

Editorial

Discovery Immunology, a new Open Access journal from the British Society for Immunology

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Immunology is important. The immunology community is continuously evolving to overcome emerging challenges, developing and expanding our understanding of the immune system and harnessing that knowledge for innovations that result in better health for all. We are driven both by our interest in the immune system's intricate, multilayered, and interdependent mechanisms, and by our desire to unlock the secrets needed to prevent illness, and to protect and treat people facing evolving and emerging threats from infections, inflammatory conditions, and other diseases.

Scientific journals play a key role in informing scientists and the public about new developments, in immunology and many other fields. The world of scientific publishing is changing rapidly, with a welcome move to Open Access. This enables readers all over the world to access cutting-edge research for free, removing barriers between scientists and the people who wish to be informed about their works. The British Society for Immunology (BSI) supports this movement, and as such is launching a brand-new Open Access journal, *Discovery Immunology*.

Discovery Immunology will publish high-quality articles describing novel mechanisms controlling the immune response. These studies may include data obtained from any species, including humans, mice, model organisms, or animals of veterinary interest. The articles we publish will frequently describe data giving insight into basic aspects of cellular and molecular immunology. We will also very much welcome submission of articles describing discovery science with relevance to infection biology, inflammation, or immune-mediated pathology. We are also keen to encourage submissions from immunologists working in industrial or pharmaceutical settings, where the understanding of immunological mechanisms is increasingly investigated to underpin the development of novel therapeutics. Our aim is for *Discovery Immunology* to become an invaluable resource to the immunology community, providing readers with trusted new insights into the workings of the immune system.

We will accept submissions in a variety of formats, particularly: original research papers containing data not previously

published in a peer-reviewed journal; review papers providing insights into important aspects of immunology written by experts in the field; commentaries and perspectives, providing novel insight and opinions on recent advancements in the field. We will also consider short reports that describe significant advances in a focused area of immunology. These short reports may describe areas of research that are especially time-sensitive, so that it may be inappropriate or unnecessary to perform additional experimental work. For details on peer review, article types and the submission process, please refer to our author guidelines.

We are launching *Discovery Immunology* with the support of a prestigious and dynamic team of Senior Editors, who will graciously provide their expertise and experience and play integral parts in developing the journal and guiding authors and reviewers. These Senior Editors are all full-time immunologists working at the highest levels of research. All are committed, as am I, to working with the BSI to bring in the best possible articles, and to maintain the highest level of editorial standards. The team of Senior Editors includes Awen Gallimore (Cardiff University, UK), Florent Ginhoux (A*STAR, Singapore), Emily Gwyer-Findlay (University of Edinburgh, UK), Kathy McCoy (University of Calgary, Canada), Francesco Quintana (Harvard Medical School, USA), and Meera Ramanujan (Aro Biotherapeutics, USA). This excellent team provides the journal with an almost-bottomless resource of experience in immunology, from innate and adaptive responses, through infectious disease, inflammation, neuroimmunology, to complex *in vivo* interactions with microbes, alongside a deep understanding of the most up-to-date techniques and technologies.

Discovery Immunology will be published through a close partnership between the BSI and our publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP). This partnership has recently blossomed; this will be the third journal published through this collaboration. *Discovery Immunology* will join *Clinical & Experimental Immunology*, and *Immunotherapy Advances* as the latest member of the family of BSI/OUP journals. The scopes of the three journals have been developed through close and collaborative communication between their Editors-in-Chief

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to offer a home for papers from the widest range of immunologists, from those performing fundamental basic research, through more translational work, to studies of potential therapeutics and human clinical trials. *Discovery Immunology* will publish work describing novel immunological mechanisms, *Clinical & Experimental Immunology* offers a home for research studies in translational and clinical immunology, underpinned by novel mechanistic insight [1]. *Immunotherapy Advances*, launched in 2020, is a fully Open Access journal that publishes papers describing advances in our understanding of therapeutic manipulation of the immune system [2].

Discovery Immunology, like its sibling journals, derives great benefits from being a part of the BSI. At a vital practical level, the BSI provides an excellent and well-managed Editorial Office to ensure the work of the journal runs smoothly, and a brilliant and active marketing team that makes sure the research is visible and reaching the right audiences. Beyond this, the BSI enables the journal to directly respond to the needs of its members and immunologists worldwide.

As a focal hub for the immunology community, the BSI supports immunologists to drive forward scientific discovery and application, while spreading the word about the health benefits that immunology research delivers. The BSI works to nurture a cohesive and interconnected immunology ecosystem that supports collaboration between sectors and disciplines through its meetings and education programmes as well as providing sector-leading careers support to attract and retain talent in immunology at all levels. The relationship between the BSI and its journals is highly symbiotic. *Discovery Immunology* contributes in many ways, by engaging editors, reviewers, and authors in the collaborative process of publishing high-quality papers, by providing an Open Access platform for peer-reviewed scientific discoveries, and by offering BSI members discounted Open Access charges. In turn, the Society contributes by connecting the journal with its network of energetic and committed immunologists, and by highlighting and promoting published articles to the global immunology community and the wider world. Strengthened by this relationship with the BSI, *Discovery Immunology* will generate vital funds that allow the Society to continue to deliver its essential activities. The BSI, as one of the largest and most active immunological societies in the world, is committed to catalysing change through the dissemination of cutting-edge science and supporting the immunology community in driving scientific discovery and making a positive impact on health.

I am excited to be the Founding Editor-in-Chief of *Discovery Immunology*. With the journal's focus on the mechanisms controlling the immune response, with our fantastic editorial teams, and with strong support from both the BSI and our publishers, we aim to provide an open, responsive, and collaborative environment for authors, reviewers, and readers to publish and read high-quality up-to-date immunology. There is a lot of hard work ahead, but with these strong foundations I am confident that we will quickly develop the journal and establish a strong international reputation. This is an important time for the immunology, with new discoveries rapidly being translated into improvements in health. I would like *Discovery Immunology* to make meaningful contributions to this progress by presenting, discussing, and highlighting these discoveries.

We are now seeking submissions for the inaugural issue of *Discovery Immunology* and would very much value contributions from immunologists worldwide. We pride ourselves on offering a smooth and efficient submission process. We accept open-format submissions and will respond quickly to enquiries. Once submitted, your article will be assessed by myself and our expert Senior Editors. If it falls within our scope, it will be assessed for quality and sent to appropriate reviewers, many of whom serve on our Editorial Board and are members of the BSI. If it is not in scope for *Discovery Immunology*, we will help you to decide whether your submission may be more appropriate for one of our other BSI journals. Decisions will be made fairly and delivered quickly, and reviewers will provide constructive feedback. All the editors at *Discovery Immunology* are active scientists who understand that the process of publishing papers can be stressful for authors. We aim to work with you, to keep you informed, to respond to queries, and to help make your submission as smooth as possible. Finally, it is important to remember that by publishing your paper in *Discovery Immunology* you will not only be ensuring it reaches the widest possible readership, but you will be supporting the vital work of the BSI.

References

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