

Attendance report BMSS-BSPR Super meeting September 2024

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I attended the BMSS- BSPR Super meeting from the 4th -6th September 2024. As a third (and final) year PhD student I was keen to attend to expand my professional network in advance to seeking postdoctoral opportunities after my PhD. Furthermore, having previously only attended Immunology/Inflammasome biology focused conferences, I wanted to attend this meeting to engage more with the Proteomics and Mass Spectrometry communities. This was an ideal opportunity, given that it was a joint meeting between both BMSS and BSPR, therefore providing the opportunity to engage with aspects of the MS community, including industrial partners I had not had the opportunity to before.

As an early career researcher, the careers workshop was a highlight of the conference, and I found it valuable hearing about the many different career pathways discussed by the speakers as well as their unique advice. The quality of talks, especially by other early career researchers, was inspiring and the range of topics was fascinating- I came away from this conference feeling like I had learned something from every session I attended, A particular highlight was the Data Processing and Informatics session- this is a topic I am relatively new to as a researcher, and I found it fascinating to hear about the developments in community data resources especially the PTMeXchange project being developed by Dr Kerry Ramsbottom (University of Liverpool), which will be a valuable resource for the community and for my own PhD project.

I presented my PhD work on protein-protein interaction dynamics in the NLRP3 inflammasome as an in-person poster, which was well received and allowed me to engage with other delegates and receive valuable feedback from both senior academics and peers from many different academic backgrounds, therefore bringing fresh ideas to my project.

Altogether, as an early career researcher I found this meeting to be incredibly valuable, not just for the scientific content, but also for the networking opportunities that were provided within the extensive social schedule. I was able to meet with the wider community across the UK and forge new connections with other institutes. I am immensely grateful to the BSPR committee for supporting my bursary application. It was my first time attending a BSPR event, and I am keen to attend more in the future!