed by the Executive Committee

4. EUROTOX Awards 2022:

The EUROTOX Lecture (former Bo Holmstedt Memorial Lecture) recognises scientists who have made outstanding scientific contributions to the science of drug and chemical toxicology, or related areas. Nominations should be active, mid-career scientists involved in toxicology research in the public or private sector that are making substantial and innovative scientific contributions in the field of toxicological sciences.

Five BTS members have previously received this award. Most recently Prof Nigel Gooderham in 2018

EUROTOX Merit Award: This award honours distinguished and enduring lifetime contributions to European toxicology. Individuals (from academia, industry and regulatory) selected for this award have made significant contributions in all aspects of toxicology, particularly service, education and research, and have achieved European recognition based on their professional accomplishments and distinguished career. Six BTS members have previously received this award. Most recently Dr Susan Barlow in 2015.

Having consulted widely, the BTS chose not to advance nominees for these awards in 2022.

Dr Chris Powell, Chair
February 2022

4.7 Report by the Public Communications Steering Team, Dr Phil Botham

During 2021, two additional members joined the Steering Team, Bryony Ross and Trudy Knight. In addition, the Executive Committee confirmed that the Public Communications Steering Team should work independently of any other Society Sub-Committee but should collaborate with the Communications SC to ensure that effective mechanisms are used to communicate the public statements. This has now been successfully implemented using the BTS Newsfeed as well as social media such as LinkedIn and Twitter.

The Team continued to focus on its core purpose of providing proactive, science-based, public statements on issues in the toxicological sciences which are relevant to the interests of the public as well as BTS members and the broader scientific community.

A further four statements were published on the BTS website by the end of February 2021, together with one additional video and an infographic: -

- [Computational Models in Chemical Safety Assessment](#)
- [E-Cigarettes and Vaping Infograph](#)
- [Decade of Toxicological Trends](#)
- [Assuring the Safety of Cosmetics](#)
- [Assessment & Management of Chemical Mixtures](#)
- [Hazard and Risk – Videos](#)

An additional ten statements are currently under review or in preparation. Statements are written on behalf of the Society by recognised experts in the field (wherever possible we commission Society members) and the Steering Team would like to acknowledge the excellent contributions made by all the authors.

In October 2021 and January 2022, representative members of the Steering Team were joined by a small number of Society Fellows and representatives from the Royal Society of Chemistry, the UK NC3Rs and the Science Media Centre to discuss whether the Society should increase its profile with the media. The group confirmed that the Society does need to have a more systematic and professional approach to reactive and proactive engagement with the media, whilst recognising our resource and financial limitations. A small team has now been set up to design a practicable process that would allow the Society to meet this need.

Phil Botham, Chair

February 2022

4.8 Report by the Network for Early Stage Toxicologists (NEST) Subcommittee, Nevine Amer

The membership as of February 2022 consists of:

Nevine Amer – Chair
Konstantinos Papikinos – Ordinary Member (Secretary)
Briony Labram – Ordinary Member
Georgia Reynolds – Ordinary Member
Katie Torrance – Ordinary Member
Julianna Berrie – Ordinary Member
Caroline Pollard – Ordinary Member
Jamie Dunn – Ordinary Member
Kary Poon – Ordinary Member
Linda Reilly – Ordinary Member
Sarah Horgan – Ordinary Member
Frederique Marie Uy – Ordinary Member

Co-opted NEST member to the ETCD – Georgia Reynolds
Co-opted NEST member to the Communications Subcommittee – Julianna Berrie
Co-opted NEST member of the Scientific Subcommittee (SSC) – Linda Reilly
Executive Committee represented by Nevine Amer

The NEST subcommittee was formed in 2021 and our first meeting was held on the 2nd of June 2021. All NEST meetings have been conducted virtually and include a total of five meetings. The NEST decided to focus on five main areas to begin with: enhancing the engagement between early-stage toxicologists and established toxicologists, the mentoring scheme, social media, career fairs and NEST at the congress.

- 1) Enhancing the engagement between early-stage toxicologists and established toxicologists
 - A series of podcasts have been recorded whereby established scientists within the field of toxicology have been interviewed by subcommittee members (Jamie, Juliana, Fred and Kary). The first podcasts involved interviews with members of the subcommittee and subsequent podcasts include talks with Professor Anne Willis, OBE, Dr Stephanie Wright and Professor Alan Boobis, OBE with more recordings planned in the coming months. These will be posted onto the BTS website once the new site is launched and will be available for all BTS members to access.
 - NEST has teamed up with Professors Shirley Price, Ruth Roberts and Dr Emma Marczylo to contribute towards the 50th-anniversary celebrations of the BTS and will be supporting this initiative by asking NEST members to participate whereby established and early-stage toxicologists describe how toxicology has changed over the last 50 years.
- 2) Mentoring scheme
 - NEST will be supporting the Education, Training and Career Development subcommittee (ETCD) in developing the mentoring scheme.
- 3) Social media
 - NEST has created a page within the BTS website which includes details about the NEST and the work we are involved in. It also has the biographies of those on the subcommittee.
 - A LinkedIn page has been formed for BTS-NEST members. Discussions are currently ongoing on how best to manage the page to ensure only BTS-NEST members are in the group.
- 4) Career Fairs
 - Attending Career Fairs originally fell under the remit of ETCD, however, this now falls under the NEST remit. Due to the pandemic NEST has not attended any Careers Fairs to date. We do however plan to attend the “UK University Search” event which will have the London Summer 2022 Career Fair for students, mainly from years 11, 12 and 13, and this will be a good place to promote toxicology as a career choice. This event will be held on the 24th of June 2022.
 - A member of NEST (Jamie) will also be attending the “Science Futures 2022 – online career panel”, an event hosted by the University of South Wales of Applied Science in partnership with USW Careers. The event will be held on the 23rd of February 2022 between 12:00 and 14:00. The aim of the Science Futures event is to inspire students and provide an insight into the opportunities and careers available within the science sector and investigative fields. The event is designed exclusively for final year Applied Science students studying Forensic Science, Forensic Investigation, Pharmaceutical Science, Chemistry, and related subject areas.
- 5) NEST at the Annual Congress 2022
 - An award in memory of Dr Malcolm Blackwell will be presented at the Annual Congress. The award winner was selected by the NEST subcommittee following a call

to all NEST members to nominate an individual that was deemed inspirational, impactful and a role model to members of the NEST. This year's award winner is Dr Gillian Conway from Swansea University Medical School, she is also the first person to receive this award.

- A social for NEST members is organised for the evening on the first day of the Annual Congress, 4th April 2022. Those who attend will be able to partake in a quiz produced by members of NEST.
- Members of the NEST will also be co-chairing some of the symposia at the Annual Congress.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the subcommittee for their support and help throughout the last year. Furthermore, if anyone has any projects or initiatives that they would like the NEST to get involved in please get in touch and let us know by e-mail (nest@thebts.org).

Nevine Amer, Chair
February 2022

4.9 Report by the Membership Facilitator, Dr Lisa Godfrey

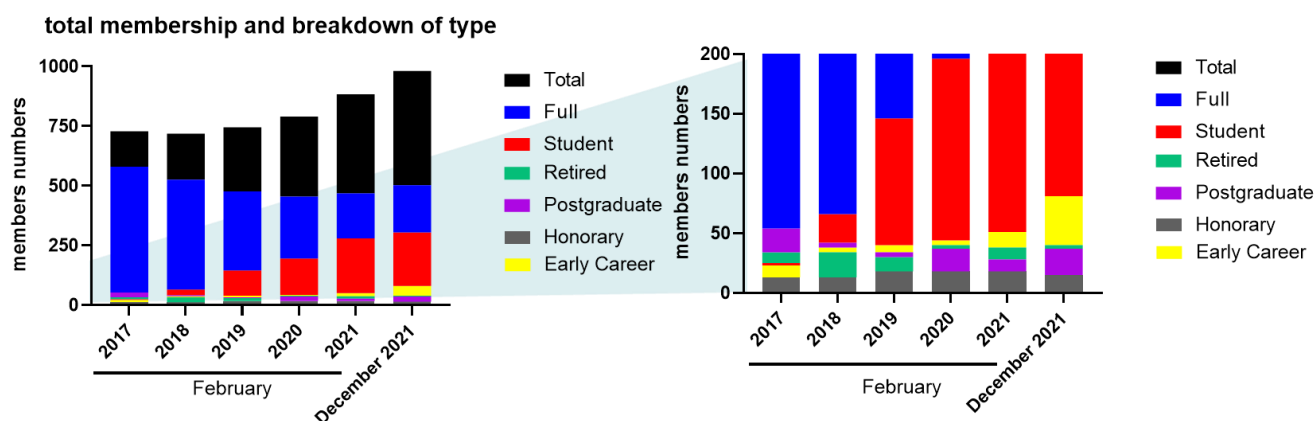
This report will highlight some of the developments I have been involved in over the past year. The work I have been undertaking as your Membership Facilitator in the last year meets the Society's Strategic Vision in ensuring openness on how the Executive Committee are delivering on its vision to increase and support its membership through a number of initiatives.

Current membership and trends

The BTS membership has again increased over the past year, as shown in the table and graphs below. At the time of writing the final figures for February 2022 as a comparative were unavailable but will be provided at the AGM. However, as shown there has been a trend over the past 5 years of a decrease in the full membership category, reaching its lowest reported figure in February 2020, although in the past two years this appears to show some reversal and there is a slight upward trajectory in this category. It is pleasing to see that our early career membership, as well as student membership, is increasing in numbers.

The launch of NEST has promoted the Society to those in their early career which has boosted numbers and as NEST embeds into the Society this will engage our early stage toxicologist to continue their membership across their career and give a forum for networking, exchanging of ideas and seeking advice and opportunities. A detailed report on the activities of NEST is provided separately by Nevine Amer, Chair of NEST.

Graphical representation of trend of membership over past 5 years



Membership numbers at the end of February over the past 5 years in comparison to end of year numbers of 2021

Category	February 2017	February 2018	February 2019	February 2020	February 2021	End of December 2021
Full	580	526	477	455	469	503
Student	25	66	146	196	280	305
Postgraduate	54	42	34	37	28	37
Early Career	23	38	40	44	51	81
Retired	34	34	30	40	38	40
Honorary	13	13	18	18	18	15
Total	729	719	745	790	884	981

Advertising and benefits

This year we have revamped our advertising poster which is available on our [website](#). We encourage members to use this poster in social areas to help advertise the Society. The poster highlights our benefits, not only awards/bursaries and discounts available, but for example networking possibilities such as reminding our members that applying for the Executive Committee and the Society's Subcommittees is open to all members to help shape the way in which we run the Society. All opportunities, when available, are advertised through the President's Newsletter, the NewsFeed and social media. Further information will be on our new website with "what, how and when" which will be launching later this year.

We have also been reaching out to all our members seeking on how they feel our membership benefits suit the needs of members in later stage of their careers.

Over the last year we acted upon a number of points raised through the members' survey through:

- An increase in opportunities for more webinars that provide CPD opportunities;
- Public Statements of interest available to members and other stakeholders;

- Providing more job opportunities through advertising on the website and Social Media;
- Providing opportunities for members to be aware of vacancies on our committees
- An enhanced presence on Social Media;
- Working to provide a more user-friendly website to be launched in 2022.

Future activities

Linking in with Dr Kirst Hornigold, Lead Ambassador, the ambassadors and subcommittees to keep abreast of engagement activities, visibility, and exchange of ideas and feedback from the membership, we hope to start face to face local events in the near future.

Over the next year I will be looking at the mentoring scheme with the ETCD Subcommittee to make it is more encompassing and encourage engagement from new mentors and mentees.

We are also looking at how we can increase the number of events offered such as additional one day events.

I would like to thank our Secretariat, EBS for their support, and particularly acknowledge Freya-Louise for her efficiency in responding to all my emails.

Lisa Godfrey, Membership Facilitator
February 2022

5. Reports from the Officers and Subcommittees of the BTS

5.1 Report from the Treasurer of the Society, Professor Robert Chilcott

Overall, BTS finances are in an adequate state. The Society's unrestricted reserves of £165k are in alignment with the BTS finance policy which states that reserves should be "sufficient to cover total operating costs for a period of 18 – 30 months based on the average operating costs of the previous 5 years". This policy is a legal requirement and so the Society's reserves are ring-fenced and not available for expenditure as part of the normal operating costs of the BTS.

1. Financial performance for 2021

As has previously been the case, financial accounts for the last year are still being finalised. The reason for this perennial delay is to allow time for outstanding receipts and invoices be fully cleared following financial year end (31st December) prior to undertaking a full analysis. The accounts will undergo formal independent examination by SMH BollockWoodburn in due course. At the time of writing this report, it can be confirmed that the BTS made a surplus in the region of £27.5k during 2021. This will be used to partly offset the costs associated with additional expenditure planned for 2022 (see below). It should be noted that this surplus is primarily the result of decreased activity associated with the COVID pandemic and so represents an aberration from the normal finances of the Society.

2. BTS Monetary Contribution to Meetings, Events, Awards and Training

The annual congress was run as a virtual meeting in 2021. Overhead costs associated with virtual meetings are significantly lower than traditional meetings and so this activity generated a modest surplus of £5,482. Normally, the Society would expect to subsidise the annual congress by ~ £15k.

The BTS contributed £993 to support scientific meetings (e.g., webinars) and provided £3,022 in awards (e.g. Early Career Prize, Patton Prize, Studentships). In addition, £1,860 was invested in a package of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion measures (e.g., training and reviews of web content & public documents) to ensure compliance of the Society with legislative obligations.

3. Subscriptions to Other Learned Societies

Institutional subscriptions to other societies (e.g., Eurotox, IUTOX, Royal Society of Biology, etc.) totalled £6,505. Such memberships provide additional benefits to BTS members and further consolidates the BTS as an internationally recognised professional body.

4. Donations to BTS

Corporate donations to the Society were very generous under the circumstances and are discussed in more detail in the President's AGM report. For the reporting period January – December 2021, a total of £11,250 was receipted to support the general work of the BTS. A further £4,899 was received towards the cost of the virtual congress. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those institutions and companies who have continue to support the Society during the pandemic.

5. Advertising Income

Income from advertising on the BTS website marginally increased from £7,875 (2020) to £8,150 during this financial year. Advertising costs and associated policy are to be reviewed in 2022 to ensure that the cost of advertising (and policies relating to the placement of notifications) continue to provide membership benefit as well as meeting financial requirements.

6. Membership Subscriptions

The EC has received a paper proposing that membership fees be increased from January 2023. As part of this review, the two existing 'full membership' fees have been replaced by a single subscription. The proposed new fees (tabulated below) are based on a cost-of-living adjustment to account for the fact that subscriptions have been frozen since January 2019 and are presented at the AGM for ratification. It is important that, during these turbulent economic times, subscriptions are reviewed on an annual basis.

Membership Category	Proposed Fees (January 2023)
Full	£ 112
Early career	£ 50
Retired	£ 45
PhD student	£ 25

7. Budget (2022)

The temporary reduction in BTS activities due to the on-going pandemic has resulted in a financial surplus for two consecutive years. As the primary aim of the BTS is to provide benefits for its members, it has provisionally been agreed to incorporate the following additional expenditure into the 2022 budget, which is forecast to result in an operational deficit of £31,055 for the period January – December 2022 (excluding any subsidy to the BTS annual congress).

- a. Project Co-ordinator position (£25k).
- b. Increased funding of subcommittee activities and speciality groups to enhance current operations (£5k).
- c. Improvements to BTS website (£6.2k).

The main objective for the project coordinator role will be to develop a training schedule to cover the principles required to develop a risk-based scientist across the discipline of safety sciences. This information will be shared with stakeholders and educational providers to ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of delivering relevant training and education for future generations of toxicologists.

R P Chilcott, Treasurer
February 2022

5.3 Proposal to Increase BTS Membership Fees, Professor Robert Chilcott

A. Cost-of-Living Adjustment.

Membership fees for the BTS have been frozen since 2019. This had not had an adverse effect on the Society during this time, as inflation has been historically low. However, the economic effects of the COVID pandemic are likely to be substantial and long-lasting. The immediate financial consequences of the pandemic (and other macroeconomic factors) have led to an acute increase in the rate of inflation. Whilst this may have a positive (albeit minor) impact on the Society's income from capital reserves, the increased cost of living will be a significant factor which will impact the Society's running costs and congress budgets for the foreseeable future. Therefore, it is important that the BTS has a strategy to compensate for the anticipated inflationary pressures over the next few years to ensure financial sustainability.

Based on data from the most recent Bank of England report ([Monetary Policy Report, February 2022](#)), a calculation has been performed to illustrate the effect of inflation over the last few years (Table 1): These figures represent total annual membership fee income, adjusted for the cost of living.

	Base Year	Cost-of-Living Adjustment on Total Fee Income				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BoE Annual Rate (%)	1.8	0.9	2.6	7	3	2
Total Annual Fees*	£ 57,502.50	£ 58,537.55	£ 59,064.38	£ 60,600.06	£ 64,842.06	£ 66,787.32
Inflationary loss† (annual)	£ -	£ 1,035.05	£ 1,561.88	£ 3,097.56	£ 7,339.56	£ 9,284.82
Cumulative Loss	£ -	£ 1,035.05	£ 2,596.93	£ 5,694.48	£ 13,034.05	£ 22,318.87
Compound interest‡ (%)	-	1.8	2.7	5.4	12.8	16.1

*Table 1: Calculation of inflation-adjusted membership fee income for period 2019 – 2021 (based on actual inflation figures) and 2022 – 2024 (based on BoE predicted inflation rates). *Total annual fees include a cost-of-living uplift based on BoE inflation rate for that year. †Inflationary loss calculated as base year fee minus the cost-of-living adjusted fee for each subsequent year. ‡Compound interest is the year-on-year percentage increase relative to the base year (2019).*

Applying a cost-of-living adjustment to income from all membership categories since 2019 indicates that the BTS will have “lost” (in real terms) the equivalent of ~£5,694 income by the end of this financial year. If fees remain frozen, this will incur a total inflation-linked deficit of ~£13,304 (by 2023) and £22,318 (by 2024). These represent a significant loss of income: the real-term deficit will represent nearly a quarter of anticipated membership fee income for 2023 if fees are not increased.

Given that it is widely accepted (and evident) that there will be significant inflationary pressures over the next two to three years, it is necessary to counterbalance this effect by increasing membership fees. The uplift should be based on the compound interest calculation (Table 1) across all membership categories, representing an overall increase of 12.8% for 2023. This would result in the fees outlined in Table 2.

Membership Category	Membership Fees	
	2019 - 2022	2023
Full (direct debit)	£94.00	£106.00
Early career	£42.00	£47.36
Retired	£37.50	£42.29
PhD student	£21.00	£23.68

Table 2: Adjusted membership fees for 2023, calculated as a 12.8% increase on existing fees (originally set in 2019).

B. Abolition of Two-Tier Membership Fees.

A second issue which needs to be addressed is the current “two-tier” approach to full membership fees. Non-direct debit (non-DD) payments represent a significant administrative cost to the Society, as they require manual processing, attract additional banking fees and, in 70% of cases, involve follow-up correspondence. At present, the BTS offers a £20 discount to members who pay by direct debit (DD). However, some Society members are unable to utilise DD payments as they may bank outside the UK or are restricted to card payments to comply with employer reimbursement policies. Therefore, it is proposed that the two-tier system be replaced with a single, full membership fee which incorporates the administrative cost of non-DD payments. This new “flat fee” is more equitable and inclusive than the existing two-tier scheme for full members.

The following method (based on 2001 actual costs) has been used to calculate the new flat fee:

Current difference in total income between DD (n=373) and non-DD (n=124) membership = £2,796.54.

To spread this cost over all full members (373 + 124 = 497) would require an additional (£2,796/497 =) £5.62 per full member. Adding on £5.62 to the proposed 2023 full membership fee (Table 2) would give a revised flat fee of £111.62.

However, this adjusted full membership fee introduces a secondary issue: fees for other membership categories have previously been agreed by the Executive Committee to represent a defined proportion of the full member rate (Table 3).

Membership Category	% of Full Membership
Full Membership (DD)	100
Early career	45
Retired	40
PhD student	22

Table 3: Membership category fees, expressed as a percentage of current full membership (DD) fee.

To preserve these previously agreed category ratios, fees for Early Career, Retired and PhD students have correspondingly been recalculated relative to the proposed flat fee (Table 4).

Membership Category	Fees	
	Existing	Proposed
Full (Flat Fee)	£ 94	£ 112
Early career	£ 42	£ 50
Retired	£ 37.50	£ 45
PhD student	£ 21	£ 25

Table 4: Existing and proposed (2023) fees which (1) incorporate a cost-of-living adjustment, (2) introduce a single full membership fee and (3) retain proportionality between different membership categories. These final figures have been rounded to the nearest £.

C. “Sense-Check” of Proposed Fee Increase

Table 2 indicates that an annual cost-of-living adjustment would have resulted in a total income of £64.8k for 2023 if fees had not been frozen since 2019. Based on the proposed fee structure for 2023, the predicted income will be in the region of £64.4k. Overall, these figures are approximately in agreement, indicating that the proposed change to a flat fee scheme for full members with appropriately revised fees for other membership categories does not introduce an additional financial burden above that which would have arisen from a cost-of-living adjustment.

Proposals

1. The Executive Committee has approved, via an email vote (agreed by a majority of 14 with two members not responding to the request) that the revised fees (Table 4) be presented to the membership of the AGM (to be held on the 4th April 2022) for ratification.
2. If ratified, at the AGM, the new fee structure should be implemented from January 2023.
3. It is proposed that fees should be reviewed at the 2023 AGM when any subsequent increase will be presented to the membership for ratification and implementation from January 2024.
4. It is proposed that fees should be reviewed on an annual basis.

RP Chilcott, Treasurer
February 2022

6. Reports of the UK Register of Toxicologists, Dr Mark Hosford

1. Panel Members:

2021

Colin Davies	(Chair; Member of the BTS)
Mark Hosford	(Vice-Chair; Member of the BTS, RSC Representative)
Lucinda Weir	(Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology; Member of the BTS)
Sandra Costigan	(Member of the BTS)
Britta Gadeberg	(Member of the BTS)
Guy Healing	(Member of the BTS; BTS Representative)
Sally Clode	(Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology; Member of the BTS)
Andy Smith	(Member of the BTS)

2022

Mark Hosford	(Chair; Member of the BTS; RSC Representative)
Britta Gadeberg	(Vice-Chair; Member of the BTS)
Lucinda Weir	(Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology; Member of the BTS)
Guy Healing	(Member of the BTS; BTS Representative)
Sally Clode	(Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology; Member of the BTS)
Andy Smith	(Member of the BTS)
Kristina Ulrich	(Member of the BTS)
Warren Harvey	(Member of the BTS)

2. Secretariat

We are pleased to have the support and expertise of Cara Froggatt, Royal Society of Biology (RSB) who provides excellent support not only to the UKRT Panel, but also to individuals wishing to become registered toxicologists or those wishing to maintain their inclusion in the register. We are also grateful to have Francesca Chantry, Royal Society of Biology (RSB) providing additional administrative support to the panel and applicants. The UKRT secretariat may be contacted via email at toxreg@rsb.org.uk.

3. UKRT Panel Membership and Meetings

I would like to thank my fellow Panel members for their hard work and ongoing commitment to the success of the UKRT. I especially wish to acknowledge Sandra Costigan, who finished her four-year term on the Panel during the year, and Colin Davies who recently retired from the Panel after a commendable 10 years of service, progressively as Ordinary Member, Vice Chair and Chair. Colin successfully and with good humour chaired the Panel for three years, most of which without being able to meet in person. I would also specifically like to thank Britta Gadeberg for recently taking on the role of Vice Chair.

There was a good response to the call for interest in joining the Panel with many more applicants than could be accommodated, and we were very happy to welcome Kristina Ulrich and Warren Harvey to the Panel.

During 2021, the Panel met virtually six times, with three full meetings to consider applications to register or re-register for UKRT membership and a further three interim meetings to discuss UKRT and Panel matters and operation.

4. Register Membership

The Panel has been pleased to note that since it started to offer guidance via the Register website (<https://www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/registers/uk-register-of-toxicologists>), supplemented as necessary with individual advice from the Secretariat and/or Panel members, the standard of applications for initial registration and re-registration has improved.

The current membership of the online Register is 507 (as of 18th February 2022). During 2021, 92 people applied for initial registration, of whom 68 (74%) have so far been accepted. The number of reregistration applications was 53, of which 32 (60%) have so far been accepted.

The aim of the Panel is never to reject an application for either initial registration or re-registration at the first submission. Instead, where information is missing, or clarification required, the application is deferred, and the applicant provided advice (on up to two occasions) as to the additional material required. In the vast majority of cases this ultimately results in the submission of satisfactory information and registration of the applicant. The following table summarises the applications received in 2021:

	Initial Registration	Re-Registration
Number of applications	92	53
Accepted (as of 18th February 2022)	68 (74%)	32 (60%)
Pending (as of 18th February 2022)	22 (24%)	20 (38%)
Rejected	2	1

5. Re-Registration and Continuing Professional Development

The UKRT seeks to attract and retain high calibre professional toxicologists who comply with the membership and retention criteria defined in the [EUROTOX Registration Guidelines](#). Members must apply for re-registration every 5 years, demonstrating that they are still engaged in the practice of toxicology and have pursued an appropriate programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Clarification on the need for compliance with EUROTOX and RSB CPD requirements was provided in 2017:

https://www.rsb.org.uk/images/UKRT_Compliance_with_Governing_Body_CPD_Guidelines_October_2017.pdf.

The UKRT no longer accept submissions that are not made via the [RSB mySociety portal](#). Applicants should update their details on the mySociety database. Should they have any element of their CPD record not captured in the online Learning for Life CPD system, it should be submitted under separate cover to the Secretariat. Learning for Life CPD portfolios are submitted automatically, so after 5 years on the online register, all that is required is to update mySociety and notify the Secretariat of the intention to re-register. For advice or further information, please contact the Secretariat.

Re-registration applications are reviewed independently by two Panel members and, if necessary, discussed by the entire Panel during one of the three full meetings held annually. The CPD portfolio is evaluated thoroughly, with further detail and reflection the most common action requested to ensure that individuals meet the requirements for on-going retention on the Register.

6. Register Fees

Fees for 2022 are unchanged. The initial application fee is £125, and retention and re-registration fees are £50 and £100 respectively.

7. Media

The UKRT encourages interested members to engage with the [Science Media Centre](#), with its mission “to make sure that the best experts are heard by the public when science is in the news”.

8. Bursary for attendance at BTS Annual Congress

As in-person meetings become possible once more, and RSB due to recommence such meetings shortly, the UKRT will re-introduce its bursary to assist a toxicologist added to the UK Register within the preceding year with attendance at the BTS Annual Congress. The bursary is open to anybody who meets this criterion irrespective of the sector in which they are employed. Application forms for next year's bursary are available from the Secretariat and applications are encouraged.

9. Procedure for raising queries regarding the UK Register of Toxicologists

All queries regarding the UK Register of Toxicologists should, in the first instance, be directed to its Secretariat by email (toxreg@rsb.org.uk) or telephone (020 3925 3458).

Mark Hosford, Chair

February 2022.

7. Reports from Toxicology Research, Prof Heather Wallace

The journal has continued to show improvement under a number of measures used in publishing. This includes a significant increase in the Impact Factor (IF) to 3.524; increased full text views; 8 articles with greater than 1000 citations in the last 12 months; increased submissions to > 1100.

The Journal works with 3 Associate Editors who send out the articles for review and all 3 have improved turnaround times particularly in relation to rejection. We are averaging a 70% rejection rate with an average of 33 days. Papers in the Journal from the UK do attract some payback to the BTS so please do consider the Journal for your work.

The Editorial Board consists of experienced researchers who we ask to review manuscripts submitted to the journal. We are refreshing our Editorial Board currently and if anyone is interested in joining the Board, please contact me with your details and reviewing experience.

Review articles influence the IF of any Journal and Toxicology Research has now two review editors who will try to keep our reviews pipeline full. So again, if you are interested in writing a review for the Journal, please contact me.

The way in which IF is being calculated is again changing and the prediction for 2021 IF is lower than the current value but we predict remaining over 3.

The transition to OUP has continued to be a positive experience for the Journal and we strive continually to improve our output. We are now requesting that authors detail their contribution to the manuscript, and we are considering graphical abstracts for all published papers.

Overall, 2021 was a successful year for Toxicology Research.

Heather Wallace, Editor-in-Chief
February 2022

10. Retirements from the Executive Committee and Nominations to the vacant positions on Executive Committee

Retirements:

Prof Shirley Price	President
Dr Carol Courage	General Secretary
Dr Jason Gill	Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee
Dr Phil Botham	Ordinary Member and Chair of Public Communications Steering Team
Dr Tina Mehta	Chair of ETCD
Dr Chris Powell	Immediate Past President and Chair of Nominations Committee
Dr Lesley Reeve	Vice-Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee

The following Officers and Ordinary Members are not retiring:

Prof Rob Chilcott	Treasurer
Prof Shirley	Immediate Past President
Prof Brian Lake	Vice President
Dr Lesley Reeve	Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee
Dr Fiona Sewell	Ordinary Member
Dr John Thompson	Ordinary Member
Dr David Mason	Ordinary Member
Dr Emma Marczylo	Ordinary Member

The meeting will consider the Election of the Executive Committee as follows:

Election of Officers:

The following persons, being eligible, are nominated by the Executive Committee for election as Officers for the period 2021-2023:

Dr Phil Botham as Vice President

Dr Ian Copple as Vice Chair of SSC

Election of ordinary Members (2 positions available)

The following persons being eligible, are standing for election as Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee for the period 2022-2025:

Dr Bryony Ross as Ordinary Member

Hazem Matar as Ordinary Member

The Membership may put forward additional nominations. A nomination form is enclosed together with a Summary of the Articles of Association relating to nominations and elections.

Nominations must be returned to Dr Carol Courage, General Secretary of the BTS, at the BTS Administrative Office via email to BTS@execbs.com, by:

17.00 on Mon 14th March 2022

Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGM 2020

Name of Candidate: _____
Occupation: _____
Address: _____

*Please delete as appropriate

I consent to my being nominated for election as
An Ordinary Member of the Executive Committee*

Proposing Member _____
Address _____
Signed _____ Date _____

Proposing Member _____
Address _____
Signed _____ Date _____

Proposing Member _____
Address _____
Signed _____ Date _____

Proposing Member _____
Address _____
Signed _____ Date _____

Proposing Member _____
Address _____
Signed _____ Date _____

Proposing Member _____
Address _____
Signed _____ Date _____

10. Ratification of appointments to the Executive Committee

Individual being proposed by the Executive Committee as

Officers of the Society:

Application for Vice President - endorsed by Executive Committee

Dr Phil Botham, Syngenta



Dr Phil Botham is currently Principal Science Advisor for Syngenta's Global Product Safety organisation, based at the company's international research centre at Jealott's Hill. From 2013 to 2017, he was the Global Head of Product Safety for Syngenta, managing a team of over 300 experts in human and environmental safety based mainly in the UK, North America and Brazil. Previously he held a number of senior leadership roles in Syngenta and its legacy companies in the area of human safety and toxicology, from 1980 until 2007 at the Central Toxicology Laboratory in Alderley Park and from 2007 at Jealott's Hill. As his role at Syngenta is now part-time, Phil is also able to act as a leadership consultant and as a member of the leadership team of the UK safety science consultancy, Regulatory Science Associates. He has a broad background in chemical and agrochemical human safety but has specific technical expertise in acute toxicity, sensitisation and immunotoxicology, including new approach methods, and also the potential role for environmental exposure to chemicals in Parkinson's Disease.

Phil received his PhD in biochemistry from the University of Hull in 1978 and his BSc in biochemistry from the University of Bangor in 1975. He has published more than 140 peer-reviewed papers and was appointed as a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2001 in recognition of his publication record in the field of toxicology.

He was the chair of the Crop Life International (CLI) Human Health Team for three years until 2020 and chaired the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) Toxicology Expert Group for over 10 years until 2019; he continues to support CLI and ECPA (now called Crop Life Europe) as a senior technical advisor. Since 2017 he has been a member of the European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC) Scientific Committee, having previously been a chair or member of several ECETOC Task Forces. From 2009 to 2014 he was on the UK National Centre for the 3Rs in Research (NC3Rs) Board, and from 1993 to 2002 he was a member of the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) Scientific Advisory Committee. He continues to act as a referee for many toxicology journals.

In 2017 Phil was appointed as a member of the UK Food Standards Agency Committee on Toxicity (CoT). He is now in his second term and has recently been a member of the sub-group of the CoT and Committee on Carcinogenicity (CoC) on the Synthesis and Integration of Epidemiological and Toxicological Evidence in chemical risk assessment (SETE). Since 2020, Phil has been a member of the

Steering Committee for the Toxicology Forum initiative on assessing chemical carcinogenicity hazard identification, classification, and risk assessment.

Phil has been a member of the British Toxicology Society for over 30 years and was appointed a Fellow of the BTS in 2006. He has made a number of presentations at BTS meetings and supported many presentations and posters by members of his Syngenta team. He continues to act as the BTS Ambassador within Syngenta. Since 2017 he has chaired the BTS Public Communications Steering Team which is responsible for the commissioning and peer-review of Public Statements which are published on the BTS website as a regular activity of the Society. He is also leads a BTS team addressing the Society's need to increase its profile with the media and a second team looking at the UK skills and training gaps in regulatory toxicology. Phil is a member of the Society of Toxicology and attends and presents at both SoT and Eurotox meetings.

Application for Vice-Chair of the Scientific Subcommittee

Dr Ian Copple, University of Liverpool.



I have been a member of the BTS for 15 years, and I am currently a Senior Lecturer and Acting Deputy Head of the Dept. of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, University of Liverpool. I lead a group of five PhD students and two post-docs focussed on understanding cellular stress responses (particularly those directed by the cytoprotective transcription factor Nrf2) and exploiting this knowledge to improve the prediction of drug toxicity and treat disease. I am also the academic lead of the drug-induced liver injury work package within the EU Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 TransQST consortium. I have authored 34 peer reviewed publications, which have received more than 2300 citations to date (H-index 22). My publications have involved collaborations with academics at local, national and international levels, along with clinicians and industry partners, evidencing the breadth of my scientific network. I have received a total of £2.4M in research funding to date, including £1.3M as principal investigator.

I have given invited presentations at several national and international meetings, including the BTS Annual Congress 2017 in Liverpool, Eurotox Congress 2018 in Brussels, and the 5th Environmental Response Symposium 2019 in Sendai, Japan. This year I will co-chair symposia on Nrf2 at the British Pharmacology Society 'Pharmacology 2022' Meeting in Liverpool and the International Congress of Toxicology 2022 in Maastricht. I have extensive experience of reviewing manuscripts (for journals including Nature Communications, Hepatology, Kidney International) and funding applications (I am currently a member of the NC3Rs grant assessment panel, and have acted as a reviewer for funders including MRC, Wellcome Trust and the Dutch Research Council).

I have supervised five MRes students and five PhD students to completion of their degrees) to date (100 % success rate. The BTS has generously supported my career, most notably through the award of the 2018 Early Career Investigator Prize. I also received the 2011 Norman Aldridge Travelling Fellowship (allowing me to conduct post-doctoral training at Leiden Universiteit, The Netherlands) and

the 2013 Gordon Gibson Memorial Travelling Fellowship (enabling my participation in the Gordon Research Conference on Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity in New Hampshire, USA). I would now like to build on my previous role on the BTS Early Career Toxicologists Subcommittee (2010-2013) and repay some of this support by contributing to the work of the Scientific Subcommittee as Vice-chair. I believe that the scientific experience and leaderships skills detailed above would add value to the Subcommittee, and the Society's goal of driving excellence in toxicology.

Applicants for Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee:

Dr Hazam Matar, University of Hertfordshire



Dr Matar currently holds an Associate Professorship role within University of Hertfordshire's Toxicology Research Group. He obtained his PhD (2012) from the University of Surrey for his research on mitigating the dermal absorption of chemical warfare agents. This work was sponsored by the Home Office and Department of Health, performed in collaboration with the Health Protection Agency and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). Prior to this, he completed an MSc in toxicology at the University of Surrey and a BSc (Hons) in pharmacology at the University of Liverpool. Since joining the University of Hertfordshire (2012), he has continued his research developing countermeasures against toxic chemicals and has contributed towards national and international policies for responding to chemical incidents.

Dr Matar is currently involved in several projects sponsored by government, academic and commercial partners which are within the discipline of applied toxicology. The majority of his research is focused on dermal countermeasures and protection against hazardous chemicals. He often works with a range of industries to evaluate and optimise the efficacy or safety of their products. He supervises MSc and PhD students and often lectures on the MSc toxicology course at the University of Birmingham. He has also featured as one of the 'Faces of Toxicology' by the Royal Society of Chemistry, which is an initiative to attract people to the field and to demonstrate the wide applicability of toxicology. He has presented at several national and international conferences, as well as having published a number of peer reviewed articles and book chapters.

Whilst he has not previously participated in the BTS in any official capacity, he originally joined as a student in 2007 and is a member of the UK and EU register of toxicologists. He can draw upon his broad and transferrable experiences and skills working with a range of organisations to contribute towards the organisation and the strategic goals of the BTS.

Dr Bryony Ross, Blue Frog Scientific Ltd



I am a skilled scientist with a proven track record in toxicology, risk science and scientific communication. Throughout my career, passion for responsible science, development the 3Rs principles and good scientific communication has remained central. Working within academic, private-sector and consultancy environments, I have well refined skills in practical science, scientific writing & communication, risk assessment, governance & regulation, web editing, people leadership, project management/direction and editorial work.

I am currently a Senior Consultant within regulatory consultancy Blue Frog Scientific, working as one of their lead technical toxicologists & as project director for complex queries across multiple regulatory frameworks. I also co-lead the Human Health team, holding responsibility for driving business development of the company's speciality work on nanomaterials alongside line managing/mentoring other toxicologists. Day to day, I oversee the company's coverage of mammalian developmental and reproductive toxicity endpoints, endocrine disruption, and act as monitor for higher tier toxicology studies. I contribute to development of data gap analyses and more complex integrated approaches to testing and assessment (IATAs), using both established and, where possible, New and Alternative Methods (NAMs). I also hold regularly offer strategic support for clients responding to compliance checks, substance evaluations (CoRAP), or assessments as part of active or product registration/renewals.

Prior to this, I was a Doctoral researcher at Edinburgh Napier University working on the toxicity and risk of nanotechnologies to male reproductive health. Alongside contributing to an emerging area of science and developing new methods relevant to appraisal of reproductive toxicity within a regulatory context, the role also allowed me to develop further my critical thinking & communication skills, leadership and teaching skills through supervision of postgraduate researchers.

Over the previous 10 years I was a Toxicologist at the Institute of Occupational Medicine where I played leading roles in numerous projects dedicated to both the furtherment and sound communication of science on complex topics such as emerging technologies, regulatory science and toxicology. The work afforded me a sound base in risk science, toxicology, horizon scanning, governance, regulatory affairs and scientific communication. During this time I was fortunate to be involved in multiple initiatives which both drove forward scientific knowledge of nanotoxicology (e.g. the MARINA and NanoReg FP7/Horizon 2020 programmes) but also directly influenced guidance for Regulatory applications (including establishment of ECHA's Appendix to Chapter R.7a for nanomaterials).

Believing firmly that not only balance between work and life is key to success, but that it can also be a platform through which to positively influence people out with the workplace, I also work ad hoc as a Writer & International Trainer for group fitness specialist Les Mills International. Here, I contribute scientific & educational content, design & deliver training and continued development to fitness professionals worldwide. The role compliments my 'day job' perfectly, allowing me to use transferable

skills to influence positively a hugely varied audience, and from whom I in turn learn to improve my skills as an educator and communicator.