

April 2026



# AHCS CONNECT

The AHCS Registrants' Newsletter

## WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF OUR REGISTRANTS' NEWSLETTER

In this issue, you'll find some of the latest news and updates from AHCS and across Healthcare Science. This newsletter is themed around "the voices of the profession". We also feature key news and events from across the four countries. We hope you enjoy reading.

- Janet Monkman, CEO & Registrar, AHCS



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# AHCS Appoints 2 new Regulation Board Associate Members

The AHCS are delighted to announce that two new associate members, pictured, have joined the AHCS Regulation Board, Ansel Godinho, Great Ormond Street Hospital, and Charlene Kearney, Northern Ireland and Social Care Trust.

Dr Joy Tweed, Chair of the Regulation Board, said:

'I am delighted to welcome Charlene and Ansel as associate members of the Regulation Board. This is a first for the Board, to appoint an associate member to both increase the diversity of input into the Board and also to help healthcare scientists gain board experience, in preparation for possible future roles.

Originally, we were intending to recruit just one member, but Charlene and Ansel both impressed when we talked with them and they bring different, complementary experiences to the Board.'



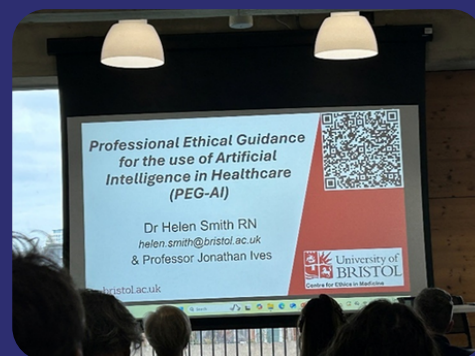
## AHCS on the road

Jude Savage, Deputy Registrar and Head of Regulation, attended the in-person PSA Annual Research Conference and attended an online PSA standards review at the end of 2025. Reflecting on the event, Jude said:

*"Another great research conference hosted by the Professional Standards Authority, this year in partnership with Professor Roberta Fida, Aston Business School, Aston University, and Professor Rosalind Searle, Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow.*

*The theme of the event was around the increasing recognition of the need to shift from reactive to preventative approaches in regulation and how to contribute to that shift by harnessing insights from research to inform policy and practice. There were a number of parallel sessions, see <https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/news-and-updates/news/preventing-harm-turning-insight-impact-research-conference-18-november-2025> for the full programme.*

*There were multiple highlights, including discussions around creating an "Professional Ethical Guidance for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare" by Helen Smith and Professor Jonnathan Ives from The University of Bristol which could lead to a universal set of principles for use for all healthcare workers irrespective of specialty or discipline."*



# Key Regulatory & Patient Safety News

## Professional Standards Authority publishes new Standards for Accredited Registers

The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) has published its updated [Standards for Accredited Registers](#).

The revised Standards reflect extensive engagement and consultation, and set out the expectations the PSA will use when assessing how registers protect patients and the public and maintain confidence in the occupations they register.

The updated framework introduces clearer and more accessible expectations, with a strengthened focus on governance, safeguarding, risk-based decision-making and professional suitability. For the first time, the PSA has also introduced a single set of Standards covering both professional regulators and Accredited Registers, bringing greater consistency across its oversight and accreditation work.

The new Standards will underpin the PSA's future performance reviews of Accredited Registers.

You can read the updated [Standards](#) and find out more on the PSA website.

## Click below to read these news articles:

**HSSIB publishes new strategy to strengthen investigation capability in England**

**DHSC and NHS England share Neighbourhood health framework**

# OUT NOW: AHCS Healthcare Science Leadership Journal Spring 2026 Edition

We are delighted to share the newly released AHCS Healthcare Science Leadership Journal – Spring Edition 2026.

This edition contains great articles from a range of authors across Healthcare Science, featuring inspiring stories, insightful reflections, and practical guidance relevant to current and future leaders.

This edition features articles covering: Policy & Strategy, Professional Profiles, Professional & Clinical Practice, Clinical Leadership and Education and Training & Reflection.

[Click here to read the Spring 2026 Edition of the Healthcare Science Leadership Journal](#)



## Some authors featuring in this edition:

- **Vicki Heath**, Chief Healthcare Science Officer for Wales – “But you do not look autistic”
- **Ryan Copper**, Point of Care Testing programme lead, NHS National Services Scotland – “From Bench to Boardroom”
- **Dr Joy Tweed**, Chair, AHCS Regulation Board – “Developing Very Senior Leaders
- **Professor Elaine Cloutman-Green**, Consultant Clinical Scientist, who shares a book pitch about her latest book, “It shouldn’t happen to a PhD student”

## Why should you read?

- Explore real-world leadership examples that enhance patient care
- Stay informed on healthcare policy and future challenges
- Gain insights from top leaders shaping scientific and system-wide change

If you, or someone you know, would like to contribute an article to a future edition of the journal or give feedback on an edition, please get in touch via: [leadershipjournal@ahcs.ac.uk](mailto:leadershipjournal@ahcs.ac.uk).

# AHCS Announce new Chair Designate, Dean Fathers

The Academy for Healthcare Science is pleased to announce that Dean Fathers will be appointed as the next Chair of the AHCS. Dean will start his new role at the end of April, taking over from John Stevens.

Dean Fathers shares a statement on his appointment:

"I'm honoured to step into the role of Chair of the Academy for Healthcare Science. Before looking ahead, I want to express my deepest appreciation to John Stevens, whose exceptional leadership has shaped the Academy in profound and lasting ways.



His dedication, integrity, and vision have strengthened the Healthcare Science profession and elevated the Academy's work across the healthcare science community.

John's achievements, both seen and unseen, have set a high standard and created a strong, values-driven foundation for the future. I am grateful for the trust that the Board, the Professional Bodies Council and the staff of the Academy, who all took part in my selection process, have shown in me to build upon John's legacy and I intend to honour his legacy by building on the foundations and progress he has created with such care and commitment.

As I begin this new chapter, I look forward to working with colleagues, partners, and the wider AHCS community to take the Academy forward with ambition, collaboration, and purpose."

## Reflections of Healthcare Science Week 2026



Across Healthcare Science Week 2026, it was amazing to see all the work of Healthcare Scientists being celebrated. We shared stories, insights and achievements that highlight the incredible impact healthcare scientists make every day. Thank you to the AHCS Healthcare Science National Clinical Leads and our President for sharing such insightful articles throughout the week.

To read all articles, quotes and posts shared over the course of Healthcare Science Week 2026, please click below:

[Click here to read our HCS Week content](#)

# Championing Excellence: AHCS Honorary Fellowships & Chair Celebration - 3rd March 2026

The Academy for Healthcare Science was delighted to host a truly inspiring Honorary Fellowship and Chair Celebration on 3 March 2026, bringing together colleagues, partners and leaders from across the healthcare science community to recognise outstanding contribution, innovation and service. The event celebrated the people whose leadership, dedication and vision continue to shape healthcare science and improve patient care across the UK.



[Click here to read the full coverage of the event](#)

## AHCS and UKAS sign statement of mutual support

Quality and accreditation are fundamental to patient safety, professional integrity, and public trust in healthcare science services. The Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) is pleased to have signed a Statement of Mutual Support with the **United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)**, recognising the important relationship between professional registration, workforce competence, and accredited healthcare science services.



[Click here to read the full statement](#)

Left to right: Daniel Meiring, AHCS Healthcare Science Clinical Lead, Laura Booth, Accreditation Specialist at UKAS, Professor Chris Hopkins, President, Academy for Healthcare Science

# The Voices of the Healthcare Science Profession

## The Professional Bodies Council

The Professional Bodies Council is a strategic forum within the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) that convenes healthcare science professional bodies across the United Kingdom. Current membership comprises of 25 professional bodies. The Council's primary purpose is to provide a unified voice for the profession, influence national policy, and strengthen leadership within healthcare science.

The PBC undertakes several core functions:

- Representation and Advocacy
- Strategic Leadership
- Collaboration and Growth
- Support for Professional Standards and Regulatory Initiatives
- Innovation and Workforce Development

Recent achievements include active engagement in shaping national strategies, such as contributing to the NHS England 10-Year Health Plan, supporting AHCS Honorary Fellowships, and advancing initiatives including Patient Group Directions, professional regulation and Consultant Clinical Scientist recruitment processes.

The PBC operates under a two-year strategic plan, committed to advancing the healthcare science profession and improving patient safety. The current strategic plan is available for review [here](#).

## AHCS Welcomes the IDSc, GCRAB and the OIA to the Professional Bodies Council.

The Academy for Healthcare Science is delighted to extend a warm welcome to the Institute of Decontamination Science (IDSc), the Genetic Counsellor Registration Advisory Board (GCRAB), the Ophthalmic Imaging Association (OIA) and the Association for Clinical Genomic Science (ACGS) who have all recently joined the [Professional Bodies Council](#).

The Academy and the PBC is committed to bringing together all healthcare science disciplines and representing the profession with a strong, unified voice. We are delighted to welcome these new members to the Council who further strengthen our shared voice, and we look forward to working together as a collective to champion healthcare science and its vital role in improving patient care across the UK.

[OIA Article](#)

[IDSc Article](#)

[GCRAB Article](#)

[ACGS Article](#)



# AHCS Webinar Series

We are delighted to share that AHCS have a new webinar coming soon, stay tuned for updates in our newsletters and on our website coming soon! These webinars are free to attend and are open to all.

In the meantime, why not check out our most recent webinar, chaired by Professor Stephen O'Connor, we focussed on sustainability in healthcare within our NHS with two speakers at the cutting edge of sustainability.



[Click here to watch the latest AHCS Webinar: "Sustainability and the Circular Economy of the NHS"](#)

## NHS Scotland Events Team share call for sessions

NHS Scotland Events Team are delighted to advise the NHS Scotland Event 2026 will take place on Monday 21 September at the Technology & Innovation Centre (TIC), University of Strathclyde Glasgow. The team have offered an offer the opportunity to highlight the excellent work out in the service at the event.

The Event Programme will showcase work towards Transforming Health and Care Services through Collaboration.

Deadline for bids to be uploaded is **5pm Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.**

Please see the full article, linked below, detailing how to submit a bid and get involved in the NHS Scotland Event 2026.

[NHS Scotland Event 2026](#)

## **Wales Launch Future approach for audiology services 2025**

The Welsh Government has announced an ambitious plan to transform audiology services, aiming to deliver more care in communities and closer to home. Hearing loss is a significant health issue, affecting 17% of people in Wales and up to 80% of those over 70. It is also the largest modifiable risk factor for dementia.

The Future Approach has been produced in collaboration with key stakeholders from across Wales, who have been working hard to reform and extend audiology provision from secondary care into primary and community care.

[\*\*Click here to find out more\*\*](#)

## **Registration open for South West Healthcare Science Annual Conference 2026**

NHS England South West are excited to announce that registration for the South West Healthcare Science Annual Conference 2026 is now live!

You are invited you to secure your place for this exciting event. The conference will feature a fantastic line-up of expert speakers, interactive workshops, and a celebration of healthcare science excellence with our Healthcare Science Awards.

Location: Taunton RFC

Date: 16th June 2026

Time: Registration & networking from 9:00am | Event concludes at 4:30pm

Free on-site parking available

Lunch & refreshments included

[\*\*Click here to find out more\*\*](#)

# In case you missed it

## AHCS Responds to the Kingdon report on Children's Hearing Services across NHS England

The Academy for Healthcare Science calls for stronger leadership and professional regulation in Children's Hearing Services.

Date: November 2025

The Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) welcomes the publication of the independent report on Children's Hearing Services in England and fully endorses its call for strengthened leadership and robust regulatory frameworks. The findings highlight significant gaps in service quality and governance, reinforcing the urgent need for decisive action to ensure the delivery of safe, effective, and equitable care for children.

Above all, we acknowledge the impact that failures in children's hearing services have had on babies, children, and their families. The AHCS is committed to working collaboratively with all partners to support rapid and comprehensive improvements at pace and scale.

[Click here to read the full statement](#)

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## Scotland publish Healthcare Science: Redefining the workforce

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the Scottish Government published the second paper in their Healthcare Science in Scotland series titled Healthcare Science: Redefining Our Workforce. This paper sets out a refreshed approach to the healthcare science workforce in Scotland and was launched by Professor Catherine Ross, Chief Scientific Officer for Scottish Government.

The paper offers a clear mandate to enhance professional recognition and influence within the health system.

Read the full paper here: [Healthcare science: redefining our workforce – gov.scot](#)  
Read the first paper in the Healthcare Science in Scotland series here: [Healthcare Science in Scotland: Defining Our Strategic Approach](#)

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## NHS Wales Healthcare Science Framework

August saw the launch of the NHS Wales Healthcare Science Framework, created as a helpful guide that explains the various roles, opportunities and career pathways in healthcare science. It brings together key information on education, training and career progression within the healthcare science profession. The framework provides clear understanding of the vital role that healthcare science professionals play in delivering high-quality patient care and supporting the NHS. Additionally, it highlights how these professionals collaborate across disciplines and lead teams to provide expert care throughout NHS Wales.

Read the [NHS Wales Healthcare Science Framework](#) and take a look at the career pathways by clicking through the list above.

Read the full news article [here](#).

# SHARE YOUR VIEWS GET IN TOUCH!

At AHCS, we're keen to hear from you! We're always trying to improve the content that we share in our newsletters and welcome any contributions or ideas that we can take forward.

If you're looking to spread the word of your own specialism, give an insight into your department or practice or maybe upcoming healthcare science events that you're holding, get in touch! We're always happy to feature new, interesting and exciting information in our newsletters to inform our registrants.

Contact us at: [communications@ahcs.ac.uk](mailto:communications@ahcs.ac.uk)

**KEEP YOUR  
PERSONAL DETAILS  
UP TO DATE**

**If your personal  
details have changed,  
remember to update  
them on the  
registrants' portal.**



## **VOX: The AHCS Public Healthcare Science Newsletter**

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newsletter to get more of the  
latest HCS news straight into  
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homepage.**



**KEEP THE CONVERSATION  
GOING BY FOLLOWING US ON:**