



Better lung health **for all**

Making an Impact

BTS Impact Report 2021-22

The British Thoracic Society IMPACT REPORT 2021-22

The British Thoracic Society (BTS) is the UK's foremost respiratory professional society. We are a membership organisation which exists to improve the care and health outcomes of people who have lung disease. We do this by harnessing the experience, knowledge, skills and contributions of our members, supported by a small staff team, and by involving people with lung disease in the development of our advice about service development and clinical management.

Our vision is: Better lung health for all

To achieve this:

- We champion excellence in the diagnosis, treatment and care of people with lung disease and support those delivering it.
- We seek to influence national and local policy and services to help reduce the health and economic burden of lung disease.
- We strive to work in effective partnership with individuals and organisations across the NHS and beyond who share our vision.

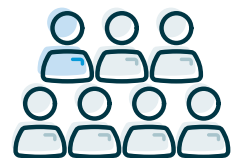
Celebrating 40 years of BTS

This year marked the 40th anniversary since the British Thoracic Society was formed and we continued to support our members to rise to the challenges facing the NHS, not least of which were the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery of services. We did this through a broad programme of work, and this report contains highlights of our key activity in 2021-22.

The Society was established in June 1982, following the dissolution of the British Thoracic Association and the Thoracic Society, with a vision to improve lung health for all. This has guided our work ever since and the timeline opposite sets out the most significant milestones etc.

BTS membership evolving over time

- Our membership grew to 4254 members in June 2022, including 290 nurses and almost 400 allied health professionals. In 1982, the year the Society was founded, all 500 members were doctors.
- Since 2015, we have offered BTS members a preferential rate for membership of the European Respiratory Society and now have over 2450 members with dual membership status.



4254

members in June 2022

In 2021, BTS welcomed its first ever President from a non-medical background, Rachael Moses, a specialised respiratory and critical care physiotherapist.

June 1982**BTS is incorporated**

Inaugural BTS Summer Meeting.
 Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick becomes
 the BTS first president.
 BTS starts with 500 members.

Dec 1983

First BTS Winter Meeting.

1990

BTS publishes the first Asthma Guideline in
 collaboration with RCP/King's Fund and
 National Asthma Campaign. This will become
 the Society's most prolific series of guidelines.

1996

The BTS medal
 is established.

2001

BTS publishes the landmark study *The Burden of
 Lung Disease*, which will then be repeated in 2006.
 17 Doughty Street becomes the
 Society's official headquarters.
 BTS membership passes the 2000 mark.

2008

The Society introduces the
 BTS Meritorious Service Award.

2010

BTS guidelines receive accreditation from the
 National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE).

2012

BTS publishes the Quality Standard for
 Bronchiectasis, the first of this series of
 documents which will become an integral part
 of the Society Quality Improvement work.

2014

The Society launches the
 Respiratory Futures website.

2015

BTS and the European Respiratory
 Society sign a landmark membership
 agreement. BTS members can now join
 ERS for a significantly reduced fee.

2017

BTS becomes a partner in NACAP,
 the National Asthma and COPD
 Audit Programme.

2020

BTS is a founding member of the
 RCP-led Inequalities in Health Alliance.
 BTS produces over 30 rapid clinical
 guidance documents on COVID
 downloaded over 200,000 times.

2022

BTS marks its 40th anniversary with
 a return to face-to-face meetings.

1982

Thorax (formerly journal of the Thoracic
 Association since 1946) becomes the journal
 of the British Thoracic Society.

1983

BTS starts publishing studies and guidance.
 First BTS Guideline: Control and prevention
 of tuberculosis: a code of practice.
 Study on smoking cessation in people with
 lung disease.
 Study on Community acquired pneumonia in
 adults in British Hospitals in 1982-83.

1987

BTS publishes the first respiratory workforce
 assessments: Thoracic Medicine in Great Britain.

1998

BTS appoints its first Chief Executive, Sheila
 Edwards, who leads the Society until her
 retirement in 2021.

2003

BTS collaborates with the Scottish
 Intercollegiate Guidelines Network and produces
 the first joint BTS/SIGN Asthma Guideline.

2009

BTS launches its national
 clinical audit programme.

2011

BTS wins the Patient Safety Awards
 for its Emergency Oxygen guideline.

2013

BMJ Open Respiratory Research launches as the
 second journal of the British Thoracic Society.
 The BTS Interstitial Lung Disease Registry
 opens for data collection.
 BTS partners with the Royal College of
 Physicians for the first national COPD audit.

2016

BTS publishes its first Clinical Statement, covering
 Multi-drug Resistant TB, a new addition to the
 Society's Quality Improvement work.
 BTS membership passes 3000.

2018

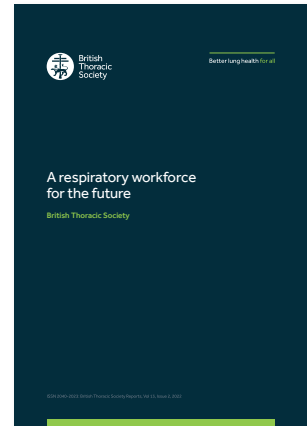
BTS relaunches the Multi-Drug Resistant
 Tuberculosis Clinical Advice Service.
 The Society joins the Taskforce for Lung
 Health as a founding member.

2021

The Society elects its first non-medical
 President, Rachael Moses.
 BTS joins the UK Health Alliance on
 Climate Change.
 BTS membership passes 4000.

Supporting the Respiratory Team

- In May, we published our report *A Respiratory Workforce for the Future*, which highlighted the importance of the multidisciplinary workforce in respiratory care and made the case for greater staffing numbers to meet growing demand.
- The British Thoracic Society survey of the career intentions of respiratory medicine specialty trainees was published in *BMJ Open Respiratory Research* in May 2022.



The Society's landmark report, *A Respiratory Workforce for the Future*, highlighted the multi-professional strengths of the respiratory team and the need to ensure sufficient numbers of appropriately trained staff to deliver high-quality care to patients. Respiratory teams have been crucial to the NHS response to the COVID-19 pandemic and support for these teams needs to continue now, and into the future, to meet the growing demands on the healthcare system.

Professor Andrew Menzies-Gow, National Clinical Director for Respiratory Disease, NHS England

Raising the profile of respiratory medicine

- We continued to be the voice of the respiratory community, achieving representation on key policy-making groups and building collaborative relationships with a range of partner organisations.
- We provided written and oral evidence to the Health Select Committee Enquiries on Winter Pressures and the NHS response to COVID 19 and the COVID-19 All-Party Parliamentary Group.
- We responded to 45 public consultations to help shape health policy.
- We provided responses to 25 NICE consultations on medicines, medical procedures and devices.
- We raised awareness of issues of importance to respiratory professionals across all media, with 343 pieces of coverage. Our social media following rose to 26,822 across the main BTS and Respiratory Futures Twitter accounts.
- Our website received 1.2 million page views across the year. BTS documents were downloaded over 940,000 times.



26,822
social media followers



940,000
BTS documents
downloaded

Shaping clinical practice

Our Lung Disease Registry

which aims to improve understanding of interstitial lung disease, continued to grow, with data collected on over

4,100

patients with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis

and almost

900

patients with sarcoidosis across 79 hospitals in the UK

Through our clinical statement programme

we published a diverse range of specialist advice with statements on:

Air travel

for passengers with respiratory disease

Occupational asthma

The assessment and management of respiratory problems in athletic individuals

The diagnosis and management of ocular tuberculosis

In 2021, our national audit programme

collected data across three key areas of respiratory care with a view to assessing and raising standards of care.

These were our:

National Audit of Pleural Services Organisational audit which gathered service level data across

111

sites

providing pleural procedures such as chest drains, pleural aspiration, biopsies and pleuroscopy

National Outpatient Management of Pulmonary Embolism Audit

which collected data on over

1,500

patients on

outpatient pathways

to manage pulmonary embolism

National Smoking Cessation Audit 2021 which collected data on almost

15,000

patients across 120 institutions

to assess the impact of tobacco dependency services

BTS NICE accredited clinical guidelines were

downloaded over

612,000 times

across the UK, Europe, the US and beyond.



Fostering improvements in TB care across the UK

- Experts involved in our Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis Clinical Advice Service provided advice to 87 clinicians on managing new complex TB and NTM cases (122 cases in total); the service remains one of the central pillars of the UKHSA's national 5-year plan to tackle TB.
- We strengthened our support for the Joint Tuberculosis Committee as a national forum to exchange information and learning across the four nations on managing TB.



During the year, we published 14 new features with case studies and contributions from respiratory clinicians on topics such as chronic breathlessness, digital innovations, patient admission alert systems and pathways for severe asthma. The website also provided links to key data sources on air pollution, health and population and health inequalities.

Driving change in tobacco dependency treatment

- We published our third national audit report on hospital-based tobacco dependency services, which found improvement in these services since the last audit in 2019.
- Our 3-year programme of work to improve tobacco dependency treatment across the NHS, saw us launch a roadmap for hospitals to follow to implement effective tobacco dependency services locally.
- To support the roadmap, we held a series of eight webinars and presentations at stakeholder meetings, with 432 participants.
- We published a best practice feature on tobacco dependency services on the Respiratory Futures site.

Influencing the debate on environmental issues

- This year we joined the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change to partner with other like-minded organisations to help influence policy in this area.
- We also published our position statement on air quality, which highlighted the importance we place on an individual's right to breathe clean air at home, outside, and at work, as well as our activities which aim to inform, educate and support respiratory health care professionals in providing advice to patients, their carers and parents on actions that can be taken to mitigate the effects of air pollution.

Our Respiratory Futures platform provides resources to support integrated respiratory care, commissioning, innovation and networking.



8

webinars and presentations
with



432

participants

Promoting research and education

- The 2021 Winter Meeting, our flagship conference, was again delivered entirely online with live sessions and material available on-demand. We had over 1600 online delegates and over 400 unique visitors to our on-demand resource, equating to a viewing time of 1100 hours.

Winter Meeting
1,600
online delegates



It was the most enjoyable online meeting I have attended to date. It felt friendly and interactive whilst remaining professional and educational. I liked the balance of basic science and clinical talks.

- Over 300 abstracts were presented at the 2021 Winter Meeting.
- In 2022, we began to return to face-to-face delivery of our Conference and short courses, so that by June 2022 we were able to deliver our Summer Meeting entirely in person with 600 delegates in attendance across two days.

Summer Meeting
600
in-person delegates



Wonderful to meet colleagues in person! The value is tremendous, both in terms of sharing good practice, but also understanding that we are not alone in some of the challenges we face in our various departments. It has been uplifting and invigorating. I didn't realise the value of these meetings in maintaining morale and energy until we couldn't have them through lockdowns. Also – the BTS Summer Meeting is great for practical updates.

- We offered ten multi-professional short courses to over 700 delegates and introduced a new model of course with theory and practice delivered separately.
- The reach of our two journals, Thorax and BMJ Open Respiratory Research, continued to grow, with the former reaching an impact factor of 9.1 and the latter achieving its first ever impact factor of 5.
- We launched a new joint awards scheme with NIHR and continued to support applications from aspiring researchers for national research funding in respiratory medicine.

10
multi-professional
short courses offered
to over
700 delegates



Despite the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the challenges of restart and continuing workforce shortages, this report proudly showcases the outstanding work, delivered by hundreds of BTS members, to drive better lung health for all.

Dr Paul Walker
Chair of the BTS Board of Trustees



British Thoracic Society

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