Personal Statement for Ordinary Member

I am a Senior Lecturer in Cellular Genetics at Manchester Metropolitan University and would be delighted to serve as an Ordinary Committee Member of the British Association for Lung Research (BALR). As a respiratory researcher, I have benefited greatly from the collaborative and supportive nature of the lung research community, and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to BALR and support its important role in advancing respiratory research across the UK.

My research focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms that drive respiratory disease, particularly the role of microRNAs and extracellular vesicles in viral-induced asthma exacerbations. I currently lead a UKRI-MRC New Investigator Research Grant and a BMA Foundation grant, which have provided valuable experience in developing and managing research programmes, building collaborations, and working closely with clinicians, academics, patients, and charities. My work spans airway epithelial cell biology, influenza A (H1N1) infection, and translational respiratory research, with the ultimate aim of improving outcomes for people living with lung disease.

I am an active member of the respiratory research community through organisations such as the European Respiratory Society and the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand. I regularly attend and contribute to scientific meetings, peer review manuscripts and grant applications, and engage with researchers at different career stages. Through these experiences, I have seen first-hand the value of organisations such as BALR in bringing researchers together, promoting collaboration, and supporting the development of early-career scientists.

Alongside my research activities, I am passionate about education and academic service. At Manchester Metropolitan University, I contribute to teaching across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, curriculum development, student supervision, quality assurance activities, and the NHS Scientist Training Programme. I supervise MSc and PhD students and enjoy supporting the development of the next generation of researchers. These roles have strengthened my leadership, organisational, and communication skills, while reinforcing the importance of creating supportive and inclusive research environments.

What particularly attracts me to BALR is its commitment to supporting respiratory researchers through networking opportunities, scientific meetings, studentships, and awards. I would be keen to contribute to the review of abstracts and funding applications, support the organisation of meetings and webinars, and help strengthen engagement across the respiratory research community. As someone who has benefited from networking opportunities and mentorship throughout my career, I am particularly enthusiastic about supporting early-career researchers and helping to create opportunities for collaboration and development.

If elected, I would bring enthusiasm, reliability, and a collaborative approach to the committee. I would actively contribute to discussions, support BALR activities, and work with fellow committee members to strengthen the visibility and impact of the Association. It would be a privilege to contribute my experience to an organisation that plays such an important role in supporting respiratory research and researchers across the UK.

Fatemeh Moheimani