



British  
Thoracic  
Society

## Making an Impact

**BTS Impact Report 2020/21**

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Better lung health **for all**

# The British Thoracic Society IMPACT REPORT 2020/21

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 & local policy and services to help reduce the health & 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

This report provides a summary of the impact of our work over the past year (from July 2020 to June 2021), a year which has been unprecedented as our membership and staff have worked to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, we were able to continue providing our broad range of activity in support of our members for the benefit of all patients with lung disease. We also responded directly to the challenges of the pandemic through a number of initiatives, not least through the development of rapid guidance for those working in the NHS on managing the demands and effects of the virus.



## Responding to COVID-19

- We established a rapid response advisory group to develop a raft of completely new guidance for the NHS on how to manage the demands of this virus: 30 guidance documents produced and published since the start of the pandemic, downloaded over 200,000 times, across the UK, Europe, US and beyond.
- We published the results of a survey, capturing the impact of COVID-19 on the respiratory workforce, to help inform service planning across the NHS. The survey found significant variation in the ability of services to manage the large number of patients who required follow-up after COVID-19.
- Working closely with the Intensive Care Society, the Society led on the development and dissemination of the Respiratory Support Unit model of care, as a way of providing enhanced respiratory care to the most acutely ill patients.



BTS was nominated as a Finalist in the Association Excellence Awards' category of Best Membership Initiative (pending award panel's final decision)

# 30

guidance documents  
produced and published



downloaded

# 200,000

times, across the UK,  
Europe, U.S. and beyond



Throughout this period, the BTS has provided invaluable guidance... for both respiratory teams and the wider NHS workforce... working tirelessly to produce over 30 pieces of pragmatic, quickly developed guidance.

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



In the year 2020/21 we supported our members in the delivery of high quality care to their patients in the following ways:

## Broadening our reach

- The Society's membership numbered over 4,100 members for the first time, with sustained growth in medical trainees and across allied health professions such as physiotherapists and physician associates.
- In June, we published our first policy statement on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality, to set our commitment to continue to improve and learn so that BTS remains open and responsive to the needs of our members and the wider respiratory community.



**4,100**  
members

## Supporting the Respiratory Team

- During 2020/21, we developed the UK's first professional framework for paediatric respiratory specialist nurses. This followed the publication of the professional framework for adult respiratory nurses earlier in 2020.
- We influenced service development by publishing 37 features on best practice and service innovation on the *Respiratory Futures* website.
- We secured funding from NHS England & Improvement for a 3-year programme of work to improve tobacco dependency treatment across the NHS.



We launched the  
**UK's first**  
professional framework  
for paediatric respiratory  
specialist nurses



## Shaping clinical practice



We responded to

**20**

**public consultations**

to help shape health policy  
and provided

**18**

**responses to NICE  
consultations**

on medicines, medical  
procedures and devices



During 2020/21, our  
NICE accredited clinical  
guidelines were

**downloaded over  
650,000  
times**



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

**3,300**

**patients across  
67 hospitals in the UK**

and the publication of its  
first research paper on  
treatment and outcome  
of these patients

We published our  
**national audit report**  
for the 2019 Non-Invasive  
Ventilation (NIV) audit, which  
highlighted improvement  
most notably in lower mortality



Our website received

**1.3m**  
**page views**

across the year. BTS  
documents were  
downloaded over 1 million  
times. 4 in 5 downloads  
related to our documents  
providing advice on clinical  
practice such as clinical  
guidelines and statements



We launched a Pleural  
Services Organisational  
Audit, building on our work  
on Training Standards for  
Thoracic Ultrasound and  
providing valuable data to  
inform the forthcoming  
Pleural Disease Guideline



Through the Multi-Drug  
Resistant Tuberculosis  
Clinical Advice Service,  
experts provided advice to



**100**  
**clinicians**

on managing complex TB  
cases (136 in total); this  
has become a central pillar  
of Public Health England's  
national plan to tackle TB

## Strengthening the voice of the respiratory community



- We reinforced our efforts to amplify the voice of the respiratory community, achieving representation on key policy making groups and building collaborative relationships with a range of partner organisations.
- We continued to raise awareness of issues of importance to the respiratory community through print, broadcast and social media, with over 180 pieces of coverage. Our social media following rose to 22,000 across the main BTS and Respiratory Futures Twitter accounts.



## Promoting research and education

- During this period, we continued our successful transition to online delivery of our conferences, short courses and committee meetings. We offered 11 multi-professional short courses to over 1000 delegates, an increase of 56% from the previous year.
- The Winter Meeting, our flagship scientific conference, was delivered entirely online with live sessions and material available on-demand. We had 1900 online delegates and over 600 unique visitors to our on-demand resource, equating to viewing time of 1890 hours.

“ Excellently done as first virtual BTS conference. Really liked how flexible the virtual environment made it.

- Our Summer Meeting conference was delivered online to over 600 delegates.

“ A well organised conference. Contents were relevant and delivery was fantastic.

- We supported the applications for national research funding in respiratory medicine from 11 aspiring researchers.

To find out more about BTS resources and activities please visit [www.brit-thoracic.org.uk](http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk)



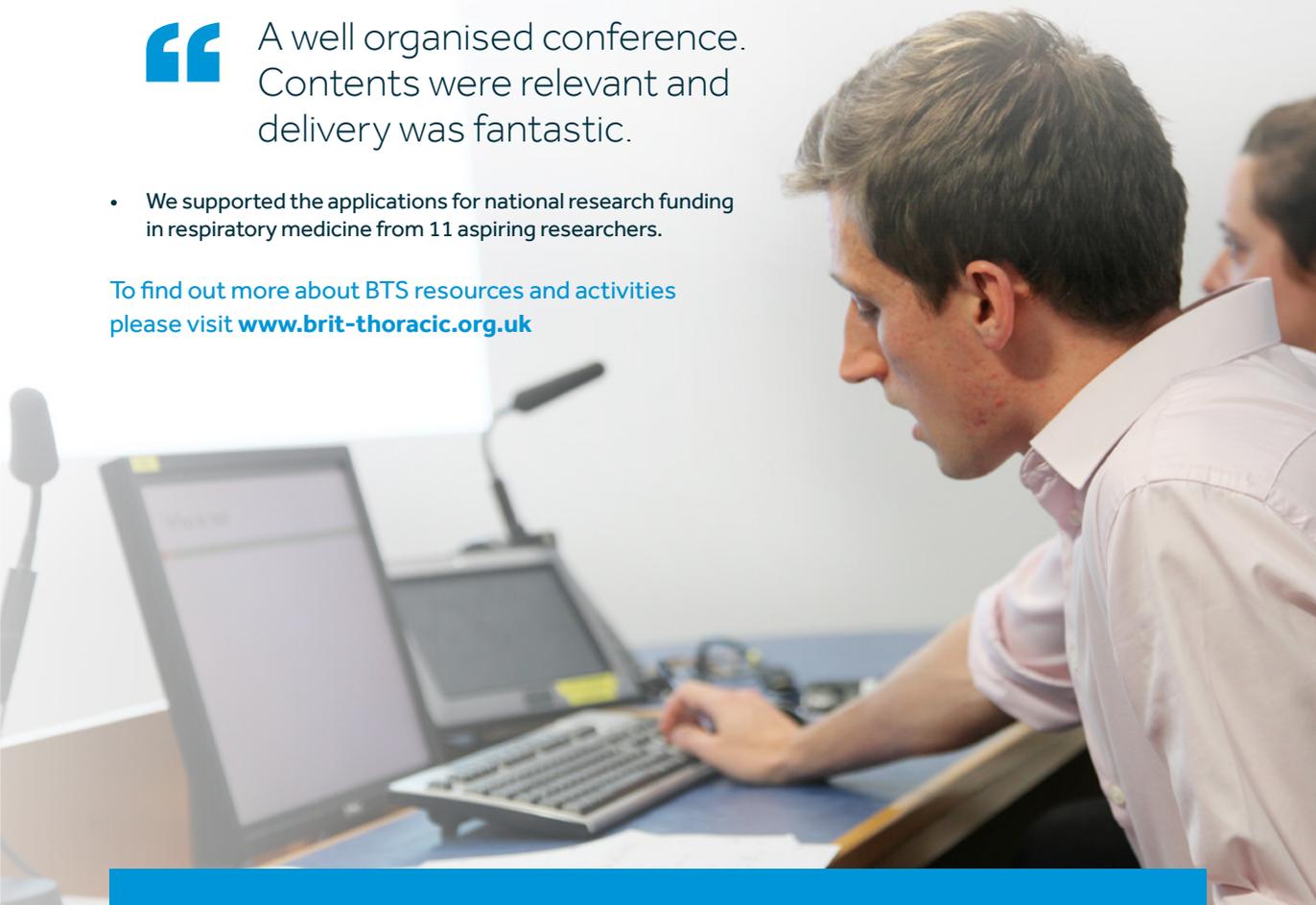
# 11

multi-professional  
short courses offered

to over

# 1,000

delegates





I remain constantly awestruck by the way the respiratory community innovates, shares experiences and learns together, positively impacting the quality of patient care.

**Professor Jon Bennett**  
**Chair of the BTS Board of Trustees**



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**British Thoracic Society**

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