

July 2026



AHCS CONNECT

The AHCS Registrants' Newsletter

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF OUR REGISTRANTS' NEWSLETTER

"In this issue, you'll find some of the latest news and updates from AHCS and across Healthcare Science. We hope you enjoy reading."

– Professor Janet Monkman OBE, CEO & Registrar, AHCS



In this issue

AHCS News

- Healthcare Scientists celebrated in King's Birthday Honours
- AHCS Management Board update
- AHCS awarded NHS England Centre for Advancing Practice contract
- AHCS issues new Private Practice Guidelines
- Demystifying Surgical Robots Webinar - Recording now live
- President & Clinical Lead blogs

Healthcare Science News

- Guide to sharing and publicising research and innovation work - Pathology Academy Wales
- NHS England Transfusion 2024 Strategy Review
- PSA commissioned to conduct Right-Touch Assurance assessment for Healthcare Science in Scotland

Healthcare Science Opportunities

- Chief Scientific Advisor secondment opportunity – Northern Ireland Government

Healthcare Science Events

- OCSO NHS England: AI Webinar
- Advancing Healthcare Awards UK 2026 - Shining a spotlight on healthcare scientists across the UK
- Advancing Healthcare Awards Cymru - nominations closing soon!
- ARTP Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Healthcare Scientists Celebrated in King's Birthday Honours

The Academy for Healthcare Science is proud to celebrate a significant moment for the healthcare science profession, as a number of outstanding healthcare scientists have been recognised in His Majesty the King's Birthday Honours.

Professor Janet Monkman OBE

We are especially delighted to congratulate our CEO and Registrar, Professor Janet Monkman OBE, on this well-deserved honour for services to the healthcare science workforce across the UK.

This recognition reflects Professor Monkman's long-standing commitment to patient safety, healthcare science and her leadership within a wider community of colleagues across the profession.

Throughout her career, Janet has supported the development and recognition of healthcare scientists, helping to highlight their contribution to patient care, research and innovation. This work has been delivered alongside dedicated teams and partners across the UK, contributing to a stronger profile for the profession.

Janet also played an important role in the development of the AHCS, working with others to shape the organisation as it is today. Together, these efforts have supported both the profession and the systems that underpin it, with lasting benefits for the workforce and, ultimately, for patients.



Professor Monkman said:

"I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this recognition. This award reflects not just my work, but the dedication and commitment of the healthcare science community across the UK. It has been a privilege to work alongside so many talented professionals who make such a vital difference to patient safety and care every day."

Also Recognised

We extend our congratulations to:

- **Professor Ian Young CBE** - For services to Health Services Research and Development and to Health Education
- **Jane Blower MBE** - For services to Reproductive Science
- **Debra Padgett BEM** - For services to Biomedical Science in the NHS
- **Alice Wintergold BEM** - For services to People with Disabilities

Each of these honours recognises outstanding personal contributions, but collectively, they reflect something even more significant for the profession.

For many years, healthcare science has been described as one of the best-kept secrets in the NHS. Yet healthcare scientists are responsible for over 80% of clinical decisions, as well as driving innovation, delivering diagnostics, supporting treatment pathways, advancing research and improving patient outcomes.

These honours demonstrate that this is changing.

Recognition at the highest national level raises the profile of healthcare science across government, the NHS, academia, industry and the wider public. It helps to highlight the breadth, complexity and critical importance of the scientific workforce underpinning modern healthcare.

Inspiring the Future

Importantly, this recognition sends a powerful message to current and future healthcare scientists:

'Your work matters, your expertise matters and your contribution is valued.'

These honours mark a growing recognition of healthcare science as a critical pillar of healthcare delivery and life sciences. They strengthen our professional identity, inspire the next generation and create opportunities for even greater influence in the years ahead.

The future for healthcare science is incredibly bright. As the NHS continues to embrace innovation, including digital transformation, genomics, artificial intelligence and prevention, healthcare scientists will remain at the forefront of delivering solutions that improve outcomes for patients and populations.

A Proud Moment for the Profession

This recognition belongs not only to those receiving honours, but to the entire healthcare science community and the vital contribution it makes every day across the UK.

Congratulations once again to all those recognised. Your achievements are helping to elevate the profile of healthcare science and paving the way for the next generation of scientific leaders.

AHCS Management Board Update

Dr Joy Tweed appointed Vice-Chair of AHCS

Dr Joy Tweed has been appointed Vice-Chair of the AHCS. Joy has been a director of AHCS since 2022, previous to which she was a director at RCCP. She has had a long-standing interest in professional regulation and has been Chair of the Regulation Board since 2023.

Joy commented:

"I am delighted to have been appointed Vice-Chair of AHCS and look forward to working closely with the Chair, Dean Fathers. As a board, we're working on our strategic plan and I'm excited at the opportunities to promote and advance healthcare science, for the benefit of not only healthcare scientists but also most importantly for patients, and ensuring the highest standards and quality of care."



AHCS appoints Angela Douglas MBE as Senior Independent Non-Executive Director

The Academy for Healthcare Science is delighted to announce the appointment of Angela Douglas MBE as its new Senior Independent Non-Executive Director (NED).

Angela brings a wealth of leadership experience from across healthcare science, diagnostics, genomics and the wider NHS. She is currently President of the British In Vitro Diagnostics Association (BIVDA), a role she has held since December 2023. Prior to this, Angela served as Deputy Chief Scientific Officer for NHS England, where she played a key role in advancing healthcare science, supporting workforce development and helping to shape national scientific policy and strategy.



Commenting on her appointment, Angela said:

"I am honoured to take on the role of Senior Independent Non-Executive Director at the Academy for Healthcare Science. Throughout my career, healthcare scientists have inspired me with their dedication, expertise and impact on patient care. I look forward to working with colleagues across the Academy to support and champion this vital profession and help shape its future."

The Academy warmly welcomes Angela to the organisation and looks forward to working with her as the AHCS continues to champion professional standards, workforce development and excellence across the healthcare science profession.

A Thank You to outgoing AHCS Board Members

The Academy for Healthcare Science would like to extend its sincere thanks to non-executive directors Professor Shelley Heard and Professor Tony Fisher as they step down from the AHCS Board.

During their time on the Board, Shelley and Tony have each made a lasting contribution to the Academy's work and development. Through their commitment, insight and support, they have helped shape the direction of AHCS and strengthen its role in advancing healthcare science. Tony joined the Board in 2012, shortly after the Academy's inception, and has served for 14 years while Shelley joined in 2018 and has served for eight years. Their dedication and service over this time have been greatly valued by colleagues across the organisation.

On behalf of everyone at AHCS, we thank them both for their long service, commitment and the significant contribution they have made during their time on the Board. We wish them both every success and happiness in the future.



AHCS awarded NHS England Centre for Advancing Practice contract

The Academy is pleased to have been awarded the NHS England contract to continue delivering support for the ePortfolio (supported) route on behalf of the Centre for Advancing Practice, following a competitive tender process. This will be the Academy's third contract with Health Education England/NHS England.

Professor Janet Monkman OBE, Chief Executive and Registrar, said:

"We welcome the opportunity to continue working with the Centre for Advancing Practice in supporting and recognising advanced practitioners who are an important part of the healthcare workforce."

AHCS issues new Private Practice Guidelines

AHCS has issued guidelines for registrants working in or thinking about making the transition into private practice. These guidelines are designed to help outline the main considerations including professional support structures, advertising standards, provision of information to the public and complaints handling.

AHCS registrants work in a variety of settings, mostly in the NHS. The rest work for large private healthcare companies, or in smaller private practices, either with other healthcare professionals or as sole practitioners. Those working in group practices may do so as an employee, or they may be self-employed sub-contractors.

Working outside the NHS is different from working within it. What needs to be considered will be influenced by the individual's place of work and the legal basis on which they undertake that work. The purpose of this document is to outline the main issues to be aware of and to provide guidance for those practicing either alone, or in practices with other healthcare professionals.

This document provides guidance only. It does not constitute legal advice. Registrants are strongly advised to ensure they have access to professional legal services as appropriate.

To read the guidelines, please click below:

[**Guidelines for Registrants in Private Practice**](#)

Demystifying Surgical Robots Webinar - Recording now live

Continuing AHCS' webinar series, the 'Demystifying Surgical Robots' webinar, in collaboration with the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers, took place on 17th June 2026. Hosted by Professor Stephen O'Connor and Simon Flower, five expert speakers spoke on topics including the Da Vinci surgical robot, challenges, solutions and benefits of robots in surgical three specialities and anaesthesia.

[**Click here to view the recording**](#)

President & Clinical Lead Blogs

As part of the [Professional Bodies Council 2-year strategic plan](#), Professor Chris Hopkins has been publishing monthly blogs on social media discussing key issues and topics relating to Healthcare Science. Our Healthcare Science Clinical Leads have also been sharing blogs on key topics and their experiences.

Links to all the blogs can be found on the AHCS website.

[**Click here to read the President's Blogs**](#)

[**Click here to read the Clinical Leads' Blogs**](#)

Guide to sharing and publicising Research and Innovation Work

Guest Article: Luke Hughes, Pathology Subject Matter Expert Lead & Academy Development Manager for the National Pathology Programme within NHS Wales Performance and Improvement

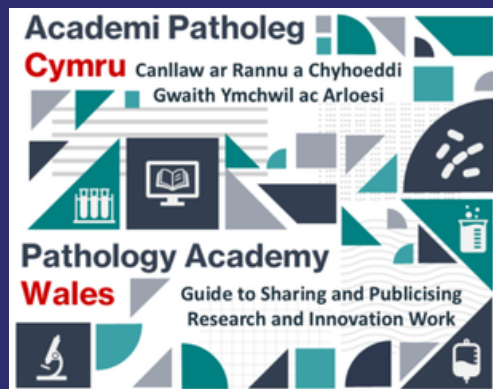
While created through the Pathology Academy, this guidance is applicable for the wider healthcare science community. It offers practical advice and shared experiences that anyone can apply.

Across pathology and healthcare science, we undertake valuable work every day beyond providing for our patients. This includes general tasks such as audits, service evaluations, quality improvement projects, training initiatives, and day-to-day problem solving. A lot of this work is done carefully and rigorously, with evidence gathering, outcomes reviewed and improvements made. But too often, the learning stays within one team or one department. That means other services may miss out on ideas, solutions or lessons that could help them improve outcomes for their patients.

As part of the Pathology Academy Wales project, we have been developing a digital learning environment for pathology in Wales. When looking for inspiration on how research and innovation could be supported via the Research and Innovation Strategy for Healthcare Science in Wales, it struck that many of the entry routes into research and innovation are things we are already doing as routine work. This is especially true in pathology with audits, improvement work, evaluations and service changes all capable of generating useful learning that others could benefit from if framed in the right way. The same is also true across wider healthcare science, where routine service developments, problem solving and practice-based improvements often create valuable learning that could support others facing similar challenges.

With that in mind, the research and innovation aim for the Pathology Academy projects became to help people recognise the value of their work and feel more confident sharing it. To support this work, I spoke with a range of colleagues across pathology, healthcare science, about their experiences of research, innovation and sharing work. These experiences have been brought together to form a Guide to Sharing and Publicising Research and Innovation Work.

The guide is intended for people who want to share their work but are not sure where to start. It looks at what counts as shareable work, how to choose the right format, how to think about governance, how to show impact, and how to build confidence. This includes exploring the practical routes available with development guidance for sharing via local meetings, posters, presentations, short articles, professional networks and conferences in addition to just aiming at journal articles which could be overwhelming for first time writers.



We have also been keen to address some of the things that can stop people from starting. Lack of time, uncertainty about where to share, fear of rejection, limited confidence and feeling that a project is “too small” are all common barriers. The guide tries to show that these are normal concerns that all experience, but they do not need to prevent useful work from being shared. The experiences of contributors are included throughout, offering practical insight into how they have approached and overcome some of these barriers.

If a project improves a process, supports learning, helps staff, improves quality or benefits patients, then it may be useful to others. Sharing this learning is one way we can help services avoid duplication, learn from each other and meet the rising demands we face.

I am extremely grateful to all the contributors who gave their time, shared their experiences and helped shape the guide into something practical and grounded in real experience. Hopefully, this guide gives our scientists a practical place to start with sharing their work, and the encouragement to take a first step into an area that can feel intimidating but is a community that is genuinely far more welcoming and supportive than people may expect.

[Click here to read the guidance](#)

NHS England Transfusion 2024 Strategy Review

A review of the Transfusion 2024 strategy was requested by the Infected Blood Inquiry as part of its recommendations.

Evidence-based transfusion care is critical for thousands of patients, with continual improvement imperative for high quality care. This review carried out by NHS England, focuses on the strategy’s progress, highlighting areas which need strengthening to deliver further change in transfusion practice.

These areas include governance, harnessing data and digital technologies, advancing research and innovation, as well as building a skilled and sustainable workforce to drive constant improvement. Next steps include effective implementation and alignment across systems, ensuring patient care is sustainable and evidence based.

This will be bolstered and developed further in a new Transfusion Transformation Action Plan planned for later this year.

PSA commissioned to conduct Right-Touch Assurance assessment for Healthcare Science in Scotland

The Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA) has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to carry out a Right-Touch Assurance (RTA) assessment for Healthcare Science in Scotland.

In Healthcare Science in Scotland: Defining Our Strategic Approach, the Scottish Government set out its intention to redefine the Healthcare Science NHS workforce in Scotland to ensure its expertise is fully utilised to meet the evolving needs of the population. To support that work, this RTA assessment will consider whether current regulatory and employer controls are sufficient to manage the risk of harm arising from these roles.

The assessment will explore the risks and make recommendations for addressing any gaps in assurance. This will include considering whether there is a need to bolster current controls or use existing regulatory frameworks in new ways. As well as gathering and analysing evidence, the assessment will include seeking the views of relevant stakeholders.

Alan Clamp, PSA Chief Executive said:

"We welcome this commission from the Scottish Government. Healthcare Scientists play a key role in health services across the UK, and it is vital to ensure that regulation of these professions supports safe and effective practice, whilst not creating unnecessary barriers.

"Our evidence-based Right-touch assurance approach will allow us to develop workable recommendations, which strike the right balance between too much and too little regulation, and to consider the full range of options for strengthening regulation where it is needed."

The work is expected to be completed in Spring 2027. A report of the findings and recommendations will be published.

Source: Professional Standards Authority

New PSA Standards for regulators and accredited registers come into effect

Alan Clamp, PSA Chief Executive Officer has shared an article exploring why PSA's new standards for regulators and Accredited Registers matter.

The standards, published in March came into effect on 1st July 2026.

Read the full article below:



[Click here to find out more](#)

Chief Scientific Advisor - Northern Ireland Department of Health



The Northern Ireland Department of Health has published a secondment opportunity for a part-time (0.8 whole time equivalent) Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) for Health within the Chief Medical Officer Group (CMOG) in the Department of Health.

Closing date: 15:00 on Friday 31st July 2026

To find out more about this opportunity, please click below.

[Click here to find out more](#)

OCSO NHS England AI Webinar

The Office of the Chief Scientific Officer at NHS England would like to invite you to a healthcare science webinar series. The purpose of these webinars is to provide the latest information and engage with healthcare scientists on relevant topics.



The next webinar will focus on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Science which will be on Wednesday 22 July 2026, 3-4pm and chaired by AHCS President, Professor Chris Hopkins.

If you would like to join, please register via the Multiverse link [Reserve your place here](#).

Shining a Spotlight on Healthcare Science at the Advancing Healthcare Awards UK 2026

The Advancing Healthcare Awards UK 2026, held on Friday 19th June 2026, brought together Healthcare Scientists, Allied Health Professionals and those who work alongside them to shine a light on their vital contributions to patient care, service development, and the future of the NHS.

Among all the amazing categories awarded throughout the evening, the Academy for Healthcare Science was proud to sponsor "My Inspiration: The AHCS Award for the Most Inspiring Leader". This award recognises individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership, champion others, and inspire positive change across healthcare science.

The 2026 award was presented to Professor Catherine Ross (pictured), Chief Scientific Officer for Scottish Government, whose leadership has had a profound and lasting impact. On receiving the award, Professor Ross reflected:



"Receiving the AHCS Award for the most inspiring leader is incredibly meaningful and something I was genuinely surprised by. I am especially grateful to the person who took the time to nominate me, their support, generosity and belief in what I do means more than I can express."

"For me, leadership has always been about creating opportunities for others to succeed, championing people and professions, and bringing individuals together around a shared purpose to deliver meaningful change. This recognition reflects the many colleagues and teams I have had the privilege to work alongside throughout my career, and strengthens my commitment to continuing to support healthcare science and inspire future leaders."



AHAwards UK Overall Winner, Angela Jean-Francois, pictured with host, Nick Hewer, and Richard Stubbs, Chair of the Health Innovation Network



Advancing Healthcare Awards UK Award Winners 2026

Photo credits: John Behets Photography

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

Deadline extended for Advancing Healthcare Awards Cymru 2026 entries

The closing date for the Advancing Healthcare Awards Cymru 2026 has been extended!

Now closing on Wednesday 22nd July 2026

The awards are open to both AHPs and healthcare scientists from across Wales.

The categories are:

- Award for excellence in cancer care sponsored by Macmillan Cancer Support
- Award for excellence in diagnostics sponsored by the Institute of Biomedical Science
- Award for outstanding leadership sponsored by Welsh Government
- Award for excellence in rehabilitation sponsored by the AHP Federation Cymru
- Award for new ways of working
- Award for developing the AHP and healthcare science professions workforce sponsored by Health Education and Improvement Wales
- Award for digital and technology innovation sponsored by Digital Health and Care Wales
- Rising star award

Shine a spotlight on the amazing work of Healthcare Scientists across Wales!

[Click here for full details](#)



CLOSING DATE EXTENDED:
Wednesday 22 July

ARTP Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology (ARTP) annual conference took place at the ICC Belfast on 21st and 22nd May 2026. This year marks a significant milestone for ARTP, bringing together professionals from across the respiratory and sleep science community to reflect on five decades of progress, and look ahead to the future of the profession.

The landmark event highlighted the theme of 'Past, Present and Future', and featured an extensive programme of expert sessions, research and innovation, networking opportunities with industry and special awards to recognise success. This year also saw the launch of the inaugural spirometry conference and collaborative workshops delivered by The Society for Cardiac Science and Technology (SCST), both running concurrently with the main conference.

ARTP kindly extended VIP invitations to the 50th anniversary gala dinner to a number of individuals who have had a significant impact on the advancement of the organisation and the healthcare science profession, including Professor Chris Hopkins, President, and Professor Janet Monkman, CEO of the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS), respectively.

Professor Chris Hopkins, President of the Academy for Healthcare Science said:

"For fifty years, ARTP has been advancing respiratory and sleep diagnostics, technology, education and clinical excellence across the UK. This remarkable milestone was not only a celebration of an outstanding organisation, but also of the thousands of respiratory and sleep physiologists whose unwavering commitment has improved countless lives.

"On behalf of the AHCS, I extend my warmest congratulations to the award winners and deepest thanks to everyone who has contributed to ARTP's success over the past five decades. Their collective dedication has helped shape respiratory care, raise professional standards and deliver improved outcomes for patients across the UK.

"I was also delighted to present the ARTP Honorary Fellowships to Aisling McGowan, Professor Catherine Ross and Dr Vicky Cooper in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the profession.

"The celebrations provided an opportunity to reflect on ARTP's remarkable achievements, recognise its enduring impact, and look forward with confidence to the vital contributions that ARTP and its members will continue to make in the years ahead."

The Academy for Healthcare Science warmly congratulates ARTP on its 50th anniversary, recognising five decades of outstanding leadership and an unwavering commitment to professional excellence. This sustained contribution has played a pivotal role in advancing standards, education, and innovation across respiratory and sleep science throughout the UK. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with ARTP as we continue to support the development of the healthcare science workforce and drive excellence in patient care for the future.



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



**KEEP YOUR
PERSONAL DETAILS
UP TO DATE**

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

**Click here to access the
Registrants' Portal**

VOX: The AHCS Public Healthcare Science Newsletter

**Sign up to get more of the latest
HCS news straight to your
inbox! Click the logo below to
register on our homepage.**



**Keep the conversation going by
following us on:**



AHCS[®]
Academy for Healthcare Science

