

Strategy Review:

A three year strategy 2016-2018



**BIOCHEMICAL
SOCIETY**



**PORTLAND
PRESS**

Our mission

The Biochemical Society exists for the advancement of the molecular and cellular biosciences, both as an academic discipline and to promote its impact on areas of science including biotechnology, agriculture, and medicine. Biochemistry helps to play a key role in tackling global issues such as improving lifelong health, treatment of disease, biotechnology and food security. We achieve our mission through our publications and journals, scientific meetings, educational activities, policy work, awards and grants to scientists and students. The Biochemical Society is the largest UK discipline-based learned society in the biosciences with 6500 members.

Developing our strategy

Trustees of the Biochemical Society met with the Senior Management Team on 26 November to review progress in the previously stated Five Year Strategy (November 2013), to refocus and restate retained objectives in-line with the current sector environment, and to identify potential new objectives to better serve the membership, sector and community at large. The following key action points summarise the outcomes of these discussions.

Following from this Three Year Strategy, a central implementation plan will be developed in the first quarter of 2016.

Summary of key action points

Bringing together molecular bioscientists

- Ensure a strong future for the molecular biosciences through engaging in strategic collaborative projects with sister societies
- Review membership offering to support our members at all stages of their careers
- Increase membership engagement through more targeted communications and members' events
- Increase the number of members from the industrial, biotechnology and academic drug discovery sectors, providing a platform for collaboration, facilitating innovation and supporting links between academia and industry
- Continue to develop international links and networks supporting scientists to share their work on a global scale; evaluate our offering for members in geographical areas of strength for the molecular biosciences
- Foster diversity and equal opportunity for entry and progression in our discipline, including through support of Daphne Jackson Fellowships, Society Grants and Bursaries, and ensuring equality of opportunity in Society-run events and schemes

Supporting the next generation of biochemists

- Develop educational events and training days to facilitate the sharing of expertise and ensure a strong skills base
- Support teachers and HE educators to develop their skills and knowledge and foster links between schools, academia and industry
- Provide careers support and information for students and early career researchers and promote the opportunities offered by biochemistry and molecular biology through education and training from age 15 upwards
- Create online content to support the teaching and understanding of biochemistry

Promoting and sharing knowledge

- Evaluate the positioning of Society conferences, in particular Harden Conferences and Hot Topic Meetings to offer greatest value to the community and greatest contribution to the advancement of science
- Restructure Theme Panels and review operational procedures and processes in line with scientific meetings strategy, Society goals and promoting synergies
- Seek to engage with meetings in the molecular biosciences where appropriate, with a view to collaboration rather than offering sponsorship
- Review publication of abstracts from Society meetings to maximize the circulation of scientific information
- Ensure that Portland Press is a leading publisher in the life sciences, continuing to publish internationally recognized quality life science research
- Develop the Portland Press portfolio to offer a home for every paper published within the molecular biosciences, growing to encompass the broader life sciences
- Develop a journal portfolio including contract publishing of life science titles
- Develop ambitious targets for promoting and sharing scientific research, providing sustainable support for the advancement of science, including through collaborative activities
- Support students and researchers to communicate their work to the public and promote public engagement with biochemistry and the molecular biosciences

Promoting the importance of our discipline and through this, the broader life sciences

- Establish 'Biochemical Society Strategy for Molecular Biosciences' to be implemented in line with Governance Review outcomes
- Continue to channel expertise from the biochemistry and molecular bioscience community into the policy work of the Royal Society of Biology
- Engage Society members with Biochemical Society and Royal Society of Biology science policy activities
- Support the Royal Society of Biology at the level of 1% of turnover per annum for three years
- Continue to fund shared staff in science policy with the Royal Society of Biology over the next three years

Ensure sustainable support for the advancement of science

- Use the Society's reserves policy to pump-prime Biochemical Society and Portland Press projects to the level of £2million over the period 2013 to 2017
- Continue the review of IT infrastructure and staffing overseen by an external consultant and chaired by a Trustee
- Within the period of the strategy, following the recent considerable realignment of business processes and structures, including the closure of Portland Customer Services and sufficient completion of all systems and business technology projects, commission an external organisation to undertake a comprehensive review of the Finance and Accounting function of the Biochemical Society
- Review reserves policy for presentation of alternatives to the Executive Committee in the first half of 2016. Potential possibilities should be linked to strategies for reinvestment in reserves and provision for likely pension fund deficit. To be reviewed in three years' time