Dear BALR committee,

I would like to join the BALR committee because I enjoy being part of the respiratory research community and would welcome the opportunity to become more involved in supporting its activities, bringing researchers together and encouraging new collaborations. I have been a BALR member since 2022 and have attended several meetings over the years. I have always appreciated the friendly and welcoming atmosphere at BALR events, where researchers from different backgrounds can share their work, exchange ideas and learn from one another. I would really like to play a part in maintaining and developing that sense of community.

I am a researcher at the University of Leicester, where my work focuses on understanding the genetic and molecular basis of lung function and respiratory disease. My research combines statistical genetics, genetic epidemiology, DNA methylation and functional genomics. I am particularly interested in how genetic effects change throughout life and differ between populations, and how we can use molecular data to better understand the biological mechanisms underlying respiratory diseases.

Much of my work involves large international collaborations. As joint-first author of a multi-ancestry lung-function study, I led quality control and meta-analyses across 49 datasets from 33 cohorts. I now lead the analytical work for an international study investigating how genetic effects on lung function change with age. These projects have involved coordinating with researchers across different institutions, discussing analytical challenges and finding ways to bring together data and expertise from different groups. My earlier research in transcriptomics and evolutionary genomics has also given me experience across different areas of molecular biology and bioinformatics.

Working in these collaborations has taught me the importance of good communication, organisation and making sure everyone has an opportunity to contribute. I would be happy to bring this experience to the BALR committee, whether through helping organise meetings and webinars, reviewing funding applications or identifying opportunities to connect researchers with complementary expertise. I would also bring a perspective from statistical genetics and functional genomics, particularly as these approaches become increasingly important for understanding respiratory disease.

I would be fully committed to attending the quarterly committee meetings and AGM and taking an active role in the committee's activities. I see this as an opportunity to give something back to a research community that has been

important to my own development, while helping BALR continue to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for respiratory researchers at different career stages.

Sincerely,
Abril Izquierdo