

Grant Impact Report

Name	Daniel Hodson
Job title	Honorary Consultant Haematologist
Organisation	University of Cambridge
Grant awarded	BSH Meeting Support Grant

1. Please summarise what the grant enabled you to achieve; what would not have been possible without the funding? (Up to 500 words)

Grant funding enabled us to organise a lymphoma biology symposium in Cambridge.

The **Cambridge Lymphoma Biology International Symposium** took place on 17th and 18th September at the Cripps Conference Centre, in Magdalene College, Cambridge. In total we had 135 attendees who travelled from 10 countries (UK, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Norway, Finland, Netherlands, USA, and Canada). Delegates were a mixture of laboratory scientists, computational biologists and clinicians – all united by an interest in the biology and treatment of lymphoid malignancies. We had 18 oral presentations, spanning the biology of normal immune responses, the genetics of lymphoid malignancies, the application of ctDNA to lymphoid malignancy, mouse models of lymphoma, the tumour microenvironment, signalling pathways in lymphoma and novel revelations from single cell RNA sequencing. To promote the engagement of more junior researchers, we also had five flash poster presentations from PhD students and 32 poster presentations from PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. These were displayed throughout the meeting and provided a focal point for more informal discussions. Poster prizes were awarded to the three most highly ranked poster presentations. To promote informal interaction and networking the meeting included a dinner in the Great Hall of Magdalene College and a punting tour of Cambridge from the River Cam. It provided an invaluable opportunity to develop new (and reaffirm existing) friendships and collaborations across the international lymphoma research network.

The critical enabling contribution of BSH grant funding was the up-front guarantee of £1,000 of funding. This, alongside similar guarantees from other sponsors, provided the security to make initial outlay on speaker travel and venue hire. Without this funding pledged early from BSH, it would have been very difficult for us to meet these initial costs and we would need to have significantly scaled back our ambition for the meeting. We would not have been able to invite such a distinguished speaker line-up that allowed us to put on such a high-level meeting. Therefore, grant funding from BSH was truly transformative in organising a meeting of this level.

2. Briefly describe the aims and intended outcomes of this. Please clearly indicate if there is any sensitive information in this report that should remain confidential for now. (Up to 300 words)

The aim of this meeting was to promote interaction and networking of lymphoma translational biology researchers to foster networking and scientific collaboration.

This meeting is the only one of its kind held within the UK that focuses on the translational biology of lymphoid malignancies. Having now run this meeting three times, it has now established itself as a focal point for the face-to-face meeting of members of the lymphoma biology community. The meeting provided an invaluable opportunity to develop new (and reaffirm existing) friendships and collaborations across the international lymphoma research network. These collaborations, which span the UK, Europe and North America, are essential for the performance of the highest quality translational science in the UK and are built on the friendship and trust that arise from small face to face meetings like this.

The meeting met these aims based upon several criteria:

- 1) conference registration reached the capacity of the conference venue.
- 2) Outstanding list of expert speakers.
- 3) Overwhelmingly positive feedback from delegates and requests to run the meeting again in 2026.

3. What was the funding amount you received and how was it actually spent?

We received £1,000 from BSH. Funds from the BSH were used to fund travel for one of the invited speakers (Prof Margaret Shipp, Harvard University, USA).

In total we had 18 talks, of which 14 were invited speakers whose travel was funded by the meeting. Five of our speakers travelled from N. America, six from Europe and three from UK. The meeting was a two-day residential meeting at Magdalene College and delegates were provided with overnight accommodation and meals on-site. As set out above, the transformative contribution of BSH funding was early guaranteed funding to allow us to meet upfront venue deposit and speaker travel costs before any delegates had registered. The full expenditure for the event is set out below.

	Expenditure	Income
Venue Hire,accommodation and catering	£ 28,956.21	
AV equipment posterboard hire	£ 967.03	
Speaker traveland entertainment	£ 13,050.43	
	£ 42,973.67	
Sponsorship, charity(including BSH)		£ 4,800.00
Sponsorship, commercial		£ 7,000.00
Delegate registrations		£ 30,615.00
		£ 42,415.00
Balance	£ (558.67)	

4. What are the future research priorities in this area?

Our future priority is to establish this biannual symposium as the primary face-to-face education event for interaction and networking of UK clinicians and researchers with an interest in the translational biology of lymphoma.