The BSGCT mentoring scheme aims to support aspiring early career cell and gene therapy scientists in their career development to achieve their full potential and reach their professional goals in both academia and industry. We strive to tailor the mentorship relationship to the individual and provide a comprehensive outline so you can make the most of our scheme. If you’re looking for support and guidance within the field of gene and cell therapy – you’ve come to the right place!

Who is this scheme for?

This mentorship scheme is targeted to all researchers with less than 3 years of employment since completing their highest degree who are interested in a career in the field of cell and gene therapy. Examples include current PhD students, postdoctoral researchers within 3 years of completing their PhD, and scientists who entered employment following their undergraduate or Master’s course less than 3 years ago. Career breaks are excluded, so researchers that are several more years post-degree can also be eligible if their cumulative employment is less than 3 years post-qualification. If you are unsure if you fit the qualifications but are interested in the mentorship scheme, please get in touch with us at [board@bsgct.org](mailto:board@bsgct.org) and we will be able to advise on your eligibility.

Why have a mentor?

We have mentors in both academia and industry and will aim to pair you with a mentor who is currently working in your area of interest. There are many benefits to having a mentor, these include:

* Advice from someone who has been in your career stage
* Increased networking within your field and encouragement to build supportive connections
* Gain a fresh perspective from a positive role model
* Guidance on career progression
* Opportunities for confidential review of CV, job, and grant applications
* It is a safe place for reflection and support
* Be supported in your career goals while receiving honest feedback in a trustworthy environment
* Learn about all the opportunities the BSGCT has to offer
* Support with scheduling and balancing responsibilities
* Grow in confidence, experience, and challenge any limiting beliefs you may have

There are also many benefits to being a mentor, and if this is something you’d be interested in we’d love to hear from you!

Why be a mentor?

* Use your unique experience, insight, and advice to assist ECRs in their career pursuits
* It will help to develop your mentoring, leadership, and coaching skills
* An opportunity to support young researchers may help you to gain a different perspective and you could equally learn from your mentees
* This program may also assist mentors to gain improved peer recognition
* Commitment to meet someone over an extended period of time and help mentors gain experience in giving honest feedback and candid insight

We are grateful to our mentors for their commitment to helping ECRs accomplish their goals, and welcome anyone interested in participating in the mentoring program. Please contact us at [board@bsgct.org](mailto:board@bsgct.org) if you are interested in becoming a mentor.

Structure of the mentorship scheme

We will aim to partner you with a mentor in your field or area of interest and will facilitate approximately 10 pairs in the 2025/26 scheme. Please see below for potential fields of interest. The mentorship scheme will last 6 months, with a minimum of 2 online meetings expected in this time period, encouraging correspondence in-between. Flexibility is encouraged, and email correspondence and video conference calls will be the primary source of communication. Mentees are encouraged to define their goals for the mentorship scheme and make these clear to the mentor within the first meeting, where alignment of goals can then be a collaborative discussion. This will ensure both parties are aligned on the purpose of the scheme and allow you to get the most out of the mentoring relationship. All applicants and mentors need to be members of the BSGCT. Finally, we will encourage a final meeting at the end of the 6-month period to review the mentor-mentee relationship. The potential to extend the partnership is available should both mentor and mentee consent.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for the mentoring scheme, please fill in the attached document briefly outlining your work, career stage, type of support from our mentor scheme and email it to us at [board@bsgct.org](mailto:board@bsgct.org) by Friday 31st October 2025. Our team will then endeavour to match you with one of our mentors, with notification of matching by end of November 2025.

Fields of interest

* Disease modelling
* Drug Discovery
* Vaccine development
* Virology
* Gene editing
* Preclinical gene therapy
* Animal models of disease
* Lecturing in cell and gene therapy
* Molecular Therapies
* Rare diseases
* Manufacturing of gene therapies
* Regulation of cell and gene therapy
* Scientific writing
* Manufacturing
* Industry-based scientific roles