

AHCS ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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Introduction

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report from the Academy for Healthcare Science.

2023 was a year of continued progress, partnership, and recognition for the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS).

As the overarching body representing the UK's healthcare science workforce, the Academy strengthened its position as a trusted voice for quality, innovation, and leadership in healthcare science across the NHS and beyond.

The following pages share some of the key achievements and milestones from this year as well as a look ahead in the coming year.

Key Achievements & Milestones



Regulation and Professional Standards

- The AHCS maintained accreditation with the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) for the operation of its Accredited Register as well as passing Standard 1, ensuring ongoing public confidence in healthcare science professionals.
- Expansion of the register continued across specialisms, supporting safe and effective practice for practitioners and employers. These new groups included:
 - HCS Assistant & Associate
 - HCS Student Directory
 - Community of Practice for Lead Healthcare Scientists
- Updated standards of proficiency and ethical guidance were published to reflect emerging technologies, workforce changes, and evolving service models.
- The AHCS is nearing completion of the merge of its registers with RCCP, this will create the first unified Clinical Physiology Register in the UK, streamlining registration and regulation

Workforce and Education

- The Academy collaborated with Health Education England (HEE) (now part of NHS England) to support workforce transformation and education reform initiatives.
- Continued delivery of the Equivalence and Certificates of Attainment processes, ensuring fair recognition of experience and qualifications across healthcare science roles.
- Strengthened partnerships with higher education providers and training programmes, including Modernising Scientific Careers pathways.

Key Achievements & Milestones



Leadership and Representation

- AHCS provided expert input into national workforce policy discussions, including contributions to NHS England's Long Term Workforce Plan.
- Academy representatives spoke at national conferences and professional forums, raising the profile of healthcare science and highlighting the profession's impact on diagnostics, genomics, digital health, and innovation.
- The AHCS lead on the roll out of the first **Very Senior Leadership Programme** for Healthcare Scientists in partnership with NHS England. This is to train to find the future CSOs and chief scientific advisors for England.

Recognition and Fellowship

- The Academy honoured leading professionals through its Honorary Fellowship Awards 2023, recognising exceptional contributions to healthcare science leadership, education, and innovation.
- Fellows continued to act as ambassadors for the profession, promoting excellence, inclusion, and scientific integrity.
- The AHCS supported the annual Advancing Healthcare Awards

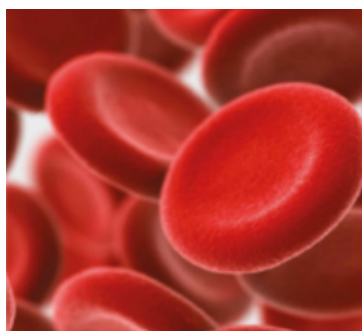
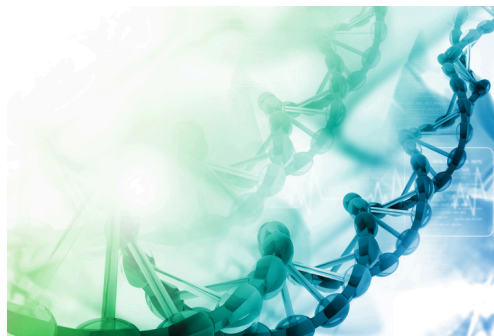
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 2023 saw the launch of the AHCS Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, embedding inclusive practice across all Academy activities.
- The Academy actively supported initiatives promoting fair access to careers in healthcare science and representation across all grades and specialisms.
- Launched a Healthcare Science EDI programme and committee which led to the Development of a National EDI Strategy and Framework with a toolkit of resources, this was commissioned by NHS England.

Key Achievements & Milestones

Communication and Engagement

- The AHCS strengthened its communications platforms, launching a refreshed website and digital resources to improve accessibility and visibility of key information for registrants, partners, and the public.
- Quarterly newsletters, social media updates, and webinars supported engagement with the profession and provided updates on regulatory and educational developments.



Looking Ahead

As 2023 concluded, the Academy began preparations for its upcoming strategic plan focused on:

- Strengthening professional recognition and regulation
- Supporting innovation and new technologies
- Expanding workforce pathways and leadership development
- Enhancing engagement with members, partners, and the wider public

The AHCS remains committed to its mission, **to uphold the highest standards of practice and to champion the essential contribution of healthcare science to patient care and population health.**

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