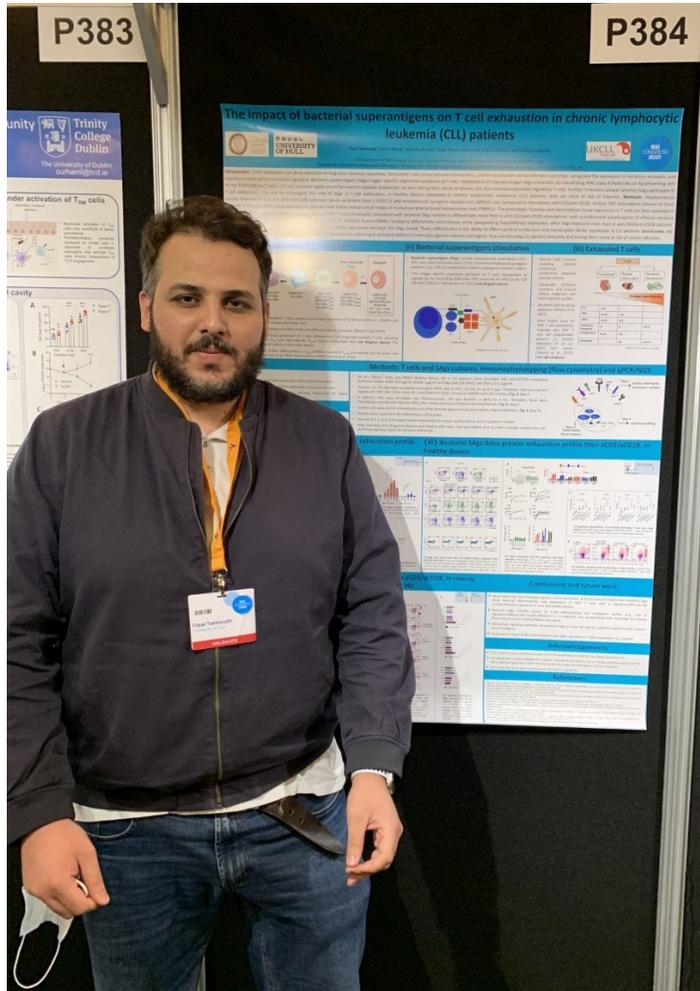


Fisal Tantoush

The UK CLL Forum awarded Fisal Tantoush (University of Hull) a travel award to attend the **British Society for Immunology Congress** in November 2021 in **Edinburgh**. He presented his poster at the conference titled **“The impact of bacterial superantigens on T cell exhaustion in chronic lymphocytic leukemia patients”**.

This conference is a key event in the national immunology calendar attended by many immunologists presenting new scientific contributions. On the first day I particularly enjoyed the presentations by Profs Arne Akbar and Rafi Ahmed, as well the session called *“Engaging with the public about COVID-19 vaccines; a panel discussion.”* This session contained many

new updates and I personally have learned from it.



The conference had a packed scientific schedule covering cancer immunology, B-T interactions in health and diseases on the second day with talks focusing on metabolic programming of immune responses, regulatory T cells as therapeutic tools in autoimmune diseases and transplantation, regenerative inflammation and tissue repair, and vaccines as a tool against bacteria and autoimmunity. Adaptive/innate immunity and infection, immunotherapy/treatment were exciting sessions on the third day, particularly emerging functions of the Innate Lymphoid Cell (ILC) family, and the influence of sex hormones and chromosomes on inflammation and immunity. I presented my poster on the

third day, and received many questions about the impact of superantigens on CLL immunity, as well as suggestions of future work. Finally, on the fourth day I enjoyed the sessions defining immune microenvironments in organogenesis, inflammation and cancer, immune memory and long-term health post COVID-19.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your time, help and support to attend the BSI congress 2021. This event is really important for my PhD and future career and I am very glad that you have helped me to make this happen, especially as I am about to graduate and finish my PhD journey.