

Spring 2026



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EDITOR'S comments...



EDITOR -
CHRISTINA KNIGHTS

Welcome to the Spring Edition of IMI News

Welcome to the April edition of IMI News, I hope you enjoy catching up on all the latest news from IMI. It has been a busy start to the year with much to look forward to and catch up on.

There are important changes taking place to your professional membership and the Academy of Healthcare Science register that are given below, please take time to read them carefully.

One highlight I know you all look forward to is opening soon, the IMI Awards 2026. This is such a great opportunity to stop and take stock of all the wonderful work we create throughout the year and which we should justifiably showcase both to colleagues and the general public.

Some of our wonderful IMI colleagues were featured on our social media platforms recently as part of Healthcare Science week. This was a great opportunity for us to raise awareness of our roles and the exceptional work we produce, as well as detailing how we play an important role in delivering high quality patient care.

Many of our colleagues have contributed to the exhibition Insight: Portraits of Women in Surgery, at the Hunterian Museum, for those of us not lucky enough to attend this exhibition you can get a taster of the work displayed in this edition.

Finally, we pause to acknowledge the loss of Alastair Irwin and recognise his longstanding contribution to the Institute, to his teams, and to the profession. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue. I hope you enjoy reading it and that it leaves you feeling informed, connected and proud of the work we do.



Chairs IMI

message...



IMI CHAIR
ANTHONY EDWARDS

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Spring edition of our IMI News.

IMI Members Survey 2025 – What You Told Us

I want to thank all of our members who took the time to participate in our membership survey toward the end of 2025. Your insights are invaluable and are already helping to shape how we move forward as a professional body. We received responses from across all regions, spanning a wide range of experience levels and career stages. Together, they provide a clear picture of what IMI is doing well, as well as where members would like to see greater focus and support. Above all, the message is consistent: members are seeking more opportunities to engage, to learn in practical ways, to connect with one another, and to promote the unique and highly skilled work carried out across the medical illustration profession.

Want Members Want

A particularly strong theme within the survey is the call for more learning opportunities, especially face-to-face, hands-on and more accessible. Members repeatedly emphasised the need for more regional meetings, calling for more frequent meetings and affordable study days. Several respondents said that, compared to previous years, opportunities to gather regionally have “dropped off significantly”, leaving members feeling disconnected or underserved depending on where they live. Regions including London, Scotland, the North East and East Midlands were highlighted multiple times as having little to no recent activity.

We have listened carefully to this feedback and have already begun to respond. Members who regularly visit the IMI website or follow our social media channels will have seen a noticeable increase in regional activity. A paper was presented at our most Council meeting to re-introduce a regional representative coordinator role and to review the current regional structure, ensuring it better reflects the needs of our membership.



Members also expressed that small, focused events, single or even half-day sessions, were very valuable experiences. Many said these events help build confidence, reinforce professional standards and spark new ideas. For those working in isolated roles or small departments, accessible CPD is not simply a benefit but a necessity. As one respondent put it: “We learn so much from each other, but only if we’re given the opportunity to meet.” Again, this something that we are already actively trying to address. In early 2026, members were able to attend free study days at Pinewood Studios, thanks to the support of Sony, and in Belfast, with further events in development, including a planned study day in Leeds. Our Summer School will also return, with a significant reduction in cost for student members, making it more accessible to those at the start of their careers.

Professional Advocacy

Across the survey, members cited the sense of community and shared professional identity as one of the greatest strengths of IMI. For many, belonging to a professional body with peers who understand the specialist nature of our day to day work and the particular challenges that medical illustrators face. These sentiments are echoed in comments describing IMI as a “lifeline”, “a knowledgeable network”, and “a place to seek advice without judgement”.

That said, a significant portion of the membership wants IMI to play a stronger role in advocating for the profession, particularly within the NHS. Concerns include the use of untrained staff in place of qualified clinical photographers, a lack of awareness of the profession, absence of structured training pathways or apprenticeships and limited visibility of professional guidelines at board level. Several members called for IMI to pursue closer relationships with AHCS, HEIs and NHS leadership to strengthen the profession’s standing and help secure its long-term sustainability. We are working hard to be actively engaged in these conversations, contributing to the healthcare science response to the NHS 10-year plan and supporting calls for statutory regulation of healthcare scientists, a development that would provide vital long-term protection for the profession.

The IMI Conference

Our annual conference remains a cornerstone of IMI. Most of those who attend reported a positive experience, highlighting the quality of speakers, networking opportunities and professional inspiration as key benefits of attending. However, cost remains a significant barrier for many. Rising venue and accommodation costs have inevitably impacted ticket prices, and while the conference is not run for profit, we recognise the need to explore more sustainable and accessible options “I would love to attend, but our department can’t fund it anymore.”

Suggestions from members included hybrid or virtual access to sessions, rotating locations, more introductory-level content and the introduction of shorter or lower-cost events, such as a one-day conference or spring “mini conference”. These ideas are being carefully considered as we look to evolve the conference experience.



Website

Our website continues to play a central role in the operation of the Institute while at the same time providing resources to our members with access to guidelines, journals, CPD and the professional directory. However, feedback indicates that many members find it difficult to navigate, slow to respond and difficult to search. Work is already underway to improve the user experience, with a focus on clearer navigation, better search functionality and a more intuitive members' area. These developments are nearing completion, with recommendations soon to be implemented.

There was also a strong call to reintroduce a dedicated online space for member discussion. Many respondents expressed a reliance on social media platforms, which are not universally used or always appropriate for professional dialogue. In response, a secure IMI-hosted forum is currently in development and we hope to launch it soon.

Communication

Communication is another area where improvements are being made. Members expressed a desire for more regular and direct email updates, clearer reminders for membership renewals, earlier notification of awards deadlines and greater visibility of upcoming events and CPD opportunities. Steps have already been taken to address this, with more consistent communication in recent months, while continuing to make effective use of social media to promote IMI's work to both members and the wider healthcare community.

The Journal

The Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine continues to be respected as an academic publication but its relevance and accessibility are recurring concerns. It was frequently described as being too academic, and less reflective of day-to-day clinical practice, particularly within clinical photography. There were calls for more practical content, including case studies, image galleries, "back to basics" features, equipment reviews and historical perspectives. This feedback has been shared with the editorial team, and work is ongoing to review the journal's direction. As ever, the journal depends on contributions from members, and clearer submission guidance has been introduced to encourage wider participation.

Awards

The IMI Awards were widely praised and remains an important and valued part of the Institute's work. Members recognise the awards as a meaningful way to celebrate excellence, showcase innovation and highlight the exceptional standard of work being produced across the profession. Beyond recognising individual achievement, the awards play a crucial role in raising the profile of medical illustration more broadly within healthcare and beyond. Feedback suggests that there is scope to build on the success



of the awards offering clearer guidance for entrants and ensuring that the process is as accessible as possible and by increasing visibility of award winners.

Ultimately, the 2025 survey shows a membership that cares deeply about IMI and wants to be more involved, more connected and better supported. The Institute's strengths, the community, standards, networking and professional recognition remain clear. Your have spoken and the insights you've shared will help shape our priorities for the years ahead, guiding how we evolve, improve and continue championing this remarkable profession. The full results of the survey have been published to the IMI website.

Thank you,

Anthony

1 Audit Update – Medical Illustrators Register

The Medical Illustrators Register is due to undergo an audit by the AHCS later this year. If you are currently registered, now would be a good time to double check that your CPD records are up to date.

A virtual refresher session will be held over the summer, date and time to be confirmed.

If you would like more information about CPD head over to the IMI website or contact the team on cpd@imi.org.uk



IMI Professional Membership and AHCS Registration

This year, we are asking that all Professional Members in patient-facing/clinical roles be on the accredited register of the AHCS (Academy for Healthcare Science). IMI continues to support professional regulation as a vital component of public safety and as a means of ensuring high standards in education, training, and clinical practice. A 12-month grace period will be in place to allow Professional Members to join the register; after this period, those who are not registered will revert to Affiliate Member status.

The AHCS is actively progressing voluntary registers towards statutory regulation, aligning with the wider healthcare regulatory framework where professional titles are legally protected. This development will further strengthen our profession and reinforce our role as a key clinical service within the NHS.

We appreciate your cooperation and continued commitment to maintaining the highest professional standards.

IMI Membership

This is a reminder that the new IMI subscription year started on Wednesday, 1 April 2026.

We are pleased to confirm a slight reduction in subscription fees for members who pay the full annual amount upfront. The fees for this year are as follows:

Professional / Affiliate Members: £132

Student and Retired Members: £88

Corporate Members: £354

Please remember that you may be eligible to claim tax relief on your professional membership fees, provided you have paid them in full yourself. This may further reduce the overall cost, depending on your tax bracket.

As we enter the new membership year, all members are asked to log in to the IMI website (www.imi.org.uk) and complete the annual declaration. We also encourage you to take this opportunity to review and update your professional and contact details.



Join us for the 2026 IMI Conference in Glasgow

Glasgow is Scotland's largest city, located on the River Clyde in the west of the Country. Known for its rich industrial heritage, vibrant cultural scene, and strong academic and medical communities, it provides an excellent setting for professional events. The Institute of Medical Illustrators 2026 Conference will be held at the Golden Jubilee Conference Centre, Glasgow, Friday 2nd October – Saturday 3rd October. The conference team are busy curating an exciting and dynamic programme featuring engaging workshops, inspiring presentations, a vibrant trade show, valuable networking opportunities, and a few creative surprises along the way.

We are pleased to announce that the booking system for the IMI Conference 2026 is now live!

[Click here](#) to visit the registration page, where you will find full details on ticket types and venue information, and secure your place.



The Countdown Begins: The 2026 IMI Awards Are Almost Here

Bethan Howlett
Awards Officer

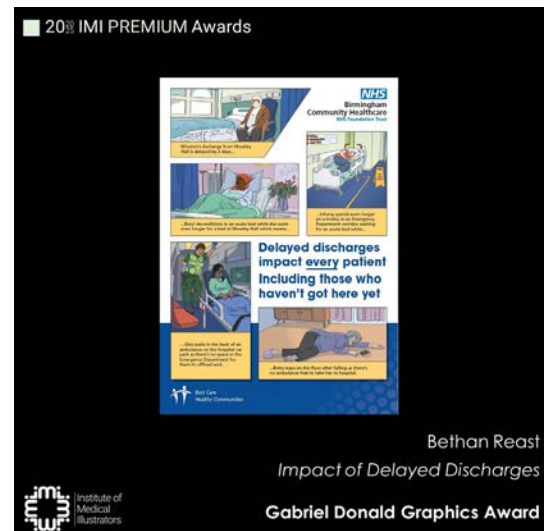
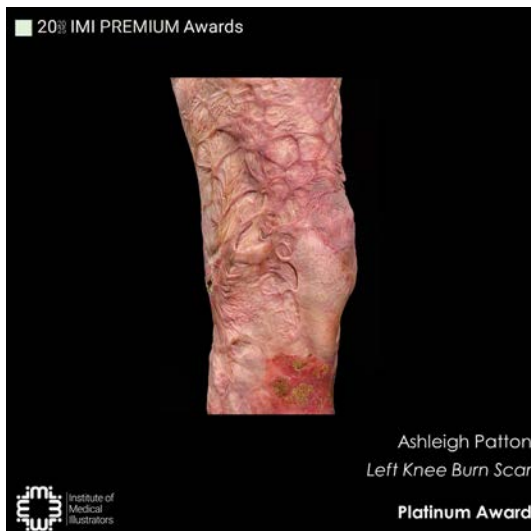
After the phenomenal success of the 2025 IMI Awards, where we received an extraordinary 375 entries from across the profession, we are delighted to announce that submissions for the 2026 IMI Awards will open on Friday 24th April 2026.

Last year's entries showcased the very best of medical illustration: technical mastery, creative innovation, and the unmistakable dedication that defines our field. This year, we're excited to see what new perspectives, stories, and visual achievements our members will bring.

Whether you're a returning entrant or considering submitting for the first time, the IMI Awards offer a unique opportunity to celebrate excellence in medical illustration. We welcome submissions from established professionals, emerging practitioners and all members working across photography, graphics, animation, and video. If you have work you're proud of, this is your moment to share it.

Full details, category information, and guidance can be found on the IMI website, and all entries must be submitted via the official online IMI Awards portal. Once you've submitted, you can manage your entries at any time via the My Award Entries page in the Members Area. Please note that email confirmations are no longer sent for submissions.





To help you prepare, please keep the following rules in mind:

- You may submit up to three entries per person.
- Joint submissions count as one of the lead entrant's three entries.
- All submissions must meet the file type and size requirements listed within each category.
- You must have the appropriate patient consent and copyright permissions for all work submitted.
- Entries must not include AI generated images.

The 2026 IMI Awards will close on Friday 29th May 2026.

Here's to another year of outstanding creativity, innovation, and professional pride – we can't wait to celebrate your achievements in 2026!



Healthcare Science Week Profiles

Hannah Stewart-Wressell



I graduated with a Photography degree with Honours in 2002 from Nottingham Trent University. I had always been interested in Scenes of Crime photography, until I interviewed a SOCO (Scenes of Crime Officer) as part of my degree. He really did put me off with some old case history! I decided to focus on Clinical Photography instead.

I was lucky enough to get the second job I interviewed for. I relocated to Birmingham from Derbyshire and I began working as a Trainee Clinical Photographer for my first job at the Birmingham Dental Hospital – (yes, the old one with paternosters and asbestos!)

Here I gained my Post Graduate Certificate in Clinical Photography – then known as the PEC (Post Experience Certificate), as well as plenty of knowledge on intra-oral (inside the mouth photography).

I then worked temporarily at the Birmingham Children's Hospital for one year, covering a secondment. I found this role particularly harrowing, with paediatric patients attending from all over the country for various specialities. This is where I observed my first general surgeries, burns, and plenty of craniofacial requests. I wasn't a parent at this point of my life, and it was still psychologically difficult.

This was followed by a move to work in a general hospital, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, which covered all age groups and specialities and based on three sites – I am still in the same job, in my 24th year of Clinical Photography. I have had such a variety of work over the years and have been lucky enough to photograph some famous names for hospital publicity/PR jobs, I have been featured in a few of the Royal Photographic Society Scientific image touring exhibitions and published in their magazine, which was a very proud moment. I have won several IMI awards over the years for my Photographic entries to the annual competition. Two years ago I did my first IMI presentation, and I won the Julie Dorrington New Voices Award.

I am now lucky enough to work at one of the largest Teaching hospital trusts in the UK – The University Hospitals Birmingham, where two days really aren't ever the same.

UHB has over 24,000 staff and treats more than 2.2 million patients per year.

I am late diagnosed Neurodiverse, I could write more about this, but it would be a whole other bio!



More recently I was lucky enough to set up a new Bereavement Photography service called *Forget Me Not* here at the trust, alongside my colleague, Liza Sudgier. This free service is supported by a grant from the UHB Charity, and we provide keepsake images for patients and their families during incredibly difficult times. The service offers special memory-making moments, such as wedding photographs for end-of-life patients or family celebrations with very poorly children, creating precious memories.

I am currently working with some colleagues to produce some more succinct IMI National bereavement guidelines. I also spend time doing the department Image Quality Checks, to keep our standards high.

Outside of work, I have two older teenage girls, a lovely husband (who is also a Clinical Photographer), two cats, and a love of the arts, nature, and quirky Airbnb's!

Kelly Cassidy

Medical Graphic Artist



I am a Medical Artist at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LTHTR), supporting the design, research, and development of digital and immersive learning tools that enhance medical education. Combining healthcare science, medical visualisation, and traditional drawing skills, I produce 2D artwork and 3D models for patient leaflets, eLearning, video overlays, XR simulations, 3D training products, animation, and 3D printing. Collaborating with clinical and academic professionals, I translate complex medical, anatomical, and surgical information into accessible visual formats for education, research, publications, and patient care, using styles ranging from simplified sketches to highly detailed digital illustrations and models.

I discovered the profession of Medical Art during my BA (Hons) in Scientific and Natural History Illustration. After graduating, I was fortunate to join Royal Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust as a Trainee Medical Artist while completing a Postgraduate Qualification in Medical Art. Later, after a career break for family commitments, I joined LTHTR, where I have grown

professionally and personally, taking on leadership roles including line management and continually expanding my skill set.



Xinlin Chen

XR Content Developer

I am an XR Content Developer working within healthcare education, designing and developing digital learning tools that support accurate and engaging medical training. My role sits at the intersection of healthcare science, medical visualisation, and immersive technology, using XR (VR/AR/MR) simulation, 3D simulation products, and 3D visualisation including animation, scanning, and printing to translate complex clinical knowledge into practical learning experiences.

My pathway into this role began with a background in product design, working across everyday products, children's toys, and later healthcare-focused product design, including user-centred research in clinical settings. Conducting research in hospitals was particularly meaningful, and the shift to patient and healthcare user needs was both challenging and rewarding. I undertook postgraduate study in Medical Visualisation and Human Anatomy in the UK, accredited by

the Institute of Medical Illustrators. Being part of such a supportive and skilled professional community was incredibly valuable.

I am now based at an NHS trust in Preston, where I am grateful to work within a diverse, multidisciplinary team. Applying my skillsets directly to healthcare education has been especially fulfilling. This niche in-house role brings together science, design, art, and technology to support accurate, practical, and impactful healthcare education and training. Designing for healthcare requires care, accuracy, and responsibility, and I find it a meaningful privilege to contribute to work that supports both learners and patient care.

Reframe – Diverse Images for Healthcare

Alice Kenny Senior Clinical Photographer University Hospitals Bristol and Weston

The University Hospitals Bristol and Weston (UHBW) Medical Illustration team undertake clinical and creative photography, video, graphics, animation and artistic illustration across all UHBW hospital sites and for external clients. Clinical photographs are used to support patient diagnosis, treatment and education. As NHS Healthcare Scientists we work alongside healthcare professionals in dermatology, wound healing, paediatric burns, clinical genetics, trauma and orthopaedics, dental, cleft and surgery. Our creative photography is used for promotional purposes, patient education and healthcare related literature. Our work has been used in several interesting projects, for example by the NHS Race and Health Observatory, and The South West Neonatal Network.

We recently collaborated with The University of the West of England (UWE) and NHS England on a project called Reframe: Diverse Images in Healthcare. Reframe was led by Debbie Hubbard, a senior lecturer in physiotherapy UWE. Historically, clinical photographs used in healthcare literature and educational resources show the visual appearance of medical conditions on white skin, while medical conditions documented on black and brown skin are significantly under-represented. Reframe emerged from a collective effort to address this gap and aimed to transform healthcare images by photographing medical conditions on different skin tones, in addition to creating more inclusive images of the healthcare workforce. To ensure the images could reach a wide audience, a free, open-access image library accessible to healthcare providers, educators, and the public was created via our partnership with Fotoware and Medialogix.

The project comprised of two strands.

Strand 1 focused on capturing clinical photographs of medical conditions on participants from diverse ethnic backgrounds across Bristol. Medical Illustration attended 8 community events and took over 3000 clinical photographs. We also worked with UHBW's Black Maternity Matters Midwife to identify patients with relevant medical conditions to participate in the project.



The Reframe Team, getting ready for the 1st pop-up photography event at The Malcolm X Community Centre, Bristol.



Photographing participants for the project.



Neonatal Jaundice - a key sign of jaundice is slight yellowing of the skin, however, detecting this can be more challenging in babies with black or brown skin. Yellowing may be more noticeable in the whites of their eyes (seen here), inside their mouth (seen here), on the soles of their feet and on the palms of their hands.

All project images can be viewed in The Reframe Image Library - [Reframe Image Library](#)



Strand 2 focused on creating more inclusive images of the healthcare workforce to address the lack of representation of marginalised groups, such as people with disabilities, the LGBTQIA+ community, and individuals from Global Majority backgrounds. Representation matters beyond just individual careers or healthcare settings. It contributes to a broader societal understanding of diversity and inclusion, showing that everyone, regardless of background, is a valuable part of the workforce and deserves to be represented.

A series of photoshoots were held at UWE's Skills and Simulation Centre, which replicates a real hospital environment. This set up allowed us to capture the photographs without disrupting patients or staff in actual clinical settings.



Behind the scenes at UWE



Play therapy



The nursing team



Maternity



To celebrate the project's completion and thank all the people that participated and supported Reframe, we collaborated with the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) to put on an exhibition of the photographs at their Bristol headquarters. This event marked a significant milestone in the project, and we were thrilled to see the photographs being exhibited and celebrated.



Team Reframe was proud to be nominated for two 2025 HSJ awards, and Medical Illustration have enjoyed being involved with the Reframe project. As clinical photographers our use of standardised photography, knowledge of the legal and ethical issues that are involved in obtaining and storing clinical photographs, such as consent and confidentiality, and experience in managing patients/participants that may be unwell or in pain, has been an essential component to the project. As clinical photographers our ability to produce high quality, accurate photographs to aid diagnosis, for education, and patient representation, can play a role in reducing healthcare inequalities in our society.

Women in Surgery

Yash Kumar

Trainee Clinical Photographer Clinical Photography QEHB

Bringing Insight – Portraits of Women in Surgery to Life

There are exhibitions that document history, and then there are exhibitions that feel like stepping into a conversation. Insight: Portraits of Women in Surgery, now showing at the Hunterian Museum until 18 April 2026, is firmly amongst the latter. It is a collaboration between surgeons rewriting the narrative of their profession and the photographers who know how to carve light into legacy.

This exhibition brings together women practising surgery across the UK at a moment when headlines celebrate that women now make up more than half of UK doctors, however, the portraiture reminds us that only 17% of consultant surgeons are women. Behind each image is a dual act of visibility: the surgeon choosing how to be seen, and the photographer crafting the space in which that seeing becomes art.



Where Photographer Meets Surgeon

Many of the portraits are captured by Clinical Photographers working in the NHS, with these highly skilled photographers knowing the emotional architecture of a hospital well. These medical illustrators spend their days capturing clinical conditions, alongside creative healthcare photography, like the portraits seen in this exhibition with, in one case, a fellow surgeon who swapped the scalpel for a shutter release to capture their colleague.

These dynamic surgeons direct their own portrayal while photographers negotiate reflections from stainless steel equipment, the hum of theatre lights, and the occasional runaway scrub cap, all of which gives the series an authenticity that feels almost tactile.



Photographers including **Rebecca Sellick, Dawn White, Wayne Fysh, Bethany Stanley, Lorna Jones, Thomas Harrison, Abbey Hesp, Mic Dessi, Steve Watkins, Evie Flewitt, Morag Warrender, Laura Jackman, Harriet Armstrong, Charlotte Marsh, Steven Box, Helen Crompton, Paige Nolan, Ashley Prytherch, Inez Szczepanska, Laura Hardwick, Charlotte Shepherd, Tara Molloy**, and many others, crafted visual environments where surgeons could genuinely be themselves.

One might say it takes a village to raise awareness — but it takes a skilled photographer to make a surgeon forget about the bleep long enough for an exposure to be captured.

Stories Told Through Light

The portrait of Olivia Howe, photographed by Thomas Harrison, shows a surgical trainee who was once told she wouldn't cope with hospital noise — now confidently pictured within it. And Panchali Sarmah's portrait leans into her humorous reflection that people are often surprised to learn that yes, she is the surgeon.

Curator Alice Watkinson Deane describes the exhibition as a glimpse into “quiet operating theatres and busy on calls,” and these images carry that dual rhythm. They are more than photographs; they are advocacy, identity, and collaborative art.

Why This Matters for Our Profession

For clinical photographers, this exhibition is more than documentation — it is a reminder of why our work matters. These portraits are historical records, advocacy tools, cultural commentary, and works of art all at once.

And perhaps the most humbling part? Each surgeon chose how they wished to be seen – we simply provided the light, the angle, and the quiet assurance that their story deserved space.





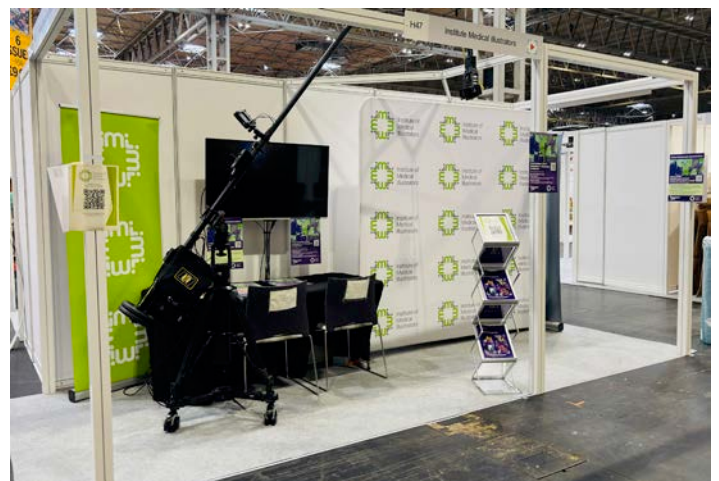
The Photography Show

Ben Mueller-Brown, BA (Hons), PgCert, MIMI
Trainee Clinical Photographer

Medical Illustration - University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

The National Exhibition Centre is not a small space. In fact, to describe it as gargantuan would be an understatement. Fortunately, this was only the initial impression of the 2026 Photo & Video Show at the NEC in Birmingham. Having attended a few trade shows over the years, both as an attender and attendee, I had some idea as to what to expect but the size of this show, to me, was vast. I have been reliably informed by previous attenders that this was a much smaller show, so this was a more manageable size.

Having said that, there were still many, many stalls: enormous ones for the camera manufacturers with battlements bristling with lens that looked like cannons pointed at one another, but also interesting specialist stalls. These included the expected assortment of things like specialist studio accessories and lighting solutions, to more photography-adjacent things like the RSPB and adventure package tours to picturesque locations. There was also a healthy representation of analogue photography, like the Welsh hand-rolled film and independent camera repairers. Our Institute of Medical Illustrators stall was modest in comparison, but located near coffee, which is an essential resource for trade shows.





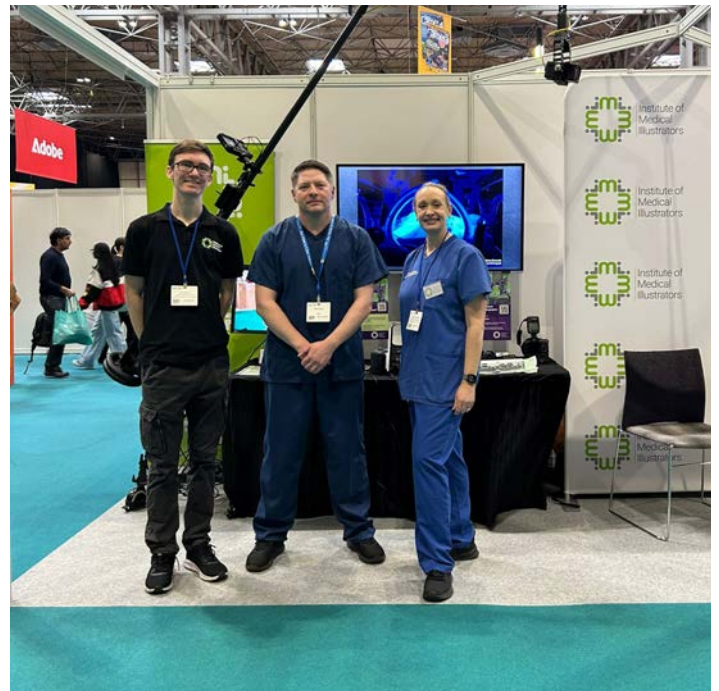
Talking to the public was, naturally, a big part of why IMI was there. Most people are still unaware of our role in hospitals and explaining our wide range of responsibilities and skills in making clinical and non-clinical images felt absolutely worthwhile. What was also exciting were questions about getting into the profession of medical illustration. As many people attending the show had backgrounds and qualifications in photography, it was a fantastic opportunity to show them a direction that uses their skills in a way they may not have considered, or even known about.

Talking with Nikon, our camera supplier at my Trust, I was shown how to effectively set up and recall user presets for different shooting environments. This means that moving from one environment to another can be changed with two button presses and, importantly, reset just as easily for the next user of the camera kit. This is useful as we cover several different hospitals across Birmingham.

I really enjoyed meeting people from other hospital Trusts, hearing about how they tackled issues like demand and workflows, staffing and culture, and just swapping interesting and funny stories was well worth my time spent volunteering.

While it is fun and exciting to use a lens that costs as much as your annual salary, it was talking to people that was most valuable. Be it members of the public having never encountered medical illustration before, or exhibitors who had products that would be helpful in our field, it was especially valuable for me to talk shop with the other IMI members. To see different perspectives from within the same field and share that with my own team was invaluable.

Next time IMI attends the Photo & Video Show, I will certainly be putting myself forward again!





IMI at Pinewood:

Inside Sony's DMPC Training Experience



Stepping into Pinewood Studios, home to some of the UK's most legendary film productions, already sets the tone for a memorable training day. But for IMI members attending February's workshop, the excitement only intensified upon entering the Sony Digital Media Production Centre (DMPC) (Sony's dedicated professional training hub where filmmakers, cinematographers, and creatives learn hands-on with Sony's latest stills and cinema technologies).

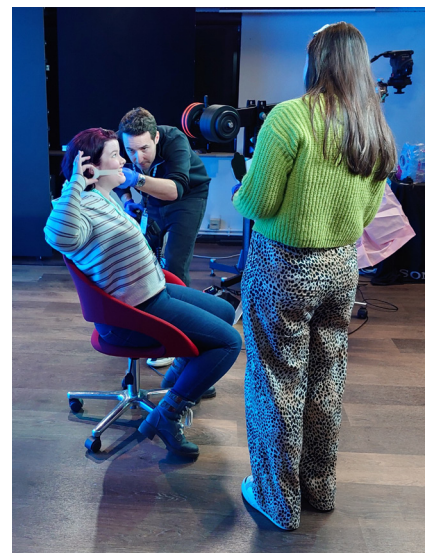
For one day, this state-of-the-art facility transformed into a creative playground for clinical photographers, videographers, and medical illustrators. The goal? To explore how cinematic workflows can elevate imaging within healthcare.

The Morning: Clinical & Dental Photography with Tim Zoltie

The day opened with Tim Zoltie leading a deep dive into clinical and dental photography. Under studio lighting conditions and using Sony Alpha systems, attendees refined:

- Intraoral lighting and reflection control
- Consistency and colour accuracy
- Lens selection and documentation workflows
- Practical capture techniques in controlled studio setups

In classic IMI fashion, things quickly became collaborative — with a light sprinkling of competition over who could produce the cleanest dental image without mirror fog or specular highlights.





The Afternoon: Video, Interviews & Cinema Workflows

The momentum carried into the afternoon as Keith Eccles introduced participants to the world of cinematic interview production. Working with Sony's FX cinema cameras, the group practised:

- Interview lighting layouts
- Clean audio setups
- Movement based cinematography
- Framing techniques used in broadcast and documentary work

More than one attendee noted that transitioning from photographing clinical subjects to capturing a professional grade interview felt like unlocking a new creative toolkit — one equally valuable in patient communication, training materials, and medical education.

The Tools That Shaped The Day

Sony – Alpha & FX Systems

Participants explored side by side workflows, comparing how stills and cinema setups handle colour, detail, and dynamic range in clinical and creative settings.

Nanlite – Professional Lighting

Soft panels, diffusers, LEDs, and temperature-controlled modifiers allowed attendees to sculpt scenes with precision — whether replicating clinical lighting or creating cinematic mood.

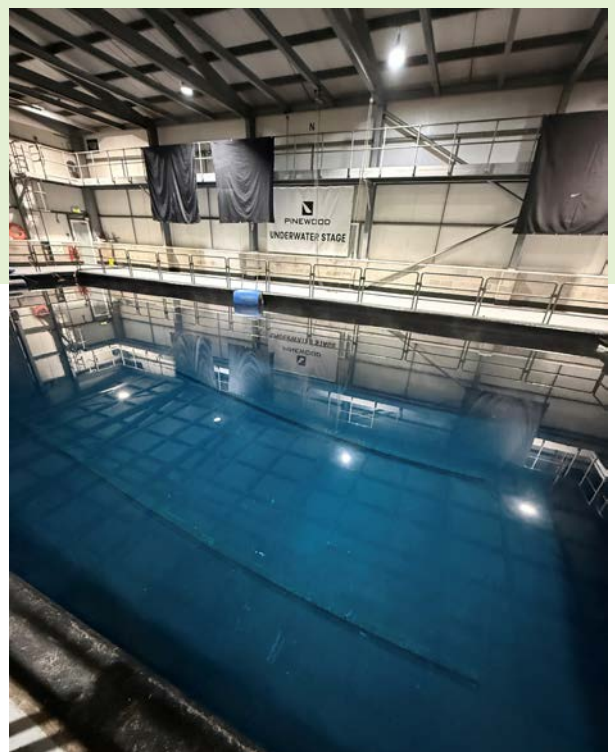
A Cinematic Bonus: The Underwater Stage

The guided tour of Pinewood's world famous underwater stage was an unexpected highlight. Although not hands on, seeing the infrastructure behind major productions added a sense of scale and inspiration to the day.

What Participants Took Away

Attendees left with strengthened photographic technique, practical videography skills, a clearer understanding of lighting across stills and motion, exposure to industry standard equipment, and a renewed creative spark.

The fusion of expert teaching, worldclass technology, and the iconic Pinewood environment made this one of IMI's most invigorating training days yet.





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Established for over 30 years, our training courses enable you to get the most from Adobe Creative Cloud. In addition to our popular scheduled live online courses, we also offer closed courses either face-to-face at your premises or live online. With our accelerated learning approach you could join thousands of others who have mastered products like **Photoshop**, **InDesign**, **Illustrator**, **Premiere Pro** and **After Effects** in just a few days.

Our courses are taught by Andy Gardiner, a CompTIA Certified Technical Trainer and former Adobe Certified Instructor, with over 25 years experience in Adobe CC and related technologies. Andy is a qualified teacher (PGCE), has delivered courses for some of the worlds best known brands, and is the author of “**Designing the Adobe InDesign Way**”, published by Packt Publishing.

Some examples of past feedback from Andy’s delegates can be seen throughout our website.

Highlander training is offering IMI a member discount, giving 15% off when purchasing the course, so you pay £80.75 each instead of £95. This course is produced by Andy Gardiner, a PGCE (Level 7) qualified teacher and CompTIA Certified Technical Trainer with over 25 years of experience working with Adobe Creative Cloud.

Premiere Pro Online Course – master Adobe Premiere Pro at your own pace

<https://www.highlander.co.uk/course/premiere-pro-beginners-video-course>

Unlock your creativity and master video editing with our comprehensive online Premiere Pro recorded training course. Specifically designed for those new to Adobe Premiere Pro or looking to sharpen their foundational skills, this pre-recorded video training allows you to learn at your convenience, anytime and anywhere.

From understanding the basics of frame rates and resolution through to keyframing effects, adding transition and generating captions, we cover everything you need to start creating great quality video content in Premiere Pro.



Who Is this Course for?

- Beginners who want to confidently edit and produce professional-quality videos.
- Marketers, content creators, social media professionals, or anyone looking to create polished video content.
- Individuals needing flexible learning to fit around busy schedules.

What you'll learn

- Essential Premiere Pro tools and workspace navigation
- Importing, organising, and managing your video assets
- Fundamental editing techniques including trimming, cutting, and sequencing
- Adding transitions, titles, and effects to enhance your video
- Audio editing basics for professional-sounding videos
- Exporting finished projects optimized for web, social media, and high-quality playback



Save the Date

**Northwest Regional Meeting – Thursday 25th September,
Salford Royal Hospital, Stott Lane, Salford M6 8HD**

**Dental Photography with Laura Short, Senior Clinical
Photographer, Birmingham Dental Hospital**

Laura will provide training on dental photography, including retraction and getting excellent quality images! The meeting is planned to start between 5-6pm and, as always, pizza and soft drinks will be provided. For anyone wishing to attend they can contact either Lucy or Andrea on northwest@imi.org.uk





Institute of
Medical
Illustrators



IMI Photography Training

Location PR Photography

North West Region

Join the North West Team for a hands on workshop of practical tips and creative techniques to help elevate your on location photography.

We'll cover everything from capturing portraits to producing interior images, perfect for taking your Trust's marketing images to the next level.

Bring your own camera for hands on practice.

Arrive from 17:00

Pizza approx 17:15

Workshop 17:45-19:00

Address:

Seminar Room 1

Health Academy/Education Centre 1

Royal Preston Hospital

Sharoe Green Lane

Fulwood

Preston

PR2 9HT

All welcome, please RSVP to
northwest@imi.org.uk

Wednesday 20th May 17:00 onwards



Alastair Irwin – an appreciation



Alastair Irwin was born in December 1948 and died, age 77, in March 2026. He was cremated after a well attended, poignant, service at the Clyde Coast and Garnock Valley Crematorium.

Those of us who knew Alastair remember him as an active member of the Institute in Scotland, a diligent boss and a reliable colleague, but first and foremost an all-round 'good guy'.

Finishing school, he attended Glasgow College of Building & Printing where he studied Scientific Medical Photography. In 1969 he started his career in the NHS as a Medical Photographer at Canniesburn Hospital in the Plastic Surgery Unit under Alan McIlroy. In 1974 he moved to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow. His boss at this time was Robert Loudon Brown, who is a previous Chairman of IMBI (as IMI was called then). It was Loudon who had introduced Alastair to his sister Rosina, who Alastair later married. They were married for nearly 53 years having two children, Ross born 1980 and Calum born 1984.

In 1978 he moved to Monklands hospital and commissioned the new medical photography department, becoming Senior II Medical Photographer. Alastair always encouraged his staff to participate in the Institute and develop their careers by publishing and presenting. He was promoted to Chief Medical Photographer when he moved to Yorkhill Hospital for Sick Children in 1985 on the retirement of Joe Devlin. He was Head of Service there for over 25 years, until he himself retired, and many staff over the years benefited from his experience and mentoring.

Rarely having a day-off work sick, he was diagnosed with a neuroendocrine tumour in his left lung, which was removed in October 2019. These tumours are rare and slow growing and they can be suppressed for many years, however it is an incurable form of cancer. Alastair's calm and measured approach to life benefited him and all around him. He was a silent warrior and determined to live with cancer. In late 2025 Alastair was treated with chemotherapy in a further bid to slow down the progression of the cancer. Throughout his treatment he never complained and bravely fought the disease with strength and determination. Complications from the chemotherapy resulted in him being admitted to hospital, where his condition declined and after 3 weeks he passed away, his family by his side.

The one anecdote I would leave you with is how highly Alastair was regarded by the other hospital staff. I was appointed as his replacement at Monklands in 1985 when he left to go to Glasgow. For literally years after this, if someone shouted "Alastair" in the corridor I would need to turn around as chances were they were looking for 'the photographer'. I now know how a Dyson vacuum cleaner feels when it is called a Hoover!

A good shift Alastair, the service is all the better for your time in it.

Ross G Milligan MBE FIMI HonFIMI



Meet the Team

Did you know that you can contact any of our England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales Council representatives for all of your questions regarding IMI.

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For the purposes of committee structure, the Chairman, Chairman Elect, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer are considered Officers of the Institute and are ex-officio members of all committees.

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Gemma Meredith

Welsh Representative

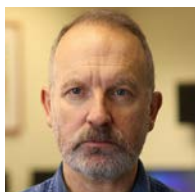
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View more team members <https://www.imi.org.uk/about/meet-the-team/>