



Institute of Medical Illustrators

Annual Report 2024/25 and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025

Institute of Medical Illustrators

Reports for adoption at the Annual General Meeting, on the 2nd October 2026 to be held at the in the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Beardmore St, Glasgow, Clydebank G81 4SA.

The Council of the Institute of Medical Illustrators submits this, the Annual Report 2025/26 and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025. The Institute of Medical Illustrators is a company limited by guarantee (No.933565) and is also a registered charity (No.313433).

Report of the Honorary Secretary

The 2026 AGM will be held at the at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Beardmore St, Glasgow, Clydebank.

I would like to thank all those members from the various IMI teams in sending reports to Council and to Web Team for their assistance in supporting communication via the website and global email which has enabled efficient management of Council and reduced costs to the membership. For the first time in 2026, this included full management of the election process via the website.

In 2025/26 Council has run a mixture of face-to-face and virtual Council meetings. This has worked well. It has met on four occasions since the last AGM with another three meetings planned in September, October and November 2026:

7th November 2025 – London

9th January 2026 – Virtual

27th March 2026 – London

22nd May 2026 – London

18th September 2026 – Virtual

1st October 2026 – at conference Glasgow

13th November 2026 - London

Council attendance:

Chair	Anthony Edwards	4
Honorary Secretary	Carol Fleming	4
Honorary Treasurer	Geoffrey Gilbert	2
England	Andrea Jones	4
Scotland	Andrew Roddick	3
Wales	Gemma Meredith	3
Ireland	Paul Quinlan	4
Student Representative:	Malina Ifrim/Bayley (appointed Feb 25)	4
Education Lead	Kathy McFall (co-opted)	4
Marketing Lead	Cat Lamoon (co-opted)	3

All Officers and Council members provide their services to IMI on a voluntary basis claiming recompense for expenses incurred. A complete list of monies reclaimed from the Institute in this way is available for reference from the IMI Treasurer and minutes of all Council meetings are available to access within the members' area of the IMI website.

Since 18th November 2025, identity verification with Companies House has become a legal requirement in the UK for all Directors of IMI. Current personnel have submitted their verification codes and prospective Councillors have been asked to obtain these in readiness for filing IMI's next annual return early in October 2026.

In October 2026 there are four vacancies for national Councillors and one vacancy for Chair Elect. An election will take place during August 2026. This will be delivered via the IMI website.

Kathy McFall will retire from Council having been co-opted in her capacity as Education Lead for one year.

Cat Lamoon will retire from Council having been co-opted in her capacity as Marketing Lead one year.

Grateful thanks are extended to all for their hard work on the Institute's behalf during their terms of office.

Reporting Arrangements

Council minutes and meeting dates are published in the Member's section of the IMI website.

Disciplinaries

There have been three disciplinaries in the last twelve months and Council approved the following actions:

IMI25/DSC01 – Council approved a change in membership grade from Professional to Affiliate. Actioned.

IMI25/DSC02 – Council approved termination of membership (not actioned- appeal pending).

IMI25/DSC03 – Council approved termination of membership. Actioned.

Pat Turnbull Travel Fund

There has been one Pat Turnbull Award this year as follows:

Charlotte Dobson the sum of £90.00 to attend the IMI conference in Clydebank.

Membership Certificates

Towards the end of 2026, IMI will move to producing downloadable membership certificates from the website. This will significantly reduce costs and enable members to download and/or print their own certificates on demand.

Carol M. Fleming, Honorary Secretary

Report from the National Representatives for IMI Council

England – Andrea Jones

Since my last report, I have continued to support member engagement through regular communication with regional representatives, members, and Council colleagues. I have responded to enquiries relating to professional practice, educational resources, workforce issues, member benefits, and communication opportunities, with several discussions highlighting the potential need for Council to revisit topics such as clinical photography coding and enhanced member resources.

I have maintained regular contact with Regional Representatives, providing support with workshop planning, event delivery, and member engagement initiatives, while also working with colleagues to promote regional activities through IMI communication channels. During

the year, I also developed and presented a proposal to Council for the creation of a Regional Representative Co-ordinator role, which was subsequently approved.

Regional activity has continued across England, including workshops in dental photography, Nikon photography, PR photography, and baby bereavement photography. Feedback from attendees has been consistently positive, demonstrating the ongoing value of regional educational and networking opportunities.

In addition, I represented IMI at the National Photography and Video Show and attended the Healthcare Science Call to Action Workshop alongside the IMI Chair, contributing to discussions supporting the NHS 10-Year Plan and assisting with the Institute's evidence submission.

Overall, there has been a positive increase in regional educational activity and continued support for members and representatives, helping to raise the profile of both the profession and the Institute.

Scotland – Andrew Roddick

Over the past year, I have continued to actively participate in Council meetings, both virtually via Teams and in person, representing the Scottish region. I have contributed to Council discussions and decision-making processes, including participating in votes on matters affecting the Institute and ratifications of new members.

I have also joined the conference team supporting the organisation of the Glasgow Clydebank 2026 Conference. As part of this role, I have been reaching out to potential speakers and helping to coordinate the conference programme by identifying and organising which stream each speaker would be best suited to.

Through these activities, I have continued to support the work of the Institute and contribute to the development of the IMI, while helping to ensure that the interests and involvement of members in Scotland are represented at Council level.

Wales – Gemma Meredith

Throughout the year, I have actively contributed to Council activities by attending both virtual and face-to-face Council meetings, participating in Council discussions and supporting member engagement. I have also assisted IMI members by responding to enquiries, providing guidance and signposting them to the appropriate contacts and resources.

I have continued to liaise with the regional representative, Lucy Wilmer, offering support and guidance in relation to regional engagement and the planning of a regional meeting. While no regional events have taken place in Wales and the South West over the past year, work is underway to develop several opportunities for regional activity in the coming year.

Ireland – Paul Quinlan

I have attended to general Council business such as attending meetings (via Teams and face to face meeting).

Nicola Ross from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust replaced Tommy Walsh who retired as Ireland regional representative. I liaised with the Nicola Ross and Education lead in organising Belfast study day in April, which was well attended with positive feedback.

I developed an interactive IMI members map to visualise the geographic distribution of active members across the UK, Ireland, and internationally.

Report of the Education & Training Team

During the year, Council approved a significant restructure of the Education and Training function to create a more focused, effective and sustainable model for delivering education and professional development. The new structure separates responsibilities into three dedicated subgroups—Qualifications and Accreditation, Training and Professional Development, and Professional Standards—each with defined leadership, accountability and reporting arrangements. Governance has also been strengthened through clearer oversight by the Education Lead and improved alignment with Council and the Institute's strategic objectives.

The restructure is expected to improve productivity, make better use of volunteer expertise, and provide greater clarity of responsibility across the Education portfolio. It also realigns several activities to more appropriate areas of the Institute, including moving careers activity to the Marketing function and returning teledermatology to a Specialist Interest Group, ensuring the Education and Training Team can concentrate on academic pathways, professional development and the maintenance of professional standards.

Qualifications and Accreditation Team

The newly established Qualifications and Accreditation Team held its inaugural meeting during the year, bringing together expertise from across education, accreditation and workforce development to begin shaping a more coordinated approach to qualification pathways within Medical Illustration. Early priorities include mapping education and qualification routes across all professional disciplines, including Clinical Photography, Graphic Design, Videography, and Medical Visualisation, while ensuring future work aligns with national Healthcare Science education and competence frameworks across the UK.

The team also reviewed the current accreditation landscape, identifying opportunities to develop a more consistent approach to programme accreditation and to broaden recognition of relevant educational pathways. Work has commenced to review existing IMI-accredited programmes, consider links with Academy for Healthcare Science accredited courses, and improve awareness of the IMI Certificate of Competence in preparation for anticipated increased demand. Plans are also underway to broaden representation within the subgroup and strengthen engagement with higher education providers and other key stakeholders.

Certificate of Competence

The Education and Training Team has overall responsibility for assessing applications for a Certificate of Competence, led by Anthony Edwards. Applications are made online from the IMI website. The certificate is accepted as equivalence to the normal academic routes to professional membership of IMI and by the AHCS for registration as a medical illustrator. Applications can be made at any time of year and the team undertakes to assess submissions within six weeks. There was 1 successful application in 2025/26.

Continuing Professional Development

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Team, led by Lucy Tinniswood, is licensed by the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) to assess registrants' submissions as part of the annual audit of the Register of Medical Illustrators. The team provides guidance and support to IMI members selected for audit, helping them prepare and submit their CPD portfolios.

Although the AHCS has proposed changes to the CPD audit process, these have yet to be finalised. As a result, the 2026 IMI CPD audit will continue under the existing arrangements. While the audit date has not yet been confirmed, Lucy continues to provide ongoing support to members, maintain up-to-date CPD information on the IMI website, and deliver online CPD guidance sessions throughout the year.

Mentorship Scheme

The IMI Mentorship Scheme continues to be led by Caroline Erolin and is based on a reciprocal mentorship model, recognising that valuable learning occurs in both directions. While experienced practitioners provide guidance and support to those newer to the profession, mentors also benefit from the fresh perspectives, experiences and insights of their mentees.

Caroline continues to promote the scheme through the IMI website, social media channels and member communications, helping to maintain awareness across the profession. Although participation remains modest, feedback from those involved continues to be very positive, with participants highlighting the value of the relationships in supporting professional development and career progression. Further information on the IMI Mentorship Scheme is available on the IMI website.

National Guidelines

The Professional Standards Team continues to oversee the development and maintenance of the Institute's National Standards and Guides to Best Practice, with Andrea Jones leading the coordination and editorial process. Each submission undergoes a comprehensive review to ensure consistency in content, format and style, maintaining the high standard expected of IMI publications.

During the year, work has continued to update the guideline submission process to reflect the transition from National Guidelines to National Standards and Guides to Best Practice. The team has also continued its programme of reviewing and updating legacy publications, ensuring that guidance remains current, relevant and aligned with contemporary professional practice.

Quality Assurance Standards (QAS)

Laura Jackman continues to lead the IMI Quality Assurance Scheme (QAS), supported by an expanded team of assessors. Following Council approval of a revised QAS model, the team will begin implementing a new accreditation process designed to reduce administrative burden while maintaining robust professional standards. Under the new arrangements, successful departments will receive ongoing accreditation, supported by a three-yearly gap analysis, declaration of compliance and targeted spot checks where required, replacing the previous full re-audit cycle. The changes are intended to encourage wider participation in the scheme while ensuring accredited departments continue to meet IMI standards.

The team will also use the coming year to review and streamline existing processes as the new model is introduced. Interest in QAS continues to grow, with several departments expressing an interest in achieving Level 1 accreditation.

University Courses

The Education Team accredits a number of courses leading to qualifications that are endorsed for professional membership of IMI and registration with the AHCS register of medical illustrators. The team liaises with the course leaders of the relevant educational bodies and receives regular updates on student numbers and curriculum developments.

IMI continues to actively pursue the development of an undergraduate programme, and has requested support from the National School of Healthcare Science.

Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW): Level 7 Diploma in Clinical Photography – Amy Lake

Learner progress

The 2024 to 2026 cohort has successfully completed the Level 7 Diploma in Clinical Photography. Of the eight learners who completed the programme, six are currently employed as clinical photographers across Wales and England.

The 2025 to 2027 cohort continues to progress in line with expectations, with all nine learners remaining enrolled on the programme.

Qualification development

The fourth cohort of the Level 7 Diploma in Clinical Photography was originally scheduled to commence in September 2026. However, due to delays in confirming commissioned learner numbers, HEIW made the decision to postpone the programme start date until February 2027. This extension provides sufficient time to complete recruitment processes and allows the HEIW Clinical Photography Education Team to review and further develop the qualification to support sustainable future delivery. The revised timeline also facilitates strategic development opportunities, including the potential expansion of the programme beyond Wales. The revised programme schedule will also alter learners' contract end dates, positioning graduates to enter the workforce earlier in the financial year and potentially enhancing their employment prospects.

Staffing

Sophie Kibbler joined the team as Clinical Photography Educator in September 2025 to provide maternity leave cover and will finish in the role in August 2026. Megan Williams has now returned from maternity leave and resumed her substantive post as Clinical Photography Educator.

Staffordshire University – Simon Brown

The 2026 cohort has 27 postgraduate students and two graduate students. This is a little lower than the past three years but still a healthy number. Three students attended the IMI Summer School.

All students have completed Module 1 (the Legal & Ethical assignment, assessed by Ian Berle and the Anatomy & Physiology assignment, assessed by Simon Brown) and are now working on the Module 2 practical assignments, the first one of which is due at the beginning of September.

This year, for the first time, students will be able to submit the practical assignment electronically via Blackboard, the University's VLE. This should save time, a great deal of postage costs and should eliminate the possibility of any images getting lost in transit. The same assessors have agreed to continue this year: Cat Lamoon for the Healthcare Location assignment; Kate Owen for the Dental assignment; Kim Baxter for the Ophthalmic assignment; Jac Swindell for the Patient Photography assignment and Emily Arthur for the Surgical assignment. Simon Brown acts as moderator for all the practical assignments.

University of Dundee – Dr Caroline Erolin

The University of Dundee's MSc Medical Art course, now in its eighteenth year (having had its first intake in 2007), is run jointly between the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID) and the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design (DJCAD) and is led by Dr Caroline Erolin. In addition to the MSc pathway, 2024 saw the launch of a new PGDip in Medical Art. This consists of the first two semesters of the MSc but without the final summer project. Although not exclusively, it is thought to be of particular interest to intercalating medical students who do not have the time to undertake a full year MSc programme. The PGDip route has now had two students (both intercalating medical students from Dundee) successfully complete the programme, with a third due to start in September 2026.

Students have access to facilities in both CAHID and DJCAD. This includes a programme studio where they can work independently, art workshops, and anatomy facilities.

The University of Dundee is currently undergoing financial difficulties and restructuring across the organisation. This has already resulted in two rounds of voluntary severance as well as a further round of redundancies likely. Luckily this has had minimal impact on the MSc

in Medical Art. However, CAHID did lose some staff to VS including the anatomy lecturer who helped with the Medical Artists Gross Anatomy module. From 2026, Dr Erolin will take on the running of this module with input from anatomy demonstrators. CAHID still has several anatomy staff who students can contact for more specialised advice and feedback.

Small changes to the programme continue to be made year on year to ensure the content remains up to date. Since the last report, the main change was to merge the two previous anatomy modules into a single 40 credit module, renamed 'Gross Anatomy for Artists'. This follows a systems-based approach and all materials were updated to reflect this.

Changes for A/Y 2026-27 are planned for 'Medical Art 1' and Medical Art 2' modules. The credits allocated to Medical Art 1 will increase from 30 to 40. This will better reflect the time that students put into the coursework (a portfolio of four set briefs plus an essay) for this module. For Medical Art 2, credits will be reduced from 30 to 20. Currently the amount of work that students put into their MA2 projects varies considerably (even between projects by the same student). By reducing this to one project and also raising the expectations (around expected size/workload) it is hoped that students will produce higher quality work.

The programme lasts for a full academic year, running from September to August. For the current year there are a total of six modules delivered over the year as follows (module descriptors can be viewed on the University website).

Semester 1

Gross Anatomy for Artists (40 credits)

Research Methods (10 credits)

Life Art (10 credits)

Semester 2

Medical Art 1: Contemporary Theory and Practice (30 credits/40 from Sept 2026)

Medical Art 2: Communication and Education (30 credits/20 from Sept 2026)

Semester 3

Final Project (60 credits)

Completing students 2025-26

The 2025-26 cohort consists of 10 MSc students and one PGDip student (who is an intercalating medical student also from the University of Dundee). We anticipate all 11 to successfully graduate later this year.

Students submit their final work on August 7th and will be taking part in the DJCAD physical Masters Show, opening Friday 21st August and running for just over one week.

Programme Figures 2026/27

To date there have been 36 full applications to the MSc in Medical Art for 2026/27 (not including applications which were incomplete/haven't submit portfolios). So far 26 offers have been made with 14 accepted for the MSc and 1 for the PGDip.

Glasgow School of Art / University of Glasgow – Dr Matthieu Poyade

The MSc Medical Visualisation & Human Anatomy programme, delivered jointly by the Glasgow School of Art and the University of Glasgow, has continued to strengthen its reputation as a leading postgraduate programme, attracting a diverse cohort of students from both biomedical and creative disciplines. During 2025–26, the programme welcomed 18 students from the UK and overseas and maintained strong application numbers and high levels of student satisfaction. Students particularly valued the innovative curriculum, supportive teaching environment, practical learning opportunities and extensive digital learning resources, including more than 350 bespoke video tutorials. Despite some

operational challenges, including temporary IT disruption at the Glasgow School of Art and staff absence during Semester 2, both institutions worked collaboratively to minimise disruption and ensure students remained well supported throughout the academic year. The programme continues to evolve in response to advances in technology and professional practice. Curriculum content incorporates emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual, augmented and mixed reality, interactive applications and volumetric visualisation, ensuring graduates are equipped with contemporary skills relevant to healthcare, education and industry. Students also benefited from a wide range of additional workshops, guest lectures and careers events, providing opportunities to engage with leading organisations from the NHS, academia and industry.

Research continues to be a significant strength of the programme. Students undertook projects spanning biomedical communication, patient education, simulation, surgical planning and immersive learning, working with a broad range of collaborators including NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, the Mayo Clinic, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Primal Pictures, Medics Against Violence and several universities across the UK and internationally. These collaborations continue to demonstrate the value of medical visualisation in improving education, patient understanding and clinical training.

The programme also celebrated a number of notable achievements during the year. Student work received national recognition, including the award of the prestigious Keith Prize at the Royal Scottish Academy Annual Exhibition. Research outputs from the programme continue to contribute to the international evidence base, with eight student-led chapters published within Springer's Medical Visualization and Applications of Technology series and a further volume currently under consideration. In addition, student research was presented at international scientific conferences, while graduates continue to progress into doctoral research and careers across healthcare, academia and the creative industries.

The programme remains committed to delivering academic excellence while embracing innovation in biomedical communication, visualisation, training and education. Through continued collaboration between the Glasgow School of Art, the University of Glasgow and external partners, it continues to prepare graduates with the knowledge, technical expertise and research skills required to support the future development of the Medical Illustration profession.

Training / Study Days

Responding to member feedback requesting more accessible education and training opportunities, IMI successfully delivered a Study Day in Belfast in April, and a Summer School for students / newly qualified members in July this year. These events were designed to provide high-quality continuing professional development for members who are unable to attend or afford the annual conference. Both events were well attended and received excellent feedback, demonstrating the value of offering shorter, more affordable educational opportunities throughout the year. It is hoped that the Institute will continue to deliver two study days annually to complement the annual conference, while the future frequency and format of the Summer School will be reviewed in light of member feedback and demand.

Kathy McFall, Education & Training Team Lead

Fellowships

There have been no Fellowships submitted during the past year. Simon Brown is in touch with a couple of members about potential applications so these may be presented over the next twelve months.

Simon Brown, Fellowships Lead

Report of the Marketing and Social Media Team

The IMI Marketing Team has continued to develop and promote the Institute's activities through social media engagement, website management, publication of IMI News, event promotion, member communications, and support for key organisational activities including elections and awards. Throughout the year, the team has worked collaboratively to increase visibility of the profession, engage members, and strengthen communication channels.

The Marketing Team currently comprises representatives across marketing, social media, web management, careers, and IMI News, supported by a dedicated group of volunteers who have contributed significant time and expertise throughout the year.

Marketing - Cat Lamoon

During the year, the Marketing Team undertook a review of its strategy and future plans, including a face-to-face meeting in February 2026 to establish priorities for campaigns, events, and communications activity. Separate planning meetings were also held with each marketing subgroup to support strategic development.

The team welcomed Yash Kumar to the News Team and recognised the substantial contributions of Jane Tovey and Jane Fallows, both of whom stepped down from their marketing roles after many years of service.

To improve planning and collaboration across education and marketing functions, an IMI Monday.com workspace and an IMI Microsoft Planner are being reviewed. The development will better support more coordinated project management.

Social Media - Lauren Price, Matt Stenson and Dominique Young

Social media has remained one of the most active and visible areas of the Marketing Team's work.

Key Campaigns Delivered

The team successfully delivered campaigns supporting:

- World Cancer Day
- International Women's Day
- Healthcare Science Week 2026
- National Photography & Video Show (NEC)
- IMI Awards Launch Campaign
- Healthcare Science Week 2026

Healthcare Science Week

Healthcare Science Week represented a significant collaborative effort. Content was gathered from IMI members across the UK and published daily throughout the campaign. Posts were widely shared through IMI platforms, the Academy for Healthcare Science, and members' own networks, generating strong engagement and broad visibility for the profession.

NEC Photography & Video Show

The IMI hosted a stand at the National Photography & Video Show at the NEC, showcasing equipment, dental photography demonstrations, and 3D imaging technologies. Social media coverage throughout the four-day event provided regular updates and highlighted IMI activities to a wider audience.

Social Media Performance

Between February and May 2026, audience growth and engagement remained positive:

Platform	Followers	Growth
Facebook	807	+19
Instagram	1,705	+44
LinkedIn	1,503	+142

Engagement statistics included:

- Facebook: 4,243 views
- Instagram: 31,505 views
- LinkedIn: 15,895 impressions

Most successful content included:

International Women's Day campaign:

- Instagram: 2,600 views and 100 likes
- LinkedIn: 1,156 impressions and 51 likes

Awards Countdown Campaign:

- Facebook: 1,775 views and 42 likes

Additional event-specific engagement included:

- Healthcare Science Week Instagram posts: 3,894 views
- Photo Show Instagram posts: 3,627 views

Combined LinkedIn event activity: 4,722 impressions and 215 reactions.

IMI News - Christina Knights, Yash Kumar and Jane Fallows (proof reader)

The IMI News publication continues to be a key communication channel for members.

Positive feedback was received for recent editions, including specific recognition for content featuring reflections from IMI Awards judges.

Achievements this year include:

- Publication of 2 editions, with a 3rd in progress.
- An additional 4th publication post-conference.
- Expansion of the editorial team with the addition of Yash Kumar and Cat Lamoon, supporting a full 4 copies of News during 2026.
- Progress towards establishing an annual editorial calendar aligned to recurring IMI activities and events.

The Marketing Team also acknowledges the ongoing support of the design team at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, whose work has helped maintain the quality and professionalism of the publication.

Website - Leilani Winslade and Malina Ifrim

The webmaster team has continued to provide day-to-day support across a range of services, including:

- Relaying membership enquiries
- News publication
- Event promotion
- Job advertisement management
- Website content updates

A significant focus this year has been preparation for the IMI elections, including creating webpages, testing links and ensuring that voting-related communications function correctly. All election pages have been completed and tested successfully.

The website continues to provide a valuable recruitment resource for members and employers, with:

24 job advertisements published during 2026 to date.

Discussions have also commenced regarding the introduction of IMI merchandise through the website.

Careers - David Bishop

During the past year, Careers has been incorporated into the Marketing remit. We look forward to collaborating with the Careers Lead to develop joint initiatives that promote the profession and support members who represent Medical Illustration at careers fairs, educational events, and hospital-based careers stands.

Merchandise

Over the next year, the Marketing Team will undertake research to better understand the requirements, costs, and potential benefits of offering merchandise to IMI members.

The Marketing Team has delivered a highly productive year, supporting major campaigns, national events, publications, website developments, elections preparation, recruitment advertising, and member communications. The team's collective efforts have strengthened IMI's visibility, increased engagement across social media platforms, improved digital services, and ensured continued communication with members. The achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of the volunteers who contribute across all marketing functions.

Cat Lamoon, Marketing and Social Media Lead

IMI Awards

Overview of the 2026 Institute of Medical Illustrators Awards

The 2026 Institute of Medical Illustrators Awards have demonstrated strong engagement, improved reliability, and continued growth in visibility across IMI platforms. Building on the success of the 2025 cycle, this year has seen steady participation, enhanced user experience, and further refinement of the Awards process. The following report provides an overview of preparations, engagement, judging, technical developments, and submission trends for the 2026 Awards.

Preparations and Launch

Preparations for the 2026 Awards began early in the year, following the positive reception of the 2025 Awards Banquet, with particularly positive feedback regarding the exhibition. Post-conference updates were completed promptly, including the addition of Premium Award winners to the website gallery and updates to the Past Premium Award Winners page. Hyperlinks were added to video and large-format graphic entries to improve access to full-resolution content and enhance the visibility of winning work.

The 2026 Awards launched on 24 April, with entries closing on 29 May, mirroring the successful timetable used in 2025. A coordinated promotional campaign, developed with the social media and marketing team, delivered weekly countdown posts, refreshed website content, and consistent visibility across IMI channels. An article announcing the launch was submitted to IMI News, and engagement across social media increased steadily throughout the entry period.

Entry guidelines and criteria on the IMI website were reviewed to ensure accuracy and accessibility, and previous judges were contacted to confirm availability. In June, the judging panel was finalised and updated guidance was prepared to support clarity and consistency across all categories. Ideally, the panel would have been confirmed earlier; however, several delays were experienced due to judges taking longer than expected to confirm their participation. Despite this, the panel was successfully assembled with strong representation across all disciplines.

Technical Enhancements

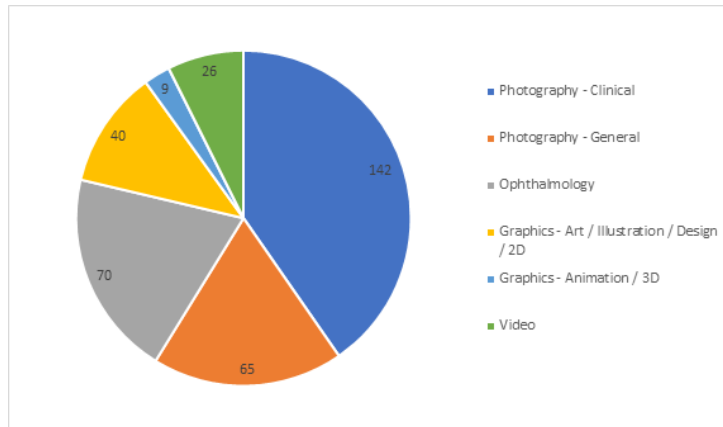
Significant technical improvements were implemented ahead of the 2026 cycle following issues identified during the 2025 Awards. These included entrants being able to bypass the three-entry limit, non-members successfully submitting entries despite eligibility restrictions, and incomplete data transfer to the Awards post page. Early monitoring during the live entry period confirmed that these issues had been resolved, with improved reliability in entry limits, data handling, and overall system performance. These changes contributed to a smoother experience for entrants and reduced administrative burden throughout the submission window.

However, an unexpected technical incident during the live entry period resulted in a delay to the judging process. A member contacted the Awards inbox to report that their submissions had disappeared from the My Award Entries page. Upon investigation, Design Monkey confirmed that routine maintenance had coincided with a critical conflict triggered by the latest WooCommerce update. To restore functionality, they were required to roll back the update, which also reverted the database and resulted in the loss of some recently submitted entries. Although the update was subsequently re-applied without error, it was not possible to determine how many entries had been affected.

In response, notices were issued promptly via email, the IMI website, and social media, asking members to check their entries and report any missing submissions. A total of eight members contacted us to confirm that their entries had not been registered. To ensure fairness, the entry portal was briefly reopened to allow resubmission. Design Monkey will be formally notified of the impact of this issue and advised that no updates or maintenance should be carried out during the Awards submission period, as the problem may not have been detected without the vigilance of the member who reported the disappearance of their entries.

Submission Trends and Engagement

In 2026, the Awards saw 352 submissions, reflecting a strong and well-distributed level of engagement across the membership. Photography – Clinical remained the largest contributor, while Ophthalmology showed particularly notable momentum with 70 entries, marking its highest activity since 2023. Graphics – Animation/3D also experienced an encouraging uplift, almost doubling its 2025 figure. Although Photography – General saw a reduction compared with the previous year, the overall spread of entries demonstrates a diverse and actively participating community, with members contributing across all disciplines and maintaining a broad representation of professional practice throughout 2026. The following chart illustrates the distribution of entries across each category:



Judging Process

Following the closing of the Awards, judges received an invitation to the SharePoint group along with a spreadsheet containing all entries to be reviewed. Judges assessed each submission and recorded the Award level they felt appropriate (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Unsuccessful). Once all judges had completed their scoring, responses were collated. Entries with unanimous agreement were finalised on the IMI website, leaving only those requiring further discussion; for example, cases where opinions differed on what an entry should receive. The remote judging days held on 20th and 21st July were then used to discuss these undecided entries, as well as any additional honours.

2026 Judging Panel			
Photography	Graphics	Video	Ophthalmology
Simon Brown	Jane Fallows	Jon Shears	Christopher Tetley
Jaclyn Swindell	Calum Murray	Paul Quinlan	Kim Baxter
Elisa Murgatroyd	Victoria McCullough	Keven Siegert	Maria Kazmaly
Simon Brinkworth	Philip Ferguson Jones	Simon Edwards	
Lucy Wilmer			

Two of the originally recruited judges were unfortunately unable to participate and withdrew from the process due to personal circumstances. In addition, one judge completed the initial review and scoring of entries on the spreadsheet but was unexpectedly unable to attend the remote judging day.

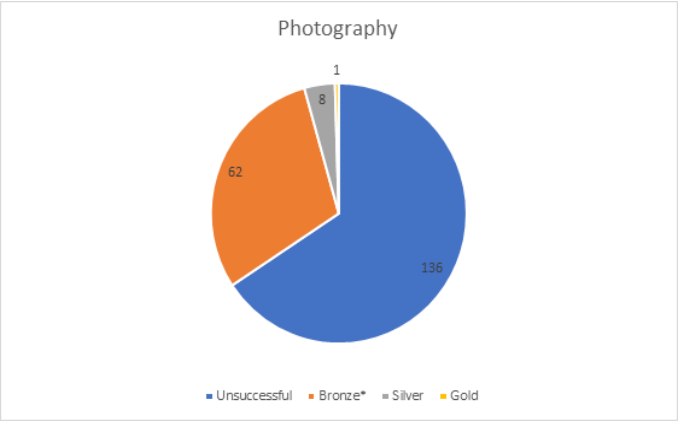
The Platinum Award and Peter Kilshaw Student Award were selected by the Chair, following review of the shortlisted entries provided to them. Nominations for the Sony Portrait Award and The Wellcome Trust Photographic Award were sent to the relevant external representatives, who have now made their selections. The Sony Portrait Award finalists are drawn from all portrait entries that received an award, and the Wellcome Award finalists are made up of all winning photography and ophthalmic entries. Canon were contacted multiple times to confirm whether they wished to sponsor an award again this year, but no response was received.

Winner Confirmation and Fulfilment

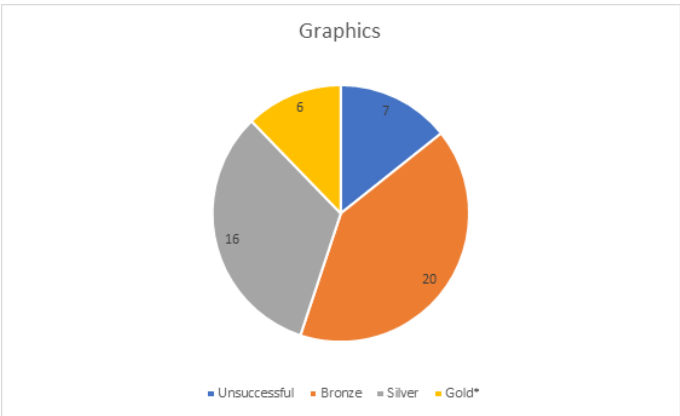
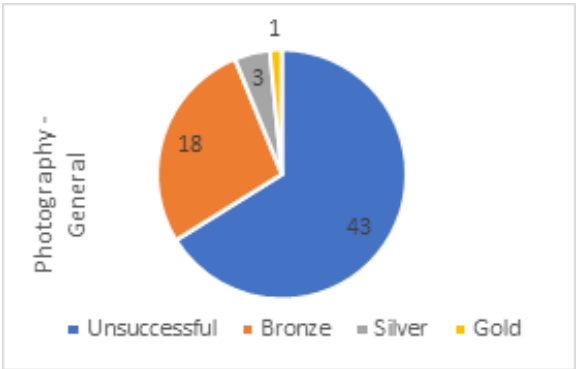
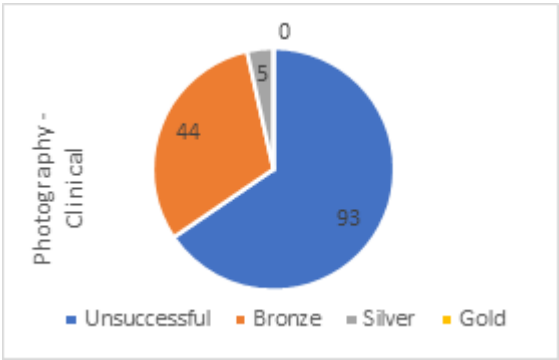
All winner details have been sent to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer to enable preparation of certificates, trophies, and monetary prizes.

Award winners will be formally announced on 7th August. This year, members will not receive email notifications of their results. Instead, they will be directed to the IMI website to view outcomes via their My Award Entries page. This change aims to reduce issues experienced in previous years where some individuals did not receive emails, while also encouraging increased engagement with the website.

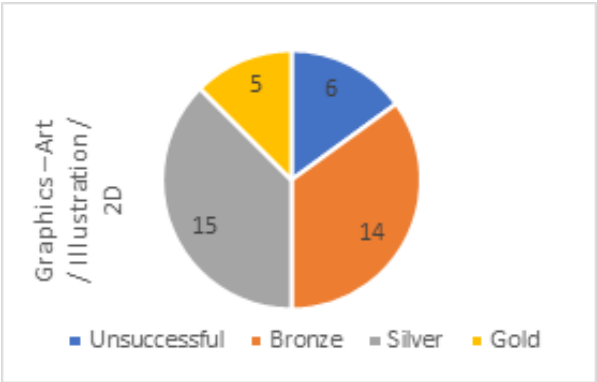
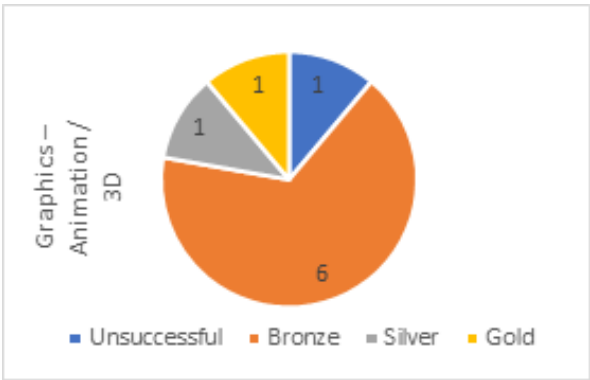
Award Breakdown

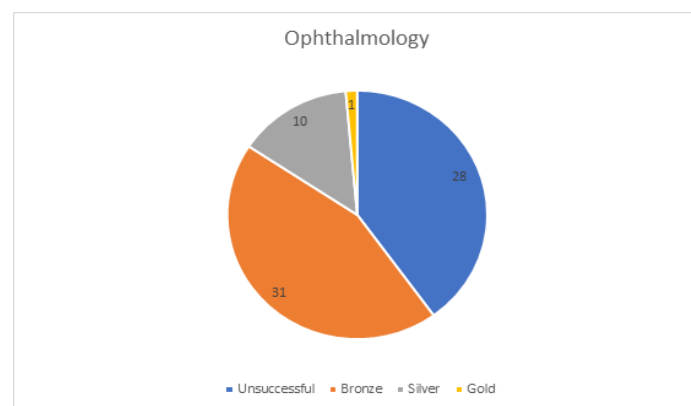
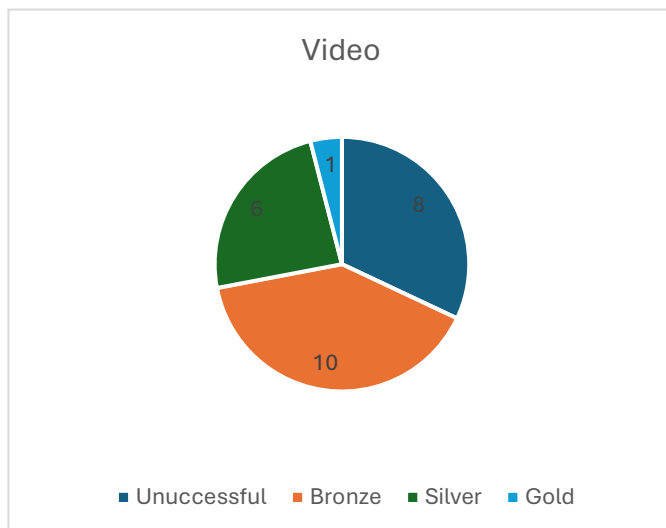


**Peter Kilshaw Student Award included in Bronze*



**Gabriel Donald Graphics Award and Platinum Award included in Gold*





Five-Year Engagement Trends

Across the past five years, the IMI Awards have experienced notable shifts in submission numbers, influenced by both natural variation in member engagement and the introduction of the three-entry submission limit in 2024, which has remained in place in subsequent years. Despite this structural change, the Awards continue to attract strong participation across all categories, with 2026 demonstrating a stable and healthy level of engagement.

Total Entries (2022–2026)

2022: 425

2023: 510

2024: 336 (three-entry limit introduced)

2025: 375

2026: 352

Key pattern: The 2023 peak was followed by a predictable reduction in 2024 as the new submission limit took effect. Since then, entries have stabilised in the mid-300s, indicating sustained engagement under the capped system.

Category Trends

Photography – Clinical

- Remains the largest category every year.
- Gradual decline from 206 (2023) to 142 (2026), but still the dominant discipline.

Ophthalmology

- Highly variable: 72 (2022) → 111 (2023) → 54 (2025) → 70 (2026).
- 2026 shows a strong recovery and is the second-highest year in the five-year period.

Photography – General

- Sharp drop in 2024 due to the submission limit.
- Rebounded in 2025, then fell again in 2026 to 65.

Graphics – Art / Illustration / 2D

- Strong in 2022–23, dipped in 2024, stabilised around 40–42 in 2025–26.

Graphics – Animation / 3D

- Small but fluctuating category.
- 2026 (9 entries) matches 2024 and is almost double 2025.

Video

- Consistently stable across the period, ranging between 21 and 32 entries.

Five-Year Insights

2023 remains the highest-volume year, reflecting exceptional engagement before the submission limit was introduced.

The three-entry limit has reshaped the Awards, reducing overall volume but improving manageability and maintaining quality.

2025 and 2026 show stable participation, reflecting consistent engagement overall.

Ophthalmology and 3D/Animation show renewed growth in 2026, indicating increased activity in specialist imaging and digital media.

Photography categories continue to dominate, though both clinical and general photography have trended downward since 2023.

The IMI Awards continue to demonstrate strong engagement and broad representation across the profession. While total submissions have naturally adjusted to the three-entry limit, the Awards remain a vibrant platform for showcasing excellence in medical illustration. The 2026 data reflects a stable and healthy level of participation, with encouraging signs of growth in several specialist categories and a balanced spread of entries across disciplines.

Planned Award Actions (August–October)

The following tasks are scheduled as part of the Awards delivery and promotion process:

August: Winner details provided to the exhibition team; winning video entries sent for exhibition loop preparation; copyright and attribution information added to winning images; launch of the IMI Award for Affiliated Organisations.

September: Publication of Award winners (excluding Premium Awards) on the IMI website, accompanied by social media announcements.

October: Presentation of Awards at the IMI Conference; publication of Premium Award winners; updates to the Past Premium Award Winners page; and promotion of winners across IMI channels.

Conclusion

The 2026 Awards cycle has been another successful year, demonstrating strong engagement from members, improved operational reliability, and increased visibility across IMI platforms. The Awards continue to provide a valued and well-supported opportunity to recognise and celebrate excellence, innovation, and achievement in medical illustration. Encouraging levels of participation, together with renewed growth in several specialist categories, reflect the ongoing creativity, professionalism, and commitment of the IMI community.

Sincere thanks are extended to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Awards programme. Appreciation is due to all entrants for sharing their work, to the judges for their time, expertise, and thoughtful assessment of submissions, and to IMI Council for its continued support and guidance. Special thanks are also extended to the Chair for their leadership and encouragement, to the social media team for promoting the Awards and celebrating entrants' achievements, and to Kathy McFall for her invaluable ongoing technical support, which continues to underpin the smooth delivery of the Awards process.

The continued success of the IMI Awards is a testament to the collective efforts of the IMI community, and the Awards remain an important opportunity to recognise, celebrate, and showcase excellence across the profession.

Bethan Howlett, Awards Lead

Membership Report

The current membership numbers as of August 2026 are as follows:

Numbers Report	7th August 2025	5th August 2026
Affiliate Members:		
Photographic	22	28
Graphics	11	9
Video	6	7
Other	1	5
Total number of Affiliate Members	40	50
Professional Members:		
Photographic	227	244
Graphics	42	47
Video	10	10
Other	21	21
Total number of Professional Members	300	322
Student Members:		
Photographic	37	38
Graphics	5	4
Video	2	1
Other	1	2
Total number of Student Members	45	45
Retired Members:		
Photographic	9	9
Graphics	1	1
Video	1	1
Other	3	2
Total number of Retired Members	14	13
Fellows	11	13
Honorary Fellows	14	14
Corporate Members	14	15
Members on Career and Maternity Breaks	(2)	(3)
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	439	472

I am pleased to report that IMI membership has increased for 2026 with steady interest for students on IMI approved courses and affiliate applicants who wish to know more about our profession for a future career in medical illustration.

Unfortunately, there have been a number of cancellations due to members leaving the NHS, or finding personal finances difficult in the present financial climate as their organisation do not fund IMI membership, (a few have informed membership that they plan to renew in the future and have not left IMI permanently).

My thanks go to the Kathy Mc Fall, Carol Fleming and Geoff Gilbert for their continued support and advice.

Melvin Bond, Membership Secretary

Permanent Conference Team

Glasgow 2026

Conference 2026 see's us back at the Golden Jubilee Hotel in Clydebank, chaired by Andrew MacAllister and Team. The Team have been working hard to provide a varied programme with something for everyone. At time of writing this report we had not yet sold all of our contracted rooms, but we are confident that this will be achieved by the time of the AGM.

The Team is aware of budgetary restraints that are ongoing throughout the NHS which will undoubtedly impact delegate attendance.

Confirmed future venue: Cardiff 2027

Conference returns to Cardiff in 2027 at The Hilton Hotel. At time of writing this report, the Team are in the final stages of signing off the contract and finalising ticket prices. The co-chairs for the Cardiff conference are Amy Lake and Ceri Llewellyn.

Future conference locations:

2028 (60th celebration) - England

2029 - Ireland / England

2030 - Scotland

2031 - Wales

Booking system:

Successful Events put forward a proposal for the next three years (2026-2028) to run the 'day to day' element of conference bookings, which has been approved by IMI Council.

Team members:

Amy Lake and Ross Milligan are stepping down from their roles within the Permanent Conference Team this year. Lauren and Ceri would like to thank them Both for their support over the last 12 months and also acknowledge their contribution to the Institute whilst in their roles, Thank you Both.

Lauren Price, Ceri Llewellyn, Ross Milligan and Amy Lake, Permanent Conference Team

2026 Conference

The IMI Conference 2026 will be held at the Golden Jubilee, Clydebank, Glasgow
2nd – 3rd October 2026.

Conference team members:

Chair: Andy McAllister

Permanent Conference Secretary: Amy Lake / Lauren Price

Permanent Conference Treasurers: Ross Milligan & Geoff Gilbert /Ceri Llewellyn

Trade: Paul Quinlan

Audiovisual: Anthony Edwards

Graphics & Art Stream: Andrew Black (NHS Ayrshire and Arran)

New Voices: Andy McAllister (NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde)

Photography/Ophthalmic & Video Stream: Morag Warrender (NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde)

Professional Development Stream: Andrew Roddick (NHS Lothian)

Social: Conference Team

Communication: Lauren Price

Graphic Design: Medical Illustration services, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Reception & House Management: Alice Milligan

As the year progresses towards October the team continue to fill the programme with a breadth of content that should present the attendees with new skills and knowledge.

Details have been and continue to be shared on all platforms including the institute's social media presence as well as the website.

A percentage of tickets sales were purchased utilising the early bird offer available to our members. Although not fully sold out at time of writing, tickets sales continually grow and with the release of the finalised programme at the beginning of August we hope to encourage the remaining numbers to be purchased.

There will be three main streams at this year's conference, Photography and Video (incorporating Ophthalmic imaging), Medical Visualisation and Graphics, and Professional Development/Leadership. This last stream continues from previous events where it has been successfully attended and appreciated as an inclusion to the programme.

Plans are in place to organise another location meet the beginning of September 2026 to finalise details with the events and hotel staff.

The team will continue to adopt a focused and coordinated approach, with key target dates being established to support timely completion of outstanding actions.

We would like to thank the permanent conference team for all their guidance and support throughout the year.

Andy McAllister, 2026 Conference Chair

The Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine

The past year has been an important one for JVISCOMM, with considerable discussion taking place regarding the journal's future direction and long-term sustainability. A Short Life Working Group was established to review the current position of the journal and consider several options for its future. Following presentation of the group's report, Council supported the continuation of JVISCOM, recognising the journal as an important professional asset for the Institute and its members.

The discussions acknowledged both the strengths of the journal and the challenges it faces, particularly in relation to member engagement and the number of submissions received from within the profession. A number of opportunities were identified to help strengthen the journal over the coming year, including raising its profile across the Institute, expanding editorial support, increasing the visibility of clinical photography through a regular gallery, and encouraging greater participation from members across all areas of medical illustration.

The editorial team remains committed to supporting authors throughout the publication process and ensuring that JVISCOMM continues to provide a high-quality platform for sharing research, service developments, technical innovation, education and examples of best practice. The success of the journal relies on the continued support of authors, reviewers and the wider membership, and we hope that the renewed focus on engagement will encourage more members to consider publishing their work.

Submission Statistics	YTD	MTD	Prior 12 Months	Monthly Avg. Prior 12 Months
Viewpoint	6	0	8	0.7
Book Review	1	0	1	0.1
Scientific and Technical	26	0	35	2.9
IMI Gallery	1	0	3	0.2
Special Gallery	0	0	1	0.1
Professional Development	3	0	5	0.4
Brief Report	2	0	3	0.2
Data Policy: No	34	0	50	4.2
Data Policy: Yes	4	0	5	0.4
Section: Book Review	1	0	1	0.1
Section: Brief Report	3	0	4	0.3
Section: Professional Development	4	0	5	0.4
Section: Professional Gallery (IMI Gallery)	1	0	2	0.2
Section: Scientific and Technical	30	0	33	2.8

I am pleased that JVISCOMM will continue to be published over the coming year and would like to thank everyone who has contributed to its success. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the editorial team, our peer reviewers, authors and all those members who have supported the journal through their time, expertise and encouragement.

Looking ahead, we hope to see an increase in submissions from across the membership. Every contribution, whether a research article, clinical report, technical paper, educational article or photographic submission, helps to strengthen the journal and showcase the excellent work taking place across our profession.

Timothy Zoltie, Editor in Chief, Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine

Report of the Regulation and Governance Group

AHCS Regulation Board meetings have been held throughout the year, via MS Teams and in-person, with reports sent to council.

A new President of the AHCS, Chris Hopkins, formally took post on 1st July 2025, who is keen to raise the profile of the healthcare science profession. Four country Healthcare Science Clinical Leads have been appointed to the Professional Bodies Council for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The AHCS are working towards registration becoming mandatory, guidelines for registrants in private practice have been published and the CPD audit vs revalidation process review is still to be conducted by the AHCS.

The PSA's new combined Standards for Regulators and Accredited Registers came into effect on 1 July 2026, increasing from 9 to 16.

Assistance has been provided for an IMI member wanting to join the AHCS via the equivalence process.

Emily Appleby, Regulation and Governance Lead

Student Representative

Actions update:

- The Disability Guidelines have been finalised and approved by Council. Currently awaiting publication.
- All email activity has been kept up to date.
- Students on current courses feel supported and I have had a few reach out for support and advice.
- Conducted a Networking workshop at conference 2025 and this had a great response.
- Active networking with fellow student members has been constant and managed to get a few students to sign up for IMI Membership throughout the year.

I am continuing to support IMI as Student Representative, Assistant Webmaster and Regional Representative for London & South-East

Malina Bayley, Student Representative to Council

Academy of Health Care Science Professional Bodies Council

NHS England 10-year plan

Following on from the publication of the NHS England 10-year health plan, the IMI was formally invited, through the AHCS Professional Bodies Council, to engage with the NHS on what the plan meant for Healthcare Scientists and future workforce planning requirements. A series of online webinars and face-to-face workshops were held to help develop a meaningful response. The 10-year plan centres around 3 core shifts in how healthcare is provided, these are;

- Analogue to Digital
- Hospital to Community
- Sickness to Prevention

The IMI engaged with this process fully and provided evidence of the work we are already engaged in, and areas of potential development, that fall in line with the ambitions of this plan.

Professional Regulation

AHCS continues to advocate for wider statutory regulation of healthcare scientists while promoting the use of Professional Standards Authority (PSA) accredited registers as an important mechanism for assuring professional standards. Wales has taken a significant step by introducing policy requirements for healthcare scientists to hold either Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registration or registration on a PSA-accredited register. This represents an important development for IMI members, reinforcing the value of the

AHCS Accredited Register as an increasingly recognised benchmark for professional practice and supporting IMI's own commitment to promoting professional registration within medical illustration.

Professional Recognition

A revised Fellowships and Honorary Fellowships Scheme is being developed to provide transparent criteria for recognising exceptional contributions to healthcare science. Such initiatives help raise the profile of healthcare scientists nationally while celebrating leadership, innovation and excellence. For IMI members, this aligns closely with the Institute's own Fellowship programme and ongoing efforts to promote the significant contributions our members make to the profession, patient care, education and clinical innovation.

Healthcare Science Clinical Lead Roles

AHCS has introduced eleven new National Healthcare Science Clinical Lead roles, designed to strengthen regional leadership and improve communication between national healthcare science policy and local services. These appointments are intended to ensure healthcare science has a stronger voice in service development while supporting consistent implementation of national priorities across the UK. At the same time, work continues to refine Higher Specialist Scientist Equivalence (HSSE) and Consultant Clinical Scientist appointment processes, helping establish more consistent professional standards and career pathways. Although these frameworks do not directly apply to all medical illustration professionals, they demonstrate the increasing maturity of healthcare science leadership and reinforce the importance of developing advanced practice and leadership opportunities across all healthcare science specialties.

Professional Specialties

The AHCS recently invited IMI to share our feedback and insights on a project they have undertaken to ensure that the service specialisms are accurately named, represented, and aligned with NHS education and training pathways. This is very relevant to our profession as we have long been inhibited by inconsistent naming both at individual job title, wider department level and even within the AHCS registers. In our response the IMI have asked AHCS to review and streamline the Academies registers to better reflect current practice and to help solidify consistency across all platforms.

A further element of this project seeks to understand any areas where there are ambitions to develop or expand specialist pathways in the future, including and sub-specialist areas that sit beneath the existing pathways. This information will be used to help inform the ongoing National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) review across the PTP, STP and HSST programmes.

Anthony Edwards, Academy of Healthcare Science Professional Council Representative

IMI Archives

For many years an IMI Archive has been maintained by Garry Swann and stored at a hospital local to him where he also acted as an Honorary Archivist. Garry indicated to Council that he planned to retire from these roles in 2026 and that a new home would be needed for the IMI Archive.

Since inception in 1968 there have been several IMI Archivists but Garry has been the longest serving and as an organisation, we should be grateful for his dedication to this role.

I was asked by Council to take on this role and review the contents of the IMI Archive and put as much as possible online. Agreement was given to rent a storage unit for a period of one year to hold the archive while the review was undertaken. In February 2026 two

pallets of storage boxes arrived at a self-store unit close to me and since that time I have started reviewing the contents of these 27 boxes that comprise of the archive. The fact is that as an organisation we have no physical space to store a large archive so we must shrink the archive to a manageable size with the vast majority of items being online only.

My process is:

1. Read the documents to assess significance.
2. If not directly related to IMI, then either move to a more appropriate archive or dispose (for example several items pertaining to the IIP have been transferred to their archive at the University of Westminster).
3. Scan relevant documents with a view to eventually making available online, dispose of original item.
4. Photograph relevant items with a view to making available online, dispose of original item.
5. Scan/photograph and retain original item. This is for only key significant items.

As you will understand the reading of every document is not a quick process. It should be noted that Council Minutes are not included in this archive. Membership material such as application forms, registers etc have been securely destroyed for GDPR requirements with only some samples from 'notables' retained.

There is obviously a collection of material from conferences and these are being recorded prior to disposal. A collection of previous conference mugs will be sold off at Reception this year with any funds raised going to the Turnbull Travel Fund.

At the time of writing (July 2026) I am on the twelfth box and will verbally update this number at the AGM. Currently there are over 100 multipage PDF files and 30 item jpegs available. These are recorded in a spreadsheet and a report is sent to Council on progress for each of their meeting. No decision has been taken as yet on how or when to make these files available to the membership but this will be actioned when the review is completed.

Ross G Milligan, IMI Archivist