



Dear Irish Society for Immunology Members,

We wish to share some news regarding the Society and plans for the coming year. After what has been, and continues to be a very challenging time for all of us, I think we all agree that the Immunology community in Ireland has contributed significantly in the quest to understand this virus and bring this pandemic to an end. Many of us are performing research to understand the impact of this virus on our immune system, improve vaccine responses and identify new pathways or therapeutics which may be useful in managing COVID-19. Many of us have engaged with all types of media to explain the science and research to the general public, and to provide the public with much needed hope that help is on the way. I believe it is probably fair to say that we all have a far greater appreciation of the importance of the work that we do. Therefore, we continue to achieve the ISI mission which is to promote the study and research into Immunology relating to health and disease in Ireland.

Due to COVID-19, we had to postpone our annual Public Lecture Award and Annual Meeting last year. This year the European Congress of Immunology meeting ECI 2021 is due to take place in Belgrade in September (<https://eci2021.org>). As such, all member societies of EFIS (which includes ISI) are asked not to hold their annual meeting in order to support and promote attendance at ECI 2021. In place of the annual meeting, our hope is to organise a full day workshop specifically for PhD and postdocs to present their work in November 2021, more details of this to follow.

Finally, as you might be aware, the ISI led by Prof. Ed Lavelle along with Keynote Professional Conference Organisers (PCO), the Convention Centre and Bord Failte won the bid to host ECI in Dublin in 2024. This was our third attempt to win this bid, and benefitted from the first attempt led by Prof. Aideen Long and Prof. Christine Loscher. This is a significant achievement as it will be the largest Immunology conference ever hosted in Ireland. Members of our executive committee including Prof. Ed Lavelle (ISI President) and Dr. Beth Brint (ISI Secretary) will now assume roles in organising this conference. As such we elected a new President and restructured the ISI Executive Committee, which now includes Dr. Michelle Armstrong as Vice-President. I am honoured to have been elected as President and delighted to have such a wonderful group of scientists serve on the Executive Committee, Outreach Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee (see membership in attached ppt).

We look forward to a brighter year in 2021 and beyond, and wish you success in your research endeavours,

Yours sincerely

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