

IUIS Council Member Description

Personal description by the Candidate for 2019-2022 Council:

Ann Ager is Professor of Cellular Immunity and Immunotherapy in the Division of Infection and Immunity and theme lead for Inflammation in the Systems Immunity Research Institute at Cardiff University, Wales, UK. She has recently been appointed as Chair of Forum and a member of the Board of Trustees for the British Society for Immunology (BSI) from 2019 until 2022.

Ann gained a PhD in vascular biology from the University of Cambridge and her postdoctoral studies at Harvard and the Babraham Institute, UK, focused on vascular inflammation. She then moved to the Department of Immunology, University of Manchester, as an MRC Senior Fellow where she started working on what became a long-standing interest in how T lymphocytes move around the body to mount protective immunity. This was followed by appointment as a Senior Scientist at the MRC National Institute for Medical Research, London, before moving to Cardiff University in 2007. Her studies of T lymphocyte migration during virus infection and cancer have generated a novel approach to improving immunity by boosting T lymphocyte homing. In addition, her team's new area of research is investigating the regulation of T lymphocyte interactions with the blood brain barrier and how this may contribute to neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease.

As an IUIS Council member, Ann will bring 30 years' experience of working on academic and clinically-related immunological research in Universities and Research Council funded Institutes in the UK and the US. She will also bring her experience of leading on training and mentoring national and international postgraduate students and early career researchers. As past President of the UK Cell Adhesion Society, Ann has worked with academia and industry nationally and internationally to advance excellence in scholarship. The realisation that altered immunity underlies many common disorders, not traditionally viewed as immune-mediated, such as Alzheimer's disease, has increased awareness of immunology both within and outside the biomedical community. Having seen great public interest in immunology through her participation in nationally-led initiatives such as Soapbox Science and radio interviews, her experience has taught her that patient groups and lay committees are some of the strongest advocates and supporters of academic and clinical research funded by taxpayers and medical charities. The emergence of fake news emphasises the important role that adherent societies of the IUIS have in promoting engagement, participation and interactions to advance excellence in scholarship, research and clinical practice for the benefit of human and animal health and welfare.

As a representative of the BSI, one of the oldest, largest and most active immunology societies in the world and one of the largest in Europe, and newly appointed chair of the BSI's Forum or 'think tank', Ann will be able to exchange ideas and best practice within the global community represented by IUIS. The ever changing political and financial environments we find ourselves in requires proactive, robust leadership to promote the influence of the IUIS on important international and national stakeholders to promote excellence in immunology.



Candidate for 2019-2022 Council: **Ann Ager**