

I am Joan, and I am the BNA Westminster London local group lead, a position which I have held for seven years since 2019. Over the years, I have been very impressed by BNA's forward-thinking initiatives to advance the visibility and impact of British neuroscience, and their consistent efforts to connect academia, industry, and society, and to support early-career researchers from diverse backgrounds. I welcome the opportunity to take on a more senior role as Treasurer and Trustee of the BNA and contribute more directly to strategic planning to advance the association's mission.

I bring strong experience in research leadership, public engagement and financial management, which aligns well with the responsibilities of the position. I am an academic in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Westminster, and a honorary senior neuroscientist at the UCL Institute of Neurology, Departments of Neuropathology and Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy. I have successfully overseen project grants through to completion, including three grants from the University of Westminster supporting neurodiversity and sustainability in higher education which also funded over 24 BNA student memberships, eight BNA conference registrations and six internships, and a UCL-led project grant awarded by the Wellcome Trust, investigating neurodegeneration in Epilepsy. As the principal investigator and work-package lead with a good foundation in accounting, I have managed the budget, approved transactions in a timely manner, led high-quality research experiments while maintaining research integrity and addressing sustainability development goals, and reported on the project's progress, finances, and impact.

With over 18 years of neuroscience research experience in the UK, I have consistently promoted the field through publications and public engagement and outreach at events such as Science4U and UCLH Living with Epilepsy Day. This year, I was awarded funding from the Federations of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) to host a series of brain-related workshops, symposium and events during Dana Foundation Brain Awareness Week. Our events reached over 200 attendees, with guest speakers from the BNA, Gut Immune Brain Axis (GIBA) network and UK charities including Brain Buddies UK, Epilepsy Society, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Silverlining Brain Injury Charity, and Age UK. In my additional role as School International co-Director, I have connected with our partner universities across Europe, Asia, US, and Africa to strengthen global collaboration, and increase mobility and placement opportunities for researchers, students and BNA members.

I am a proud and committed member of the BNA. I trust that my interdisciplinary experience will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to the board and to support the continued growth and success of our neuroscience community.

Thank you for your consideration.

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