

**Dr Neil Dawson**

## **Manifesto for Treasurer – British Neuroscience Association**

The British Neuroscience Association (BNA) plays a vital role in bringing together a diverse and vibrant neuroscience community. From supporting students and researchers, to fostering collaboration across sectors and delivering high-quality training events, the BNA is central to the continued growth and impact of neuroscience in the UK and beyond. As Treasurer, my priority would be to help ensure that this work is not only sustained, but strengthened for the long term.

At its core, the Treasurer's role is about stewardship: ensuring that the BNA's finances are well-managed, transparent and aligned with its mission. This includes overseeing financial performance, maintaining robust financial controls and supporting effective planning through the Finance Committee and Council. I would approach these responsibilities with a strong commitment to clarity and accountability, helping members feel confident that the organisation is in a secure and stable position.

However, good financial management is not just about safeguarding resources - it is also about enabling ambition. My focus would therefore be on using financial insight to support the continued development of the BNA's activities. This includes enhancing existing programmes, such as meetings, training initiatives and community-building efforts, while also ensuring they become increasingly accessible, inclusive and impactful. By working closely with the BNA Council, office staff and the wider membership, I would aim to ensure that financial planning actively supports the BNA's strategic goals.

A key part of this vision is long-term sustainability. The BNA operates in a challenging and changing environment, with evolving funding landscapes and growing expectations from its members. As Treasurer, I would prioritise forward-looking, strategic financial planning; reviewing policies, monitoring trends and identifying opportunities to strengthen the organisation's financial resilience. This might include exploring new income streams, supporting new partnerships and ensuring that investments are consistently aligned with the BNA's values and objectives, for the benefit of BNA members.

I would also place a strong emphasis on communication. Financial matters can sometimes feel distant or complex, but they are central to the health of the organisation. I would aim to present financial information in a clear and accessible way, including at Council and at the Annual General Meeting, so that all members can engage with and understand how this influences decisions that are made.

My experience in financial management across research funding and University departmental leadership, and through the diverse committee roles I have undertaken, has given me the skills to contribute effectively in this position. Just as importantly, my involvement with the BNA across the lifespan of my scientific career, including as a Local Group Representative and through contributions to training and community initiatives, has given me a clear understanding of its aims and values.

Ultimately, my goal as Treasurer would be to support a BNA that continues to grow in strength, inclusivity and impact. By ensuring strong financial foundations and enabling thoughtful development of its activities, I would work to help the BNA deliver lasting benefits for its members and for the wider neuroscience community.