

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 2025-2026

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year 2025-26 and confirm that they comply with the Charities Act 2011 & 2022.

Charity Name: The Platelet Society Charity Registration Number 1172202

Registered Address: Office 7 35-37 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7JN,

UK Board of Trustees (<https://plateletsociety.co.uk/trustees/>)

Professor Alison Goodall (Chair), Crispian Strachan, Bob Humphries, and Professor Adrian Newland, Professor Tim Warner and Dr Ron James

Executive Committee

Dr Amanda Unsworth (Chair), Dr Craig Hughes (Financial Officer/Treasurer), Dr Paul Armstrong (Chair-Elect), Dr Julia Sandrin Gauer, Dr Giordano Pula, Dr Matthew Hindle, Dr Marilena Crescente, Dr Sarah Westbury (clinical), Dr Xenia Sawkulycz (ECR) and Dr Lauren Murphy (ECR).

Secretary/Governance Officer

Dr Joy Wright

Bankers

HSBC

UK Structure, Governance and Management

The Platelet Society is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission in August 2017 under the charity number 1172202.

Organisational Structure

The charity has a Board of Trustees which is responsible for the governance of the charity. The Trustees set up an Executive Committee that is responsible for enacting strategies that allow the charity to fulfil its key objectives.

Trustees: The charity has six Trustees Professor Alison Goodall (Chair), Crispian Strachan, Bob Humphries, and Professor Adrian Newland, Professor Tim Warner Dr Ron James. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the accounts.

Ambassador: Lieutenant Colonel Crispin Black MBE MPhil

Executive Committee (<https://plateletsociety.co.uk/committee/>)

The Executive Committee currently has ten members. Dr Amanda Unsworth is the current Chair of the Executive Committee. Dr Paul Armstrong is the Deputy Chair (will take over as Chair in Sept 2026) and Dr Craig Hughes is the Society Finance Officer. Other members include Dr Julia Sandrin Gauer (term ends Sept 2026), Dr Giordano Pula, Dr Matthew Hindle, Dr Marilena Crescente, Dr Sarah Westbury (clinical representative), Dr Xenia Sawkulczyk (ECR) and Dr Lauren Murphy (ECR). All Committee members have research and/or clinical backgrounds relevant to the work of the Charity and were elected to represent different stages of the academic career track. The Committee remains inclusive and diverse, welcoming applications from its membership, and represents our membership by inclusion of male and female researchers, and Early Career Researchers. All Executive committee members give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. The Committee meets quarterly and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the Society. The Committee is focused on facilitating participation of the research community through the Society webpage, newsletters, social media, administering of grants and funding opportunities, and networking, supporting conference organisation and outreach activities.

Risk Management

The Trustees and Executive Committee have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity may be exposed, and appropriate systems have been implemented to mitigate risk. In particular, risks to external funding have led to the development of a plan which allows ring fencing for funding for core activities. All medical-related information provided on our website is general and is covered by a specific medical disclaimer policy. Structures have been put in place to account for recent changes in General Data Protection Regulations. The Trustees are satisfied that arrangements are in place to manage risks that have been identified. The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the risk register in the coming year.

Our Aims

Our Society's purpose is to promote excellence in research, education and public awareness of platelet biology in human health and disease. To ensure that we remain focussed on our key aims they are appraised on a yearly basis to review both what we have achieved and evaluate the outcome of our work. The review examines the success of each key activity to ensure that they benefit the groups that hope to serve.

The Focus of our Work

Our main objectives for the year were focussed on further establishing the Society within the research community and creating activities and structures that would help promote our key aims in the future.

The strategies we used to meet these objectives were:

- To facilitate greater communication and representation within the research community
- To facilitate and promote research into platelets and platelet-related disorders
- To encourage younger researchers to ensure long-term continuation of platelet research in UK
- To provide the public with accessible information on platelet related diseases
- To improve public understanding of platelet biology

Activities and Achievements

How our activities deliver public benefit

The Society carries out a number of activities in pursuance of its aims. These activities, summarised below, provide benefit to members of the Society and wider society.

To facilitate greater communication within the research community

1. *Communication channels.*

A key element of the creation of the Platelet Society was to create a stronger network of biomedical researchers and clinicians with interests in platelet biology. Provision of communications channels has been an important part of bringing the research community together

- **Website.** The Society website continues to provide key information for both for the research community and the wider public. <https://plateletsociety.co.uk/> Amongst other items, the website provides information of upcoming conferences, key research findings from around the world, information on available PhD studentships, funding opportunities and research positions. Reports from platelet research conferences are uploaded onto the website
- **Social Media.** The Society has a dedicated social media team, made up of Early Career Researchers and Executive committee members; the team look after the Society's social media accounts: LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. LinkedIn is the Society's main social media platform. The Twitter/X account has been left dormant since Jan 2025.
- **Newsletter.** The newsletter, emailed to members, updates the membership with short reports on recent research meetings, funding opportunities, public engagement/STEM activities, and shares the successes of platelet researchers.

2. *Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.*

The Society believes that everybody's contribution matters, regardless of their identity, background, experiences or beliefs. The Society aims to develop a culture in which everyone feels welcome, heard and free to fully express themselves. The Society has a dedicated EDI webpage which includes a code of conduct for members and activities of the Society, a series of EDI statements to help us continue on our journey, and a mechanism for reporting concerns. Further information can be found on our EDI webpage. <https://plateletsociety.co.uk/edi/>

3. *Early Career Researchers' Initiatives.*

Building a strong sense of collaboration and community amongst the ECRs is important for the future growth and activity of The Society. In 2025/2026 the Working Group membership included: ECR committee members: Dr Xenia Sawkulycz and Dr Lauren Murphy, and Dr Alex Slater, Dr Nicola Dark, Hetty Walker, Dr Nathan Asquith, Dr Yan Wu, Dr Olha Kostenchak-Svystak, Dr Bianca Constantin. The ECR Working Group has continued to encourage career development, wellbeing, public engagement and social media content to support and promote our members and activities led by the Society. This can all be found on the ECR space on the Platelet Society website: [Early Career Researchers – The Platelet Society](#)

Probably Platelets: The Society podcast is available on all major streaming platforms (e.g. Apple Music and Spotify). This project is currently being led by Xenia Sawkulycz and Alex Slater (Birmingham). See: [Probably Platelets – The Platelet Society](#) for more details.

- **Wellbeing Resources:** We have a list of wellbeing resources including, apps, podcasts, websites and books, that are all available of the ECR space. We are hoping to expand these wellbeing resources in the future through other social media channels.

- **Mentoring:** Led by Nicola Dark, this initiative has collated a list of potential mentor profiles on the website so that mentees could read about and ask to be matched with. Mentor and mentee pairs are matched and feedback so far has been promising with many pairs reporting a good relationship and ongoing meetings.
- **Career Development:** The International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) London 2022 Congress generated legacy funds, which we successfully applied for to establish a Platelet Society/ISTH ECR wider skills and development fund. These funds support invited speakers to discuss career development topics at the annual Platelet Society meeting in Reading (September 2026).
- **ECR day at the Platelet Society:** The ECR day at the platelet Society conference was organised by a meeting ECR committee, including: Maria Diaz Alonso, Lauren Murphy, Abhishek Sadhu, Valentina Shpakova, Yan Wu. The day will be a mix of flash talks that were marked and selected by our ECR committee. There will also be a poster session, where ECRs could have practise in presenting their work, before the main meeting. An afternoon session of career development talks and workshops is planned, >50 ECRs have registered to attend.
- **Social media content and engagement:** Many of the ECR working group members are also involved in maintaining the social media content for the society. This is something we wish to continue and expand with for the upcoming year. We have found the Society's LinkedIn page is our main platform, with over 500 followers and a good level of interaction with posts.
- **Career Development resources:** The ECR working groups run an initiative focused on career development building a repertoire of resources available to our ECRs. These are available on LinkedIn and the society website and include CV building advice and guides, information on funders of grants and different grant schemes available, and alternative career suggestions and advice. So far, these have been well-received and are due to continue in the coming year.
- **Journal Club:** The working group also runs an online journal club via email. The journal club highlights new papers, provides a short summary and links to the papers. This has been very popular on social media and calls to highlight relevant publications from followers have had a lot of responses. This has proven to be an excellent resource with a lot of positive interaction and is a good opportunity to raise awareness of the society, and the research carried out by its members.

4. Awards.

The Society has two awards for members to recognise excellence in platelet research and in achieving the aims of The Society. Named in honour of two internationally well-respected UK platelet researchers, (Gustav Born and Alison Goodall) they provide an annual way for the Society to rewarded excellence. Recipients are invited to present at our Annual meetings. Further details of the awards can be found at <https://plateletsociety.co.uk/platelet-society-awards/>.

To facilitate and promote research into platelets and platelet-related disorders

5. AMRC membership

The Society joined the Association of Medical Research Charities as an introductory member in 2025. Introductory membership is for 3 years where we will work towards full membership. Membership of the AMRC will allow the Society to access advice and support relevant to grant awarding societies.

6. ***Fundraising.***

The Society was awarded \$37,500 for the London 2022 ISTH legacy funds to support its work. Funds from this award have been used to establish/support the following opportunities, over a 3 year period (until 2026), this has been extended until 2027:

- **Summer studentships:** funded two in 2026
- **Outreach and education grants:** rolling call, open for applications, funded 3.
- **ECR wider skills training:** available to the Platelet Society Meeting ECR day organising committee to run wider skills sessions.
- **Skills transfer grants:** rolling call, open for applications, funded 1.
- **Clinical audits:** funded one.

More details are provided in section 10.

Together, we believe that using the funds in this way helps the Platelet Society achieve its remit in terms of research and education, and provides a healthy portfolio of activities for the next 3 years. The Society is grateful to the ISTH for this support.

We are currently seeking assistance with our fundraising efforts to help us ensure we can continue to offer similar awards and grants past 2026.

To cover Society running costs, annual membership fees are £25 per annum.

7. ***Summer studentships.***

Thanks to the ISTH legacy funds and money raised from the annual meeting, the Society offered three students the opportunity to work in a platelet laboratory during the summer of 2026. Following a competitive call, and independent review, 3 students and projects at the University of Hull and two at Queen Mary's University London were selected and funded during July and August 2026. Two were funded by the ISTH legacy funds and 1 by Society funds. Further details of the studentships awarded and the outcomes will be made available at <https://plateletsociety.co.uk/studentships/>

8. ***Scientific meetings.***

Scientific conferences facilitate valuable exchange of new ideas and methods.

2026 Platelet Society Meeting - Reading

This year our annual meeting will be held at University of Reading (9th-11th September 2026). Thanks to Professor Jon Gibbins, Dr Craig Hughes, Professor Alice Pollitt, Dr Chris Jones, Dr Alex Bye, Dr Kirk Taylor, Dr Harvey Roweth, and ECR committee members; Maria Diaz Alonso, Lauren Murphy, Abhishek Sadhu, Valentina Shpakova, Yan Wu.

Reports on all Platelet Society meetings, and meetings where Platelet Society researchers have presented, can be found on the Platelet Society webpage, under "News".

9. ***Research Strategy.***

The Society wishes to build on the opportunities made possible with the ISTH legacy funds to support platelet research and education. The Executive Committee has a research strategy document which is reviewed annually and the latest version is available on our website - <https://plateletsociety.co.uk/research-strategy>

10. ***Funding and grant opportunities***

<https://plateletsociety.co.uk/funding/> Thanks to the ISTH legacy funds, the Society currently offers the following funding and grant opportunities to its membership:

- **Summer studentships:** The aim of these studentships is to provide opportunities for high calibre undergraduate students to experience working in a research lab within the area of platelet biology. This opportunity would be a great way for students considering doing a PhD to experience working on a research project and for ECRs to experience managing and supervising a project. In 2026 the Society funded 3 studentships (Queen Mary University London x2 and University of Hull) each with a stipend of £1500 for the student and up to £500 consumables.
- **Outreach and education grants:** The aim of the Outreach and Education grant scheme is to provide members with support to create and run innovative public/patient outreach and education sessions. These run as a rolling call, with applications accepted year round. In 2026, 3 applications were awarded.
- **ECR wider skills training:** these annual grants are offered to the organising committee of the ECR day of the Society meeting and are available to be used to support wider skills training or development. This year funds were used to support travel and accommodation costs for speakers to take part in a careers discussion section at the Reading meeting.
- **Skills transfer grants:** The aim of these grants is to promote exchange, training and/or transfer of skills and technologies from one group to another or for the development of a platelet scientist. These run as a rolling call, with applications accepted year-round. 1 application was successful in 2026.
- **Clinical audits:** Applications for clinical audits with a focus on identifying areas of clinical/patient need to improve diagnosis and treatment strategies for patients with platelet related diseases were opened in 2025. 1 application was awarded.

To facilitate an open and fair assessment of applications for the above awards, the Executive Committee has established a sub-committee to review applications for small grants for research. In addition to research scientists and academics, this panel includes ECR and clinical reviewers. More information about this committee and membership can be found at: <https://plateletsociety.co.uk/funding/>

11. *Clinical perspectives and direction.*

The Society aims to increase its activities in patient focused and clinical activities. To ensure that future activities are relevant and do not replicate what is provided by other charities (especially those with more patient focused remits), the Society has clinical Executive committee representatives and Trustees. Our clinical representatives cover both bleeding and thrombotic conditions and aims to ensure that activities of the Society have a clinical perspective and to identify appropriate patient-focused activities. Patient/clinical focussed sessions are now included at Platelet Society annual meetings, with the 2026 meeting including an interview with a patient with ITP.

To provide the public with accessible information on platelet related diseases

The Society does not provide medical advice and when contacted by individuals seeking such advice directs them to the clinician(s) involved in their care pathway. However, the Society does provide a number of fact sheets on the role of platelets in health and disease and platelet related diseases; these are reviewed by the Executive Committee's clinical members. We also provide a number of personal perspectives of patients who live with platelet related diseases

to raise awareness of how individual sufferers cope with their particular disorders. Our two clinical Committee members have been in discussions with other relevant societies to help support these organisations, so the Society can undertake more patient-focused interactions.

To improve public understanding of platelet biology

As part of our mission to improve the public understanding of blood platelets and their roles in health and disease our members engage in a number of outreach activities. These activities are undertaken by our members at a local level often in collaboration with their host university and other outside bodies. The Society now has Outreach and Education grants available on a rolling basis to support members who wish to create and organise such activities.

Plans for Future Period

The Society plans to continue the activities outlined above in the coming years subject to a satisfactory funding position, but also expand the activities into other areas.

- We will continue to enhance our scientific conferences, facilitate workshops and training opportunities.
- Implementation of outreach and education activities following on from the recommendations of the Outreach Working Group.
- Continuing to develop the clinical working group to help determine future directions and opportunities in this area.
- Continued development of the Research Strategy and working towards an application to become a full member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC).
- Widening our fundraising profile to ensure growth.
- Continue to ensure that we embed EDI across all Society activities.

Financial Review

At the end of the financial year on the 31st July 2026, the Platelet Society held £59,276.06, which is a net profit of £7,403.94. A significant proportion of our income and expenditure is from the annual meeting.

Income

Membership income is slightly down this year (£5156, compared to £5403 in 2024-25).

The Society has rolled out a JustGiving page and link to make donations much easier. We have received £846 in donations this year, which although modest, is a big increase from last year where we received very few donations. This sum is through a single race donor (Grace Lloyd) and a single member's actions, therefore we still have a lot of potential to grow this area.

Bank interest payments are slightly higher this year thanks to a slightly larger bank balance.

Expenditure

The basic running costs for the society have remained fairly stable this year. We've had an increase in subscriptions due to AMRC membership (~£730), but other fees and charges, including registration payments for the Fundraising Regulator and company address remain largely the same.

Other charges include society expenditure on our Summer Studentship scheme, one of which was paid for by the society with the other two paid for using the ISTH legacy fund. The legacy fund have also been used to fund several Outreach awards this year.

Current Financial Position

The Society currently holds reserves of £59,276.06 (as of 31st July 2026) of which £8,708.69 is committed to the ISTH legacy fund. We also hold in reserve some of the profit from the Bristol EUPLAN meeting on behalf of EUPLAN (~£2,500). This leaves the society with reserves of £48,067.37 although some of these are committed funds for remaining expenditure for the Reading meeting (~£10,000). This leaves ~£38,000 which is an increase over last year (~£30,000). The society continues to remain sustainable in the short-medium term.

Finance Overview – 1st August 2025 – 31st July 2026

Declaration The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.