

**BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE  
EDUCATION TRUST**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

**AND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO: No: 1165469**

**Registered Office  
8 Madison Way, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3EF**

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE EDUCATION TRUST**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

The Trustees (who are also the Directors) present their report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

#### **Trustees**

The following have served as Trustees during the year:

Ali Alidoust (appointed November 2024)  
Sebastien Farnaud  
Peter Gluckman  
Tanvir Miah (appointed May 2025)  
Jenny Murray  
Arron Mungul (appointed June 2024)  
Paul Nash (appointed Feb 2024)  
Russell Walters (resigned May 2025)

#### **Registered Office:**

To May 2025:  
8 Madison Way  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 3EF

From May 2025:  
To be confirmed

#### **Officers**

To May 2025:  
Chair and Treasurer – Russell Walters

From May 2025:  
Chair – to be confirmed  
Treasurer – Tanvir Miah

## **1. STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

- 1.1. The Biotechnology and Medicine Education Trust is a Registered Charity, No. 1165469. The Trust became an incorporated UK charity on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016, adopting a Memorandum and Articles as its governing documents. It acquired United States 501(c)3 status through the King Baudouin Foundation in September 2016.
- 1.2. The Trust was established to enhance public understanding about the power of biotechnology, life sciences, emerging technology and high tech engineering to enhance people's lives. The principal objectives of the Trust are to raise funds to support the activities like WhatisBiotechnology.org (WiB), a non-profit website that provides online educational resources about recent advances in biomedical science for the benefit of the general public, healthcare workers and other key stakeholders. It is also supporting the development of free educational activities to encourage students to pursue careers in the life science, technology and high tech engineering sectors.

- 1.3. The Board of Trustees, which meets as required, is responsible for overall policy, strategic direction and management of the Trust. In line with recommended practice, Trustee appointments are time limited to three years although up to three consecutive terms may be served (then subject to a break of at least one year).
- 1.4. In seeking new Trustees, consideration is given to the balance of skills, experience and knowledge that the Trust requires. New Trustees are made aware of their statutory duties as Trustees and of the need to comply with relevant Charity Commission guidance. They are also invited to find out about the Trust and the work of the Board by talking to and working closely with other Trustees and are strongly encouraged to undertake appropriate training when they join, and throughout their time on the Board.

## 2. ACTIVITIES

- 2.1. **WhatIsBiotechnology.org:** is built around content on the website which continues to attract large audiences, now getting over 2.5 million page viewings per year from school and university students, health care professionals, industry experts and the general public around the world. The website's dynamic platform provides scope to add material very quickly in tandem with scientific developments as they unfold. This includes a searchable timeline which is regularly updated as events unfold. It now has 2,750 events:
- 2.2. An in-depth Interview with Professor Simon Gordon was posted on the website in October 2024. In his interview, Gordon talks about his early life in South Africa and how he became interested in macrophages while a doctoral student at the Rockefeller University in New York, which he continued to investigate when he joined the Dunn School of Pathology at Oxford University. His interview highlights the challenges of research in the area and the many roles macrophages play in the body including in the development of cancer. Gordon also talks about how he got involved in the development of a cartoon booklet to help educate school students in South Africa to protect themselves against HIV at a time when there were no antiretrovirals for the disease and no vaccines.
- 2.3. Three new in-depth scientific profiles were added to the website over the year. The first looks at 3D Genomics. Built on the back of the Human Genome Project and other technological advances made since then, 3D genomics is opening up new insights into the spatial organisation of the genome which were previously impenetrable. Critically it provides a means to investigate how genes interact with regulatory elements even when a considerable way apart. While the technology is still in its infancy, 3D genomics is already offering new insights into cancer and other complex diseases like multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis, thereby opening up potential new therapeutic targets and the development of more effective and personalised medicine. It has also shown strong potential for identifying new therapeutic uses for existing drugs already marketed for other conditions.
- 2.4. A second science profile posted online provides an overview of the evolution and importance of immunoassay diagnostics. Designed to exploit the binding reaction between an antigen and antibody, immunoassays make it possible to detect and measure specific substances in biological samples, such as blood and other bodily fluids. Used extensively in hospitals, laboratories and research centres since the late

nineteenth century, immunoassay diagnostics are invaluable tools for the detection of infectious diseases as well as for many non-communicable diseases. Just how valuable they are was seen during the COVID pandemic when immunoassay diagnostics were used on a wide scale for self-testing. This was helped by the fact that such diagnostics are simple to use, inexpensive, accurate and fast and can detect very low levels of infection. As well as being used for diagnosing disease and monitoring treatment, immunoassays are pivotal to biopharmaceutical research and development and for the detection of environmental hazards.

- 2.5. The third scientific profile covers the history of GLP-1 drugs which have surged in popularity in recent years by virtue of their ability to help with obesity. First approved for obesity in 2021, the development of such drugs did not happen overnight. Nor was obesity their starting point. As the profile makes clear, their emergence rested on the long quest of many different individuals over many decades to unravel the complex physiology of the gut and its diseases, particularly diabetes. Progress on this front was incremental and took many twists and turns. Demand for such drugs is likely to continue to be strong in the future due to rising rates of obesity and interlinked chronic diseases. GLP-1 drugs already show promise for the treatment of many inflammatory diseases including asthma and inflammatory bowel disorders like Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.
- 2.6. During the year efforts have continued to roll out 'Future Biotechnologists' (FutBio) an initiative to encourage engagement between students aged 16-21 and the UK life science sector to inspire students to pursue a career in the sector. Attracting young people into the industry is urgently needed given the growing skills shortage in the area due to the burgeoning number of companies in this space, ageing and competition for talent from other industries. In order to deliver on its mission, FutBio is continuing to build up a database of life science companies in the UK. The database now includes 21,992 companies and 74,326 officers. In addition, it is collecting a list of schools and higher education organisations in different parts of the UK. This database is used to connect students with different companies in their area through seminars, networking events, online and in person site visits, class visits by scientists, mentoring and internships.
- 2.7. Following its first event at Wheatley Park School, Holton, Oxfordshire on 25th April 2024, FutBio held three further highly successful trial events in Pinner Cambridge and Leytonstone. The feedback from both volunteers and students was overwhelmingly positive from these events with one of the students who attended the Leytonstone event commenting '*It was a phenomenal experience as I was able to find my dream job.*' See LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/student-feedback-cambridge-event-november-2024-2kpue/>) and reel on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/media.futurebiotechnologists/reel/DC9Hu7AOjwr/>) for feedback from the students who attended these events.
- 2.8. Future Biotechnologists is now seeking funding to support the launch of multi-year evidence-led programmes for schools. The first one will focus on schools in areas of deprivation in London (Camden, Hackney, Lambeth, Lewisham, Islington, Newham, Paddington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets). It will be a three-year programme delivered in partnership with local universities, research institutes, medical schools and life science companies.

**3. Infectious disease: What it means for people living with immunosuppression**

- 3.1.** Since March 2023 the charity has been collaborating with researchers at the University of Cambridge to understand the specific challenges and needs immunosuppressed patients and their families face in relation to infectious disease (COVID-19, drug resistant infections) so that these issues can be addressed in better prevention and treatment. As part of this project an online survey has been conducted with three different groups: Volunteers from the NIHR BioResource Centre in Cambridge, Gambian community in Peterborough and Facebook support group for people with Myositis, Dermatomyositis, IBM and AntiSynthetase Syndrome. A number of public engagement activities have also been carried out to increase public awareness of the difficulties people with weakened immunity experience with COVID-19, including a video which can be viewed at <https://whatisbiotechnology.org/index.php/booster/background>.

**4. PUBLIC BENEFIT**

- 4.1.** The Trustees confirm that in their opinion, the work of the charity is of public benefit in providing a free educational resource. The Trustees are all volunteers who received no benefit from the Charity.

**5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1.** The risk register is regularly reviewed and updated by the Trustees. The key risks identified are securing funding for the future development of the website and maintaining the Trust's reputation with stakeholders and funding agency credibility and maintaining the right balance of skills, experience and expertise on the Board so that the Charity is managed competently and complies with regulatory requirements.

**6. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

- 6.1.** The total income for the year was £10,005 (2024: £10,023) with expenditure of £16,331 (2024: £21,344), work continued with grants received in previous years and was undertaken and planned for grants received in 2024-25. Expenditure related principally to these projects, the Future Biotechnologists work and to building on the content of the website and maintaining its security. The net unrestricted deficit was £6,326 (2024 deficit: £11,321) with unrestricted reserves at the end of the year of £22,984 (2024: £29,310).
- 6.2.** Reserves allow for the ongoing maintenance and editing of the website, work on activities to enhance the offering on the website and to develop further offerings.

**7. Reserves Policy**

- 7.1.** The trustees are seeking to develop reserves that will cover the cost of three years of website maintenance to ensure that the website can be kept active during periods when development grants are not available. This is estimated to be £10,000. This has currently been achieved.

**8. Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees**

- 8.1.** The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).
- 8.2.** Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing financial statements, the Trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

8.3. The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed:

T. Miah

Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

12/11/2025

Date:



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Independent Examiner's Report

4.

Report to the trustees

Biotechnology and Medicine Education Trust

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1165469

Set out on pages

8-11

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**.

Responsibilities and basis  
of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

1. Independent  
examiner's  
statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*





**Charity Number 1165469**  
**Biotechnology and Medicine Education Trust**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

	Note	2024-25 £	2023-24 £
Subscriptions and donations	2	5	23
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2	10,000	10,000
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>10,005</b>	<b>10,023</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	3	0	0
Charitable Activities	3	16,031	21,044
Governance Costs	3	300	300
<b>Total Resources expended</b>		<b>16,331</b>	<b>21,344</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</b>		<b>(6,326)</b>	<b>(11,321)</b>
Transfers between funds		0	0
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(6,326)</b>	<b>(11,321)</b>
Funds brought forward		29,310	40,631
<b>Funds carried forward</b>		<b>22,984</b>	<b>29,310</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

**Charity Number 1165469**  
**Biotechnology and Medicine Education Trust**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash		23,882	33,176
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>23,882</b>	<b>33,176</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>			
<b>Creditors</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>3,866</b>
		<b>897</b>	<b>3,866</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>22,984</b>	<b>29,310</b>
<b>Represented by</b>			
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>		<b>22,984</b>	<b>29,310</b>

Chair of Trustees

Approved by the trustees on

**Charity Number 1165469**  
**Biotechnology and Medicine Education Trust**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**Note 1: Accounting Policies**

**a) Basis of Preparation**

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities and the financial framework applicable in the UK (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2006. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

These accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the current and previous periods.

**b) Stocks**

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. No stock was recorded during the year as any resources expended on saleable items were minimal and charged to expenditure.

**c) Funds**

Restricted funds are given to the Trust for specific purposes and are expendable by the Trustees in furtherance of particular projects. Unrestricted funds are available for any purpose of the Trust. There were no restricted funds during the year.

**d) Incoming resources**

Incoming resources are recognised once the Trust has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

**e) Resources expended**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Trust to the expenditure.

**f) Cost of generating funds**

The costs of generating funds are those costs attributable to generating incoming resources for the Trust, other than those costs incurred in undertaking charitable activities.

**g) Charitable activities**

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objectives of the Trust.

**Charity Number 1165469**  
**Biotechnology and Medicine Education Trust**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

	2024-25	2023-24
<b>Note 2: Subscriptions and donations</b>		
Donations	5	23
Charitable activities – grants	10,000	10,000
	<u>10,005</u>	<u>10,023</u>

**Note 3:**  
**Expenditure**

Raising funds	0	0
Charitable activities	16,031	21,044
Governance costs	300	300
	<u>16,331</u>	<u>21,344</u>

Charitable activities includes all costs relating to the production of content, maintenance and development of the website and to putting on events.

<b>Note 4: Creditors</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Trade Creditors	897	3,866
	<u>897</u>	<u>3,866</u>

There were no related party transactions during the year.