

30<sup>th</sup> November 2022



Dear Irish Society for Immunology Colleagues,

I am writing to you today to share some important updates and exciting plans for the ISI over the coming years. I am honoured to have been elected as the next ISI President and I would like to start by thanking the outgoing president, Dr. Annie Curtis for her leadership, hard work and dedication to the role and for continuing to progress the great work of previous presidents in moving the ISI towards a professional and internationally respected national society. I have served on the Executive Committee of the ISI since 2015, as Treasurer and then Secretary, so I hope to build upon my predecessors work and continue to develop our growing society into one that we are all proud of and a society that represents you on a national and international front.

Dr. Aideen Ryan (University of Galway) will take up the role of secretary and I wish her the very best in this role. It is important that we have representation from across the island of Ireland and this is reflected in our Executive Committee makeup, as can be seen on our website ([www.irishimmunology.ie](http://www.irishimmunology.ie)). Dr. Michelle Armstrong will continue as Vice-President and Dr. Aisling Dunne will continue as Treasurer, and I would like to thank them both for their dedication and hard-work.

From the 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the British Society for Immunology, one of Europe's largest societies, will hold its annual meeting in Belfast for the first time. The ISI will be involved in many aspects of this meeting and as such we will not be holding our annual meeting in 2023. We strongly encourage our members to attend what promises to be an excellent meeting in Belfast.

Our plan for 2023 will be to host another Early Career Researcher's Workshop, which proved hugely successful last year. The majority of our members are early career researchers, so we feel it is hugely important that we address and support their needs as a growing society. We will also return to hosting our ISI Annual Award for Immunology and associated public lecture in person. These awards recognise the outstanding contributions made by Irish Immunologists at home and abroad. We will continue to innovate and lead the way by offering educational and childcare bursaries where possible to attend key immunology meetings in line with our society mission goals.

As many of you know, the ISI was successful in bidding to host the European Congress of Immunology in Dublin from the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> September 2024, with Prof. Ed Lavelle as the Congress President. Members of the ISI will play a key role in organising this large international conference, which hopes to attract upwards of 3000 delegates to our shores. This is a significant achievement as it will be the largest Immunology conference ever held in Ireland and is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your world class immunology research.

I am truly honoured to have been elected as President and look forward to working with the talented and hard-working group of scientists on the Executive Committee, the Outreach Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee and the young ISI committee. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy few years for the ISI. On behalf of myself and the Executive Committee, we wish you every success with your ongoing research.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Lysaght".

Dr. Joanne Lysaght,

ISI President