

ESID Clinical Working Party Chair Application.

Mini Biography



I am a committed and enthusiastic member of ESID and Secretary of the Clinical Working Group. I work as a Consultant Clinical Immunologist and Honorary Professor at the University Hospital for Wales and am Clinical Lead in the Immunodeficiency Centre for Wales and Co-Director of the Hub Immunology Diagnostic Laboratory for Wales.

I trained in Immunology and Allergy at the Royal Free Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, the John Radcliffe in Oxford and Westmead Hospital in Sydney. My PhD in Cellular Immunology at National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Mill Hill was on Langerhans cell migration and I have a particular interest in the use of immunoglobulin and its mechanism of action both in primary immunodeficiency and at high dose as an immunomodulator.

I am currently on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Clinical Immunology, Clinical and Experimental Immunology and am Immunology Section Co-Editor of Current Opinion in Allergy and Clinical Immunology with Maite de la Morena and Immunology Editor of the Journal of Clinical Pathology.

My research interests include investigator initiated studies and clinical trials, guideline development in PID and SID, commercial studies into new therapeutic products, alongside studies to improve the laboratory diagnosis and management of primary and secondary immunodeficiency and allergy. Recent studies have focused on the development of new screening strategies for antibody deficiency which forms the largest group of PID patients aimed at reducing diagnostic delay and associated morbidity. This work has led to the National introduction of screening for antibody deficiency across Wales with similar projects being undertaken in Italy, Brazil and Turkey. Laboratory studies are aimed at improving diagnostic tools, also for resource poor settings and the development of accredited molecular testing for primary immunodeficiency diseases.

Motivation.

Progress in rare disease such as PID is not made in isolation but in collaboration nationally, internationally and across disciplines and is facilitated by the societies and structures we have established to help us in our efforts. I have served in wide ranging roles in National and European bodies dedicated to developing clinical immunology practice and services including

- A founder member and Chair of the British Society for Immunology Clinical Immunology and Allergy Section (CIAS)
- ERN RITA – Clinical Guidelines Working Group – Co-Chair

- Past elected Steering Group member of the UK Primary Immunodeficiency Network (UKPIN) and a member of the guidelines committee
- ESID 2020 Scientific Committee member
- UKPIN National Meeting organising committee member working to develop the content of these important National meetings
- E-GLILD.net member <https://www.ersnet.org/research/e-glildnet---a-european-granulomatous-lymphocytic-interstitial-lung-disease-network>
- EAACI Immunology Board member where I have fostered recognition of the importance of immunodeficiency disorders to allergy specialists across Europe
- As a Rare Disease UK Board member I have advocated government bodies to ensure patients with conditions such as primary immunodeficiencies are not forgotten and ensured access to up to date safe and effective treatments directed from centres of excellence but delivered as close to home as possible
- As Immunodeficiency patient group medical advisor I have supported the patient's organization and used patient feedback to improve the Immunodeficiency Service
- I am also very committed to educating the next generation of Clinical Immunologists acting as Clinical Immunology training program director for Wales and as a Royal College of Pathologists Immunology examiner

All of us within ESID have our interest and enthusiasm ignited by the discoveries of novel genes and the underlying new biological insights which underpin some of the immunodeficiency diseases we encounter. However, there remains the urgent need to optimally translate these findings into widespread and uniform clinical best practice across Europe. ESID as a whole and the Clinical Working Party in particular has a wonderful opportunity to do this, particularly within the proposed European Reference Network for rare immune diseases, so that we can truly deliver our responsibility to the clinician to help them answer their patient related questions – as to the best approach to diagnosis and investigation, how to ensure the optimal treatments and monitoring of progress and ultimately uniformly excellent outcomes right across Europe for every primary immunodeficiency.

I feel the ESID Clinical Working Party has a key central role to play in this translational work with a specific emphasis on the development of peer reviewed published guidelines for primary immunodeficiency diseases. To this end I have been collaborating with funding bodies and have secured pledges of unrestricted educational grants to support the process. This has led to an international collaborative effort resulting in the publication of the ESID Guideline for Complement Deficiency (1). The Clinical Working party is uniquely well placed to coordinate and develop further guidelines with experts from our society, working in disease specific writing groups. In addition, I would plan to introduce greater content for secondary immunodeficiency into the ESID meetings as this complex patient group is growing and makes a major component of the workload of Clinical Immunologists who are well placed in terms of PID experience and laboratory support to improve care for these patients.

I am passionately committed to these proposals, working with international colleagues to make the guidelines as broadly useful as possible and I very much hope you will join in on these initiatives and support my nomination so that these exciting opportunities for our patients, members and our society can be fully realised.

1. Brodzki N, Frazer-Abel A, Grumach AS, Kirschfink M, Litzman J, Perez E, et al. European Society for Immunodeficiencies (ESID) and European Reference Network on Rare Primary Immunodeficiency, Autoinflammatory and Autoimmune Diseases (ERN RITA) Complement Guideline: Deficiencies, Diagnosis, and Management. *J Clin Immunol.* 2020;40(4):576-91.