

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE WEEK

DAY 5: LEADERSHIP

Welcome to Healthcare Science Week Day 5!

Today we share our final newsletter of Healthcare Science Week 2025, thank you to all who have recognised and supported Healthcare Science Week and joined us in celebrating the impact of healthcare scientists across the UK!

Today we focus on Leadership. Strong leadership in healthcare science is essential for driving innovation, improving patient care, and shaping the future of the profession. By fostering collaboration and inspiring change, healthcare science leaders play a key role in transforming healthcare for the better.

We look forward to following the celebrations on Social Media. Check in to our website to read all our Healthcare Science Week newsletter!

IN TODAY'S CONTENT:

- **Professor Dean Fathers** - Non-Executive Director, AHCS and Honorary Professor of Healthcare Leadership at Nottingham University Business School
- **Nicki Dill** - Chair of Barema
- **AHCS Healthcare Science Leadership Journal Highlights**
 - “Mastering the spotlight: Reflections on media engagement and communication”: Dr Sarah Pitt
 - “My leadership journey so far”: Joanna Andrew
- **Healthcare Science Week Roundup** - Professor Brendan Cooper, AHCS President



PROFESSOR DEAN FATHERS

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AHCS AND HONORARY PROFESSOR OF
HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
BUSINESS SCHOOL

“The current evolution from individual to system leadership models will require the leaders of tomorrow to increasingly take a wider perspective of the complex challenges facing organisations across the health and care sector. It will necessitate healthcare scientists to take responsibility, not just for the work of their organisation, but the organisation's impact on society and the environment, and for building social capital, as well as human and economic value.

This will require leaders of the future to collaborate more, share in open learning, build more reflexive communities, work with technology and AI, to shape new visions of the future and make them a system reality. Healthcare Science Week presents a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and highlight the vital role healthcare scientists play in driving this transformation.”



NICKI DILL

CHAIR, BAREMA



Being on the AHCS LSI Register is the best way for life science industry visitors to the NHS to demonstrate their commitment to patient and public safety. Industry and NHS leaders can drive adoption and use of the Register for the benefit of patients and the public.

The AHCS LSI National Credentialing Register was awarded PSA accreditation in 2018. This was achieved through collaboration between the life science industry, professional bodies and the NHS. It is the only professional register in the UK for life science industry staff and provides benefits for patients, industry and the public.

Registrants must meet stringent standards and have specific training to protect patients, NHS staff and themselves. This gives confidence to healthcare facilities, that industry visitors are committed to ensuring public and patient safety.

As an association representing companies that manufacture and supply anaesthetic and respiratory equipment to healthcare providers, Barema recognises the need for a national regulatory system covering life science industry visitors to hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

It is of the utmost importance for leaders in the NHS, industry and government to understand the importance and value of the AHCS LSI Register. They should take every opportunity to raise awareness and encourage recognition and use of the Register by the NHS and the life science industry.

AHSC HEALTHCARE SCIENCE LEADERSHIP JOURNAL HIGHLIGHTS

“MASTERING THE SPOTLIGHT: REFLECTIONS ON MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION”

Dr Sarah Pitt

Biomedical Scientist and active Fellow in the Institute of Biomedical Science, and an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Healthcare Science.

Although I now work in an academic role as a Principal Lecturer at the University of Brighton, I usually introduce myself as a Biomedical Scientist. This reflection is an account of how I have tried to present healthcare scientists' work to wider audiences through engagement with the media.

During the summer of 2019, the Mail Online published a piece about my research with snails. I had worked with my husband and other colleagues to demonstrate that mucus from garden snails had an antibiotic effect against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. It was a nice story involving a bit of marital disharmony – my husband is an invertebrate biologist, so I took issue with his initial experimental techniques and the ‘yuk’ factor of snail slime. I happily contributed to written press articles but was extremely reluctant to do oral interviews. Talking about my work felt like showing off and I didn’t think anyone would be interested in anything I had to say. The editor of my professional magazine, *Biomedical Scientist*, finally twisted my arm and in mid-December 2019, I did a carefully planned, pre-recorded podcast session. I was expecting to go back into the laboratory and not to have to interact with external people very much again.

However, a few weeks later the pandemic came along. I helped to write a short piece about coronaviruses for the Institute of Biomedical Science website which led to a request for an interview. And so, on 25th January 2020, I did my first ever live radio interview to BBC Radio Scotland. Via my mobile phone I explained what we knew about this new virus and how it compared to other coronaviruses. I was incredibly nervous and remember shaking during the call, but found I was able to answer the questions and came across reasonably well. As I have found with trying many new things professionally, I thought I could do it again but needed to reflect on how I could improve. I had been on a media training day organised by the IBMS in the autumn of 2018 and I tried to remember the points I had learned then.

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

“MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY SO FAR”

Joanna Andrew

President of IBMS, Network Lead for Blood Sciences | Scarborough, Hull, York Pathology Service

'I never imagined that when I started my career that I would achieve as much as I have. My message is to always embrace opportunities, continue to learn and to be authentic and passionate about what you do in order to inspire others.' - Joanna Andrew

In the Winter 2024 edition of the Healthcare Science Leadership Journal, Joanna Andrew, President of the Institute of Biomedical Scientists (IBMS) shared her story of her own leadership journey. Below is a short piece from her article.

Joanna Andrew is network lead managing Blood Sciences across the Scarborough, Hull and York Pathology Service. She is current President of the Institute of Biomedical Science¹ and represents over 21,000 members in 74 countries.

What attracted you to Biochemistry?

I didn't do as well as I had hoped in my 'A' levels but managed to secure a place on an applied biology sandwich degree at the University of Hertfordshire. For my 12-month placement I applied to work in the biochemistry department at St Albans Hospital, because it looked like an interesting place to work! While I was there I fell in love with the job. I've been doing it ever since.

When did you first realise you wanted to be a leader?

Leadership for me began in the workplace. My motivation has always been to make things better, to make a difference. That means having a say and influencing how things are done. I wanted to be in a position to be able to make improvements from early-on.

Who have been your role models?

I have been lucky to have very good and supportive managers and role models. My head of department in York mentored me for over 15 years until I was eventually promoted into his post when he retired. He taught me a lot about how to lead and encouraged me to develop my career. I have a different but excellent relationship with my current line manager, whose views and insights I greatly respect. We can have a good conversation and bounce ideas around in a way that makes me feel trusted and respected.

I have met many people in the Institute of Biomedical Science through my involvement in professional issues. Seeing senior colleagues and previous presidents operate in different contexts has expanded my understanding of leadership and challenged me to grow. Working alongside such inspirational people has helped me greatly.

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

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE WEEK ROUND UP

BRENDAN COOPER

PRESIDENT, ACADEMY FOR HEALTHCARE SCIENCE

In my final year as president of the Academy for Healthcare Science I want to take the opportunity, as Healthcare Science Week 2025 comes to an end, to say a huge thank you to all colleagues who contributed to the Healthcare Science Week content. This has showcased and provided an insight into the incredible work that you and your teams do!

It has been really special to see the Healthcare science community coming together and celebrating Healthcare Science Week across social media.

Healthcare Scientists' dedication and passion for patient care, innovation and scientific excellence is truly inspiring. This week is so important in shining a spotlight on the vital role they play in shaping the future of healthcare. Thank you for everything you do.



Follow AHCS on:

