

Applied
Microbiology
International

Trustees
Unlimited

Candidate Information

Lay Trustee
January 2026

Dear candidate

Here at Applied Microbiology International (AMI), we fundamentally believe that global challenges need to be solved by global, interdisciplinary experts who apply their diverse experience and unique voices to achieve a common goal. Our work is organised around six strategic goals, each of which is aligned with at least one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



We publish three internationally acclaimed journals, an industry leading magazine, and use our collective expertise to influence global policy and inspire the next generation of microbiologists. Our work is a conduit for scientific discovery to improve the planet for all.

Following a change to our articles of association our Board of Trustees is looking for a new Lay Trustee to join the team to support and guide the society in developing its revenue generation / commercial strategy.

Our 11 trustees include appointed and elected microbiologist trustees who each bring leadership from the applied microbiology community. Our only non-microbiologist trustee is our treasurer. The trustees have decided to diversify the board's skills and recruit a new trustee with strategic and commercial expertise.

This is an exciting time for AMI, in recent years we have transformed from the UK focused Society for Applied Microbiology to Applied Microbiology International, an organisation with a global focus and reach. Our membership has grown dramatically during 2024 and 2025 and has reached a current total of 7k.

The Chief Executive and trustees are working to diversify AMI's income streams to support an anticipated reduction in revenue from scholarly publishing. Our three wholly owned academic journals are published by Oxford University Press (OUP). One journal operates within a fully open access model, and the other two are hybrid journals which are expected to move to an open access model by the end of this decade. This is likely to result in a decline in revenue, so to support AMI's sustained operations, we have started work to diversify our income streams.

The successful individual will take a lead role in supporting the trustees and staff team to build and execute a new commercial growth strategy.

Prof Jack Gilbert
President Applied Microbiology International

About us

We bring the global microbiology community together across borders and disciplines, nurturing those studying and working in the field while enabling collaboration that drives meaningful scientific impact. Through targeted funding, we support research, encourage broad and inclusive participation at our events, and ensure diverse voices contribute to addressing the sustainable development goals we have chosen to support.

We share knowledge and innovation through our industry-leading magazine, [The Microbiologist](#), and through three internationally acclaimed journals published in partnership with Oxford University Press. We nurture early careers, recognise excellence, and celebrate professional capability through our prestigious awards, while enabling collaboration between global, interdisciplinary teams. By amplifying the voices of applied microbiologists worldwide, we use our collective expertise to influence evidence-based policy, inspire the next generation, and act as a conduit for scientific discovery that improves the planet for all.

Objectives & Activities

At AMI we believe microbiology can address the world's greatest challenges and that global problems require collaborative, international solutions. We bring together diverse voices from across disciplines, sectors, career stages and geographies, united by a shared commitment to scientific discovery and impact, with our work focused on seven UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As an inclusive, global membership organisation, we support applied microbiologists at every stage of their journey, from students and early career researchers to established professionals in academia and industry, enabling collaboration, innovation and progress across the field.

Our activities are centred around seven of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Food Security (UN SDG 2), Climate Action (UN SDG 13), Clean Water (UN SDG 6), One Health (UN SDG 3), Ocean Sustainability (UN SDG 14), Healthy Land (UN SDG 15) and Economic Equity (UN SDG 1)



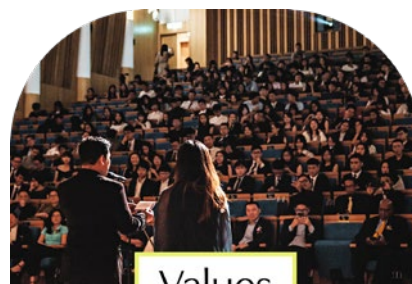
Vision

Microbiology can solve the worlds greatest challenges



Mission

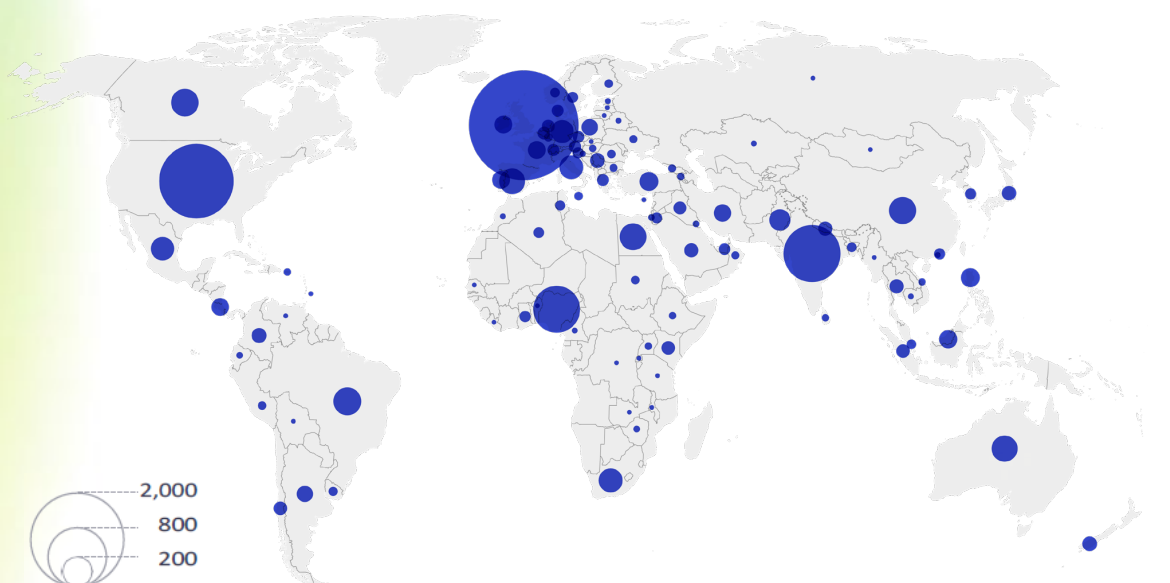
We will nurture and engage a global interdisciplinary community, providing opportunities for collaboration, making advancements in, and through, applied microbiology



Values

Pushing forward, inclusivity, meaningful collaboration, scientific rigour

AMI Members



- Membership has continued to grow year on year, reaching approximately 7,000 members globally.
- AMI's global community of members has access to our internationally acclaimed journals, and exclusive member discounts for conferences and events.
- We continue to develop our network of **Global Ambassadors**, representing a total of 31 countries. These are microbiologists with a range of expertise and knowledge across regions and sectors who support and promote applied microbiology and our organisation.

Executive Committee (Trustees)

Honorary Officers:

Prof Jack Gilbert	President
Dr Nwadiuto Esiobu	General Secretary
Otto Balsiger	Treasurer
Prof Emmanuel Adukwu	International Industry Officer

Elected Trustees:

Dr Marc Dumont
Dr Katherine Lagerstrom
Dr Samantha Law
Dr Helen Onyeaka
Prof Diane Purchase
Prof Catherine Rees
Dr James Williamson

Dr Lucy Harper Chief Executive

Find out more about our Senior Leadership Team and Trustees [here](#).

Annual Report 2024



Applied
Microbiology
International

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www.appliedmicrobiology.org



Strategy 2022 - 2027

2026 will see the continued delivery of AMI's strategy across four agreed strategic themes: collaborate, modernise, grow and sustain, alongside a planned strategic review.

COLLABORATE

FORM
COLLABORATIONS
WITH 3 INTL. MICRO
ORGANISATIONS

EXPAND GLOBAL
AMBASSADOR
PROGRAMME

MAKE GLOBAL
IMPACT

MODERNISE

ENSURE INCLUSIVITY
IN MICROBIOLOGY

EXPAND REACH
OF AMI

GROW

GROW AMI
MEMBERSHIP

CREATE A NEXT
GENERATION
MICROBIOLOGIST
PACKAGE

CREATE INDUSTRY
SPONSORED
MICROBIOLOGY
MASTERCLASS

SUSTAIN

CREATE
SUSTAINABLE
MICROBIOLOGY
THOUGHT
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMME

SPOTLIGHT
BREAKTHROUGHS
IN
MICROBIOLOGY
RESEARCH

SPOTLIGHT
INTER-
DISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH

ACHIEVE
NET ZERO

Some strategic achievements to date

COLLABORATE

- Strengthened partnerships with major international microbiology societies (ASM, FEMS, ISME, IUMS), reflecting successful organisational repositioning following the 2022 rebrand.
- Expanded collaborations with topic-specific microbiology groups, including [Soil Stars](#) and the [Microbes and Social Equity Working Group](#).
- Convened the first-ever IUCN Microbial Conservation Specialist Group dedicated to protecting microbial biodiversity.
- Joined forces with microbiology leaders to launch Global Climate Change Strategy.
- Continued growth of the [Global Ambassadors](#) network, reaching 43 ambassadors across 31 countries by the end of 2025, supporting regional promotion and providing valuable local insights.
- Increased engagement from members, [Advisory Groups](#) and trustees in shaping global policy through consultation responses and regional policy influence.
- In 2025 AMI responded to 29 policy engagement opportunities which included

MODERNISE

- Continued to support diversity and inclusion in microbiology through multiple initiatives, including two webinars highlighting women entrepreneurs in STEM and supporting LGBTQIA+ microbiologists, fostering connection, advocacy and shared experiences.
- Increased the number and geographic diversity of countries contributing to and engaging with [The Microbiologist](#).
- Supported the development of the Minoritised Life Scientists Future Forum, a Europe-wide event for minoritised groups scheduled for 2025.
- Established a Diversity and Inclusion Committee to advance AMI's D&I strategy and address unconscious bias in selection processes for advisory groups, trustees and staff.

GROW

- Significant growth in AMI membership during 2025, with members based in 108 countries.
- Progress in building membership among undergraduate students through Early Career Scientist (ECS) support and the institutional membership programme.
- During 2024 delivery of the first industry-sponsored [The Microbiologist Masterclass](#), focusing on practical essentials of liquid chromatography. In 2025 we launched the [‘Under the Lens’](#) video series.
- Established the annual Horizon Awards which recognise excellence across various domains of applied microbiology.

SUSTAIN

- Progressed towards carbon neutral operations and events, with several team members gaining Carbon Literacy Accreditation through the Carbon Literacy Trust.
- In 2025, through our grants programme we invested £250k in research, training mobility and professional development. This included 122 individual grants and awards.

2025 Wrapped

2025 WRAPPED

Connecting microbiologists worldwide



Celebrating members in **108** different countries

2025 WRAPPED

2025 WRAPPED

Policy & Advocacy

29 Policy engagement opportunities

250+ members contributed

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS

- Soil Health**
20+ stakeholder meetings → 30-expert roundtable → publication in progress
- AMR**
Global roundtable → joint consultation response → SMI paper underway
- Phages**
Reached **60+** policy stakeholders, with responses from UK & devolved governments

2025 WRAPPED

2025 WRAPPED

Publishing

LETTERS IN APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY

First cohort of LAM Junior Editors & Reviewers complete training programme

14 Junior Editors **7** Junior Reviewers **SELECTED TO START IN 2026**

200+ global applications received

JOURNAL OF APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY

Faster publishing times & rising submissions.
4 new Research Themes launching next year

SUSTAINABLE MICROBIOLOGY

POLICY SPOTLIGHT Policy Spotlight Webinar Series launched. Inaugural webinar drew over... **190** Attendees

2025 WRAPPED

2025 WRAPPED

Events & Awards

Horizon Awards 2025 **MICROBIAL SOLUTIONS** for a Changing World **Minoritised Life Scientists FUTURE FORUM**

ECS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2025 **LETTERS IN APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY**

MMEG Molecular Microbial Ecology Group **MICROBES AND SOCIAL EQUITY**

VIEW OUR EVENTS FOR 2026:

appliedmicrobiology.org/ems-event-calendar.html

2025 WRAPPED

The Role

The Board of Trustees is AMI's governing body, which comprises up to fourteen Trustees, each of whom are responsible for the successful running of the organisation. The Board of Trustees is the only decision-making body of the organisation: it develops and monitors the progress of AMI's strategy and oversees all activity of the charity. Along with the Chief Executive of AMI, the Board of Trustees ensure the effective management and custody of all AMI assets as they are used to deliver the organisation's charitable objectives.

The Trustees meet at least three times per year, these meetings are held via Teams and organised at a time which accommodates Trustees based across the globe. Once per year we hold a face to face meeting in the UK. All meetings have a formal agenda and are minuted. Meetings are normally held in March, July, and November.

All AMI Trustees will:

- Support and provide advice on AMI's purpose, vision, goals and activities.
- Approve high-level strategies and policies, and monitor and evaluate their implementation.
- Oversee AMI's financial plans and budgets and monitor and evaluate progress.
- Ensure that key risks are being identified, monitored and controlled effectively.
- Review and approve AMI's financial statements.
- Provide support and challenge to AMI's Chief Executive in the exercise of their delegated authority and affairs.
- Keep abreast of changes in AMI's operating environment.
- Attend as many Trustee meetings as possible.
- Use independent judgment, acting legally and in good faith to promote and protect AMI's interests, to the exclusion of their own personal and/or any third-party interests.
- Contribute to the broader promotion of AMI's objects, aims and reputation by applying skills, expertise, knowledge and contacts.
- If there are vacancies, Trustees are actively encouraged to join and be involved with one of AMI's Committees or Advisory Groups.
- Members will actively promote AMI in their own institution and seek to at all times recruit new members.
- At all times act with the best interests of AMI in mind.

In addition to the core responsibilities of all AMI trustees, the new Lay Trustee will:

- Advise the AMI team on development of a new commercial strategy. The strategy will be aligned with AMI's values and mission and will drive revenue growth and diversification of profitable income streams.
- Provide advice about sales, market dynamics and customer segments, business development, product/ service commercialisation, new product development and commercial partnerships.
- **Serve as a member of the AMI Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (5 meetings per year – held remotely).**

Person specification

AMI is looking for a Lay Trustee to join its modern, forward-thinking Board. We are looking for individuals who bring an entrepreneurial mindset, fresh perspectives, and the energy to contribute to a dynamic organisation with global reach. You will play a key role in helping to shape the organisation's future, including contributing to a major strategic review planned for 2026. Candidates do not need to be UK-based, but must share and actively support our values, and be motivated by the opportunity to make a meaningful difference through good governance and strategic leadership.

You will have:

- A background in business / commercial development ideally within the STEM sector.
- A proven track record of senior commercial leadership within STEM.
- Strong integrity, personal credibility.
- Global experience and mindset: open to cross-border collaboration to bring cultural awareness.
- A commitment to AMI's cause, strategic objectives and values.

You do not need to be a microbiologist to apply for this role.

We are committed to increasing diversity and maintaining an inclusive culture. If you meet our criteria, we welcome your application regardless of your age, ethnicity, race, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, social demographic or whether you live with a disability. Reasonable adjustments will be supported wherever possible to minimise barriers to participation.

How to apply

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity please provide the following:

- An up to date CV with the details of two referees (we will not contact them without your prior permission)
- A supporting statement which addresses how you meet the criteria in the person specification

Our recruitment partner, Trustees Unlimited, will be handling all applications.

Please submit your application to: applications@trustees-unlimited.co.uk

Deadline for applications: Monday 9th February 2026

Interviews with AMI: 24th-26th February 2026

You may also contact Melissa Baxter at Trustees Unlimited if you have queries about any aspect of the appointment process, need additional information or wish to have an informal and confidential discussion. She can be contacted on 07789 985229 / melissa.baxter@trustees-unlimited.co.uk.

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