

BNA Treasurer role – Kamar Ameen-Ali manifesto

I would like to be considered for the role of Treasurer of the British Neuroscience Association (BNA). I am a dementia researcher and a Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Science in the School of Health and Life Sciences, Teesside University. I am applying for the role of Treasurer because my background as a researcher, in addition to administrative roles I have held, demonstrate capability to take on the role of financial management of the BNA, and I have a keen interest in contributing to the continued growth of the organisation.

Research experience

I use cognitive, behavioural neuroscience, and neurobiological approaches to understand the mechanisms involved in the progression of neurodegenerative conditions that affect memory function.

As a Principal Investigator, in the last five years I have applied for a total of 15 research grants (small, medium, and large) as both co-I and PI to UKRI and charity funders. I currently manage four active research grants where I oversee spending and complete financial reports for the funders.

My experience as a Principal Investigator has given me skills in financial management which provides a strong basis for the role of Treasurer and the associated requirements, including reviewing the financial performance of the BNA and reporting on finances to the BNA Council and at the Annual General Meeting.

Administrative roles

I am the BNA Local Group Representative (LGR) at Teesside University. As LGR I have shown a keen interest in contributing to the BNA at a local and national level, providing support for other members of the neuroscience community through sharing good practice. I regularly attend the monthly LGR meetings and the annual Forum meetings, where I have presented the work I have been doing to promote the BNA at Teesside and increase membership through a range of activities. I actively contributed to the BNA Accreditation Working Group, bringing my experience as a course leader to develop an important framework of learning outcomes, showing contribution to the continued growth and impact of the BNA.

I have been a member of many committees across my different roles, demonstrating the experience and potential to chair the BNA Finance Committee. For example, I have actively contributed to three Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Bodies, and am currently a member of the Research Ethics Committee at Teesside University, where I review research project applications and have worked with external organisations to develop a policy on the use of animal tissues from overseas. I therefore have experience of leading on a measure to improve research infrastructure and procedures which will improve the quality and impact of research. These skills can be effectively applied in the role of Treasurer, where there may be a need to create or update finance policies.

Overall, my involvement in the BNA has shown a commitment to supporting the work and continued growth of the organisation, and I would like to take this further with the opportunity to contribute and provide strategic input at a more senior level as Treasurer.