

AIMS Annual Financial Statements 2023-2024

Auto Immune and Multiple Sclerosis (A.I.M.S)
For the year ended 5 April 2024

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Financial Statements

Auto Immune and Multiple Sclerosis (A.I.M.S) For the year ended 5 April 2024

Charity Number

1177907

Registered Office

48 River View

Tarleton

Preston

Lancashire

PR4 6EQ

Governing Document

The charity was set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation under a governing document registered on 11th April 2018.

Contact

Mrs Alison Coates

Trustees

- Alison Coates
- James Coates
- Rebecca White
- Laura Robb
- Damien Scott
- Samantha MacKenzie
- Preeti Jaswal (Resigned)
- Janet Voyce (Resigned)
- Adrian Berkeley (Resigned)
- Catherine Rogers (Resigned)

Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank

1 Balloon Street

Manchester

M60 4EP

Independent Examiner

Amanda Watt

Trustees Report

Auto Immune and Multiple Sclerosis (A.I.M.S)

For the year ended 5 April 2024

The trustees present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 5th April 2024

Governing Instrument

The charity was set up as a charitable incorporated organisation under a governing document registered on 11th April 2018

Risk Assessment

The charity has reviewed, and systems have been established to mitigate those major risks to which the charity is exposed. In particular with regard to future funding income, new avenues are being explored on a regular basis, including raising awareness of the charity's profile to the general public.

Objectives and Public Benefit

The charity is set up to preserve and protect the health of patients suffering from MS and Autoimmune disease in the UK by providing and assisting in the provision of signposting, advice, support services and grants with particular emphasis (but not by way of limitation) on those seeking HSCT (Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant).

Results for the year

The results for the year are set out on page 7.

Review of the Year

- **Peer Support Project** - We launched this service in April 2022, initially training our trustees to deliver the calls, and later recruiting HSCT veterans and training them to deliver the calls too. This initiative has been a great success, with excellent feedback from service users.
- **StarMS** - is a UK trial to compare HSCT against high efficacy DMTs. The trial is taking place across 19 centres across the UK and AIMS has been working closely with the StarMS team to publicise and recruit candidates. We have been hosting monthly round table meetings with the StarMS team and MS charities.
- **HSCT Travel Grants** - We have continued to award HSCT travel grants every quarter. We hoped that the advent of the StarMS trial meant that there would be more patients being treated in the UK needing our support, and we took this into account when we reviewed our maximum grant policy. However a lack of recruitment of trial participants has led to only 1 recipient of a travel grant for HSCT. We will continue to award travel grants to patients being treated in Mexico but have paused grants to patients opting to be treated in Russia, due to the Russia / Ukraine crisis. This has meant that there has been an overall reduction in HSCT travel grants compared with the previous financial year.
- **AIMS 5th Birthday MS Summit** - To mark the occasion of our 5th birthday, we held an MS Summit and evening celebration & fundraising event in Sheffield in November 2023 to thank our supporters and members. AIMS was honoured to have the world's most eminent HSCT experts speaking at the event.

Future of the charity

Our objectives for the charity's growth include:

- To continue the growth of our Peer Support Project, which has allowed us to support MS patients from across the world, and to develop other projects including continuing Peer Support calls and advice regarding Hospital appointments where applicable. We plan to expand this service to include a patient advocacy service for patients who wish to discuss HSCT at a neurology appointment – cognitive function can be severely impacted by MS, and our research has confirmed that many patients would value having an AIMS advocate with them at appointments, to ask the right questions and record outcomes.
- To maintain the awarding of grants and ensure sustainability over the long term, primarily by fundraising. Covid-19 prevented us from hosting fundraising events on the scale that we would have liked, and we plan to expand in this area in the coming months. We aim to host an international HSCT for MS conference to link practitioners, patients, and other interested parties – this has not been done in the UK before.
- To seek, apply for and obtain further grants applicable to developing and sustaining new and existing Projects which will be kept separately to the provision of funds for support and travel grants for HSCT.
- To maximise our fundraising efforts and maintain and expand our relationship with the facilities who treat MS patients with HSCT, and the MS Society, MS Trust, and other organisations (such as the Scottish HSCT Network) raising awareness

of this treatment for people with MS and Autoimmune conditions. To build new relationships with relevant organisations and key people.

- To grow as an organisation by recruiting more trustees with specific skills to aid the charity, as well as volunteers. We also aim to begin to employ staff to support the operational side of the charity.
- To invest a proportion of our general reserves, to generate a return that can help us to develop additional products and services.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have established the level of reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have. Reserves are needed to bridge the funding gaps between expenditure and receiving income from fundraising and donations. The trustees have established a reserves policy for unrestricted reserves, whereby, in order to enable the charity to operate effectively they aim to have twelve months worth of expenditure in general fund reserves.

The trustees therefore consider that the ideal level of reserves as at 5th April 2024 would be £18,000. On 5th April 2024 the general reserves were £45,401.

Alison Coates

Alison Coates (Secretary)

On behalf of the Charity

Date

Independent Examiner's Report

Auto Immune and Multiple Sclerosis (A.I.M.S)

For the year ended 5 April 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 5th April 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

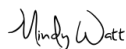
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. **accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or**
2. **the accounts do not accord with those records; or**
3. **the accounts do 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.



Amanda Watt

Independent Examiner

Date

28 HAVILLANDS PLACE, WYE, ASHFORD, TN25 5GJ

Statement of Financial Activities

Auto Immune and Multiple Sclerosis (A.I.M.S)

For the year ended 5 April 2024

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS	2023
Income				
Donations & Legacies				
Donations received	-	1,959.81	1,959.81	8,230.69
Paypal Giving (Bulk Donations)	-	363.72	363.72	1,146.32
Much loved	-	-	-	1,564.43
Peer Support Call Donations	-	-	-	15.00
Total Donations & Legacies	-	2,323.53	2,323.53	10,956.44
Grants ¹	-	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Sales of Merchandise	707.45	-	707.45	279.67
Fundraising				
Fundraising Events ²	28,912.84	-	28,912.84	185.00
Justgiving	4,058.37	-	4,058.37	7,725.58
Shopping channels commission	323.28	14.30	337.58	330.26
Total Fundraising	33,294.49	14.30	33,308.79	8,240.84
Total Income	34,001.94	4,337.83	38,339.77	19,476.95
Expenditure				
Operating Expenses	2,532.81	-	2,532.81	4,751.12
Charitable Activities				
Grants to UK Individuals ³	-	7,975.00	7,975.00	10,898.16
Peer Support	1,075.00	-	1,075.00	7,419.48
Total Charitable Activities	1,075.00	7,975.00	9,050.00	18,317.64
Raising Funds				
Fundraising Event Costs	34,763.87	-	34,763.87	-
Card Processing fees	480.10	-	480.10	84.33
Just Giving Monthly Fee	216.00	-	216.00	216.00
Total Raising Funds	35,459.97	-	35,459.97	300.33
Total Expenditure	39,067.78	7,975.00	47,042.78	23,369.09
Gross Profit	(5,065.84)	(3,637.17)	(8,703.01)	(3,892.14)
Administrative Costs				
Consulting	-	-	-	600.00
Travel - National	-	-	-	71.95
Total Administrative Costs	-	-	-	671.95
Net funds	(5,065.84)	(3,637.17)	(8,703.01)	(4,564.09)
Total Funds for the period	(5,065.84)	(3,637.17)	(8,703.01)	(4,564.09)

1. Grants

We received a grant from The Hospital Saturday Fund in September 2023 to support a new project to enhance our Peer Support service - Beyond Resilience: Holistic Support for HSCT for MS Non Responders and Those Facing Adverse Outcomes.

2. Fundraising Events

The AIMS 5th Birthday MS Summit was held in November 2023 at The Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield. This event was a resounding success, providing an invaluable platform for people with multiple sclerosis (pwMS) to learn about autologous haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT), a potentially life-changing treatment.

The meeting provided an opportunity for pwMS to engage with experts, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of HSCT.

3. Grants to UK Individuals

Mexico - 9 grants totalling £7200
Russia - 0 grants
UK - 4 grants totalling £775
In 2023 we paid grants to 16 UK individuals

Balance Sheet

Auto Immune and Multiple Sclerosis (A.I.M.S)

As at 5 April 2024

	TOTAL FUNDS	5 APR 2023
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
AIMS	45,380.94	54,063.81
GBP PayPal	20.52	40.66
Total Cash at bank and in hand	45,401.46	54,104.47
Historical Adjustment ¹	(57.00)	(57.00)
Total Current Assets	45,344.46	54,047.47
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	45,344.46	54,047.47
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	45,344.46	54,047.47
Total Net Assets	45,344.46	54,047.47
Capital and Reserves		
Current Year Earnings	(8,703.01)	(4,564.09)
Retained Earnings		
Retained Earnings	54,047.47	58,611.56
Total Retained Earnings	54,047.47	58,611.56
The Funds Of The Charity	45,344.46	54,047.47

1. Historic Adjustment

Full reconciliation of all bank account transactions since 31st March 2021 has created an historic adjustment of £57 relating to the credit balance in the PayPal account as of 5th April 2021 that was not included in the 2020-2021 financial year's balance sheet and therefore represents an understatement of cash at bank and in hand

Notes to the Financial Statements

Auto Immune and Multiple Sclerosis (A.I.M.S)

For the year ended 5 April 2024

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015 FRSI 02). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the charity at the discretion of the trustees. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the charity are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are funds received which are subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors.

Transfers of funds are made to recognise the release of restricted funds or to meet expenditure not covered by restricted income.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the charity is held responsible in law.

Income from Charitable Activities

Income from charitable activities is accounted for when receivable by the charity to the extent that the amount is expected to be received.

Income from investments

Interest is accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Expenditure - Charitable activities

This includes all costs relating to the activities of the charity and those activities that whilst are fundraising in nature, are also relating to the objects of the charity.

The management and administration of the charity is carried out by the trustees.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation Fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Assets used within the charity are currently owned by the trustees personally. New equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the charity at 5th April 2021 are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Value Added Tax

The charity is not registered for VAT. Any tax that is paid on the supply of goods and services is charged with the appropriate expense to "Expenditure On".

Reserves Policy

The trustees intend to ensure that there are sufficient reserves to cover the running costs of the charity for a period of approximately 12 months at any one time

Investment Policy

Much of the income of the charity is irregular and uncertain, hence the need to keep funds readily available, therefore the charity invests surplus funds in short term cash deposits with banks or building societies.