



## Bio: ESID Junior Country Representative for the UK

*Katie Townsend*

I am an enthusiastic motivated ESID junior based in London, UK. I am just over half-way through my clinical training in Allergy, Clinical and Laboratory Immunology, and currently working towards a PhD. I am keen to represent UK ESID juniors between 2024-2026, with a commitment to education and prior experience that will support me well for this role.

### Experience

- **Education:** I co-led a regional immunology educational programme for trainees based in the Southeast of the UK between 2021-2022. We performed a gap analysis of educational needs for our trainees, mapped teaching topics to our new training curriculum, and were able to work together to engage a diverse selection of speakers with positive feedback.
- **ESID:** Since 2022 I have been supporting clinical guideline development for the diagnosis of CVID as a junior representative for the ESID clinical working party, supervised by Professors Klaus Warnatz and Siobhan Burns. This has involved leading a systematic literature review alongside another ESID junior, followed by organising and chairing regular meetings with a team of worldwide experts, allowing me to better understand processes within the ESID CWP and develop rapport with international ESID members.
- **Leadership & event planning:** I am the junior representative on our UK immunology conference organising committee (BSI-CIPN, formally UKPIN). Here I have been able to represent trainee views regarding conference themes that would best address our educational needs, advocate for diversity in our invited speakers, and organise a funded pre-conference gathering for trainee clinicians and scientists nationwide to meet.

### Proposal

- ESID's year-round learning opportunities, including summer/winter schools, journal clubs and grand rounds, offer excellent educational value alongside the chance to foster international relations. I am keen to contribute to the ongoing development of these initiatives through this post, canvassing feedback and applying personal experience for their continued improvement.
- I am also interested in exploring mentor/mentee opportunities between ESID members as a means to cultivate professional development, allow juniors to consider career progression early, and broaden our networks.
- Finally, I would relish the chance to put forward and deliver other ESID junior members' suggested ideas to further develop the available learning opportunities.

For the past year, I have been working on a PhD whilst continuing ad hoc clinical work. I have found this period out of clinical training has provided me more flexibility, allowing me to dedicate time to leadership roles. In the context of this job's responsibility, I would focus my attention accordingly to deliver the work required.