

No. 217

THE INSTITUTE OF ANATOMICAL SCIENCES



MAR/APR

2026

*For Anatomy or
Anatomy-related
professionals*

Share.

Learn.

Educate.

Catchup with the latest IAS news and MORE...



Editor's Letter

As Editor, I would like to thank everyone who continues to support the IAS magazine.

This issue brings together a range of content reflecting both ongoing developments within the Institute and aspects of day-to-day anatomical practice. Alongside updates on meetings, education, and professional opportunities, we also include pieces that highlight both the practical and historical context of anatomy. These range from traceability and governance to the continued influence of early anatomical teaching spaces.

As the magazine continues to evolve, I would like to place greater emphasis on incorporating a wider range of voices and perspectives from across the anatomy community. Your contributions help ensure the magazine remains both informative and representative of current practice.

If you are interested in contributing to a future issue, I would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact me at Rebecca.Aitken@liverpool.ac.uk.

Rebecca Aitken

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2026 IAS Spring Scientific Meeting & AGM

ONLINE

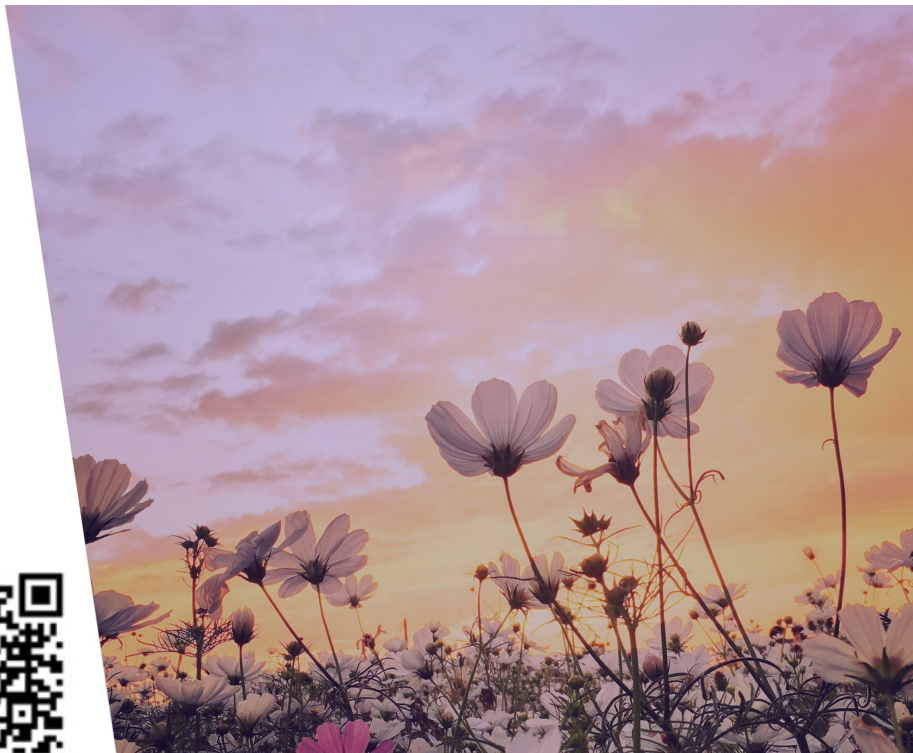


Fri 10th April, 2026

Stay Sharp, Stay Tuned

For more information visit:

www.anatomical-sciences.org.uk



"Join us for a vibrant meeting where emerging professionals and established experts share perspectives, skills, and innovation. With interactive workshops in 3D printing, embalming, and HTA, plus technical and academic talks across Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Anatomy, and beyond, there's something for everyone. The HARC team is excited to welcome you to our city and department."

University of Liverpool



WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

2026

IAS AUTUMN SCIENTIFIC MEETING



Date: 2nd-3rd September 2026

Location: Human Anatomy
Resource Centre (HARC) in
Liverpool



For More Information visit:
www.anatomical-sciences.org.uk



The Institute of
Anatomical Sciences



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL



IAS Prize Competitions

Open to all IAS members and non-members

Marjorie England
Dissection Prize



IAS Student
Dissection Prize



Terrence Williamson Museum Prize



IAS Open Competition



Animal or human specimens !

- Note:**
- The specimen will be judged against published criteria, technical and intellectual complexity and usefulness as a teaching aid

Single or multiple museum displays !



Osteological specimen



Dissection/pathological specimen



Corrosion casts/models



Plastinated, air-dried, freeze-dried, plastic or resin embedded specimens



Anatomical drawings, paintings or sculptures



Book chapter



Video or film



Histological slides



Teaching aids



Computer program



For full details on how to enter please visit the IAS website by using the web address below or by scanning the QR code



The Institute of
Anatomical Sciences

JOIN NOW

<https://www.anatomical-sciences.org.uk>



Sunday 9th August 2026, 11:59pm

All entrants will receive a certificate of participation

With the Annual Autumn IAS Meeting in sight, we would like to remind you of our competitions.

All competitions are open to **members and non-members** of the IAS. All competition entries will be displayed during the annual Autumn Scientific Meeting.

The winners and merits of each category will be announced during the meeting and they will be published in the IAS News Magazine edition and on the IAS website.

All category winners will receive a personalised certificate and an engraved crystal plaque bearing their name, the name of the category and IAS logo. Good luck everyone!

Click to see a list of [prizewinners for past competitions](#), and a [potted history of the categories](#). Here you can see [competition gallery](#) with some of the winners across categories. Alternatively, scan the QR code below:



Scan me to see the
IAS Competition
Page!

JOIN THE IAS COUNCIL!

VACANCIES

- Deputy Public Relations Officer
- Journal Editor
- Deputy Journal Editor
- News Magazine and Supplement Editor
- JIAS Communications Officer
- Deputy Education Officer

Looking for a new and exciting opportunity?

Look no further!

We are assembling the next Council, voting for the roles takes place at the AGM in the Spring Meeting.

The IAS is a supportive and enthusiastic team of working professionals who are dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the Institute for all its members. Being part of the Council is a great way to contribute, connect with like-minded peers, and help shape the future of the IAS.

Council meetings are held twice a year: one in January (online) and another in June, which takes place in person but also offers an online option — so you can participate from anywhere in the world.

If you are curious about any of the roles or would like more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch. For more information - and to apply - contact info@anatomical-sciences.org.uk

Whatever your background or experience, your contribution is valued. And don't worry! You won't be thrown in the deep end. Our current Council members will be there to support and guide you as you settle in.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!



We are reviewing how Institute of Anatomical Sciences (IAS) meetings are delivered and would value members' views on future formats.

Over recent years, meetings have been delivered both online and in person, each offering different benefits in terms of accessibility, interaction, and engagement. As we plan future IAS events, we would like to understand members' preferences and how different formats support their professional needs.

Your responses will help inform decisions about whether future IAS meetings should be:

- Delivered online
- Delivered in person
- Offered as a combination of online and in-person meetings
- Designed with flexible or hybrid options

There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in understanding what works best for you and how IAS meetings can be made as inclusive, accessible, and valuable as possible. If you have a couple of minutes to spare, we would be grateful if you could complete the form.



Scan the QR code

[Please click here](#) to fill in form *Or*



HTA AND BEQUEATHALS: TRACEABILITY

Traceability is an integral component of wet anatomy laboratories and carries significant operational and ethical weight under the anatomy examination (Code C) and research (Code E) standards of the Human Tissue Authority in the UK.

Within Code C, traceability is structured into two key requirements: **T1**, the establishment of a coding and records system that enables full traceability of bodies and human tissue and provides a robust audit trail; and **T2**, ensuring that bodies and human tissue are disposed of appropriately and in accordance with consent.

Each department operates an identification system that assigns a unique code to every donor and to all associated parts.

Methods vary from durable tags to emerging microchip systems, but the principle remains constant: every part must be identifiable as belonging to an individual donor. A comprehensive register of retained material and any associated products is also required.

At the University of Liverpool, a bespoke database developed in collaboration with our IT department underpins this process, and many institutions now operate similar electronic systems. The move from paper-based records to digital platforms has significantly reduced the potential for human error. It also enables efficient report generation supporting our internal and external audits.

Traceability

T1 A coding and records system facilitates the traceability of bodies and human tissue, ensuring a robust audit trail

- a) There is an identification system which assigns a unique code to each donation and to each of the products associated with it.
- b) A register of donated material, and the associated products where relevant, is maintained.
- c) An audit trail is maintained, which includes details of when and where the bodies or tissue were acquired, the consent obtained, the uses to which any material was put, when and where the material was transferred, and to whom.
- d) A system is in place to ensure that traceability of relevant material is maintained during transport.
- e) Records of transportation and delivery are kept.
- f) Records of any agreements with courier or transport companies are kept.
- g) Records of any agreements with recipients of relevant material are kept.

T2 Bodies and human tissue are disposed of in an appropriate manner

- a) Disposal is carried out in accordance with the HTA's Codes of Practice.
- b) The date, reason for disposal and the method used are documented.

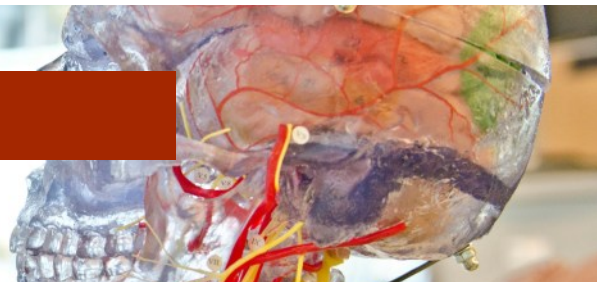
Traceability in Practice:

At any point in time, a department should be able to answer three questions with certainty:

- Where is this donor (or part) now?
- What has been derived from them?
- Has everything been accounted for?

If the answer involves assumption, memory, or estimation, traceability is no longer robust.

OVERHEARD IN THE ANATOMY LAB



“

“Looks like a cat’s jaw bone” *(talking about a hyoid)*

“That’s not where it’s supposed to be.”

“Is that a kidney?” “No...That’s a spleen”

“That’s probably variation.”

“Well that’s supposed to be attached to that... but it’s not.”

“Is that the nerve?” “No, that’s fat”

“That liver is **huge!**”

“You’ll be covering it next time” *(when the answer escapes you)*

“Why am I so hungry?”

“Why is it green?”

”

The Journal of the IAS

Contribute

The *Journal of the Institute of Anatomical Sciences* is the premier platform for cutting-edge research, technical and clinical insights in anatomy. As the official publication of the IAS, it connects scholars, educators, clinicians, and technical staff worldwide, showcasing high-quality, peer-reviewed work that advances our understanding of the human body.

From detailed human and animal studies to applied research, novel dissection methods, and innovations in specimen preservation and display, the IAS Journal celebrates excellence and pushes the boundaries of anatomical science. We also champion anatomy education, welcoming contributions from undergraduates, postgraduates, early-career researchers, and technical staff offering a platform to share their work.

By promoting best practices, highlighting groundbreaking work, and fostering an inclusive research community, the IAS Journal preserves, celebrates, and elevates the science of anatomy for the future.

Please contact [Benedicta Quaye](#) or visit [The Journal of the IAS](#) to submit your research. [Visit or explore our archive](#) today and join a global conversation shaping the future of anatomical science.



Peer Review

The *Journal of the Institute of Anatomical Sciences* is currently inviting expressions of interest from academics, practitioners, and technical staff members to act as peer reviewers. We welcome colleagues with expertise or experience across anatomy, biomedical sciences, medical education, and related interdisciplinary fields, including those working in laboratories and technical roles who contribute to research and practical applications. Individuals who have never acted as peer reviewers before are especially encouraged to apply, and full guidance and support will be provided to help them develop the necessary skills. Reviewers will play a key role in supporting the journal's commitment to rigorous, timely, and constructive peer review, helping to drive its relaunch as a vibrant platform for high-quality research, technical reports, and scholarship in anatomical sciences.

Please contact [Benedicta Quaye](#) for a form to complete.

EDUCATION and DEVELOPMENT

The IAS is committed to helping members to gain further practical experience and develop new skills.

There are a choice of three qualifications:

1) [Certificate in Anatomical Bequeathal Services \(CABS\)](#) for bequeathal and secretary staff.

2) [Donald Farr Certificate in Anatomical Techology and Science \(CATS\)](#) for technical staff.

Already done the CATS or want a more in-depth qualification? No problem:

3) [Diploma in Anatomical Technology and Science \(DATS\)](#).

Develop your theoretical, practical and technical experience associated with anatomy. These awards are open to all IAS members.

Unsure about the fees? Your employer may cover the cost!

FEES

CABS - £200 total cost, £50 on submission of application and remainder of £150 once viva has been set.

CATS - £200 total cost, £50 on submission of application and remainder of £150 once viva has been set.

DATS - £350 total cost, £50 on submission of application, £150 once first viva is set, remaining £150 once second viva is set.





Congratulations to Our New CATS Qualifiers

The IAS would like to congratulate Zane Williams and Otis Enedegbo, both from the University of Birmingham, on completing the CATS qualification.

Achieving this qualification is an important milestone and reflects their dedication, professionalism and commitment to maintaining high standards within anatomical sciences. It is developed alongside day-to-day work and requires applying judgement and attention to detail across a range of situations.

Their achievement also reflects the strength of training and support within their department. The University of Birmingham has a strong reputation for anatomical practice, and this is clearly reflected in the work of its staff.

Qualifications such as CATS play an important role across the profession. They support shared standards between institutions and help ensure consistency in practice, ultimately benefiting both staff and students.

Completing CATS is therefore both an individual achievement and a contribution to the wider anatomical community.

Congratulations to Zane Williams and Otis Enedegbo on this well-earned achievement.

Have some educational news that you would like to share and highlight to fellow members? Please contact Rebecca.Aitken@liverpool.ac.uk or any of our council members to showcase the achievement in the next edition.

What are the CATS?

The 'Donald Farr Certificate of Anatomical Technology and Science' has been designed to document the knowledge that candidates use on a daily basis in carrying out their duties.

This will be assessed by IAS approved examiners and if an appropriate grade is obtained the certificate will be awarded.

The certificate can be completed as a standalone qualification or can be considered as the first step towards completing the Diploma.

The Certificate is also an excellent way to demonstrate staff training, an area now being inspected by the Human Tissue Authority.

[Click here for further information on the IAS website.](#)

THE THREADS OF TIME...



The Padua Anatomy Theatre by Rebecca Aitken



Hidden within the University of Padua in the Palazzo del Bo lies one of the most striking spaces in the history of medicine: the Padua Anatomy Theatre.

Constructed in 1595, the theatre is unlike any modern teaching space. Historically anatomical theatres were temporary but this structure is considered the first permanent anatomical theatre. Narrow, steep, and almost claustrophobic, it rises in tight concentric rings around a central dissection table. From above, it resembles a funnel, drawing the gaze downward to a single focal point: the human body. The space was designed with a single purpose, anatomy was something to be seen. In the late Renaissance, anatomy was not a quiet, reflective practice. It was a performance.

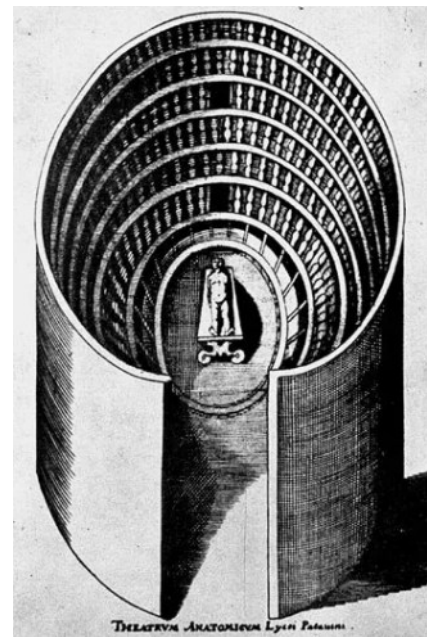


Hieronymus Fabricius ab Aquapendente is said to have contributed to the design of the Padua Anatomy Theatre



More than 250 students and scholars peered down from multiple levels. It was inspired by Roman amphitheatres and built from multiple types of wood. A 16th century inscription in Latin under the main entrance states “This is a place where the dead are pleased to help the living”.

In these early theatres, most attendees did not dissect. Instead, they watched as a central figure, often guided by texts such as those of Andreas Vesalius, demonstrated anatomical structures. Assistants performed the manual work, while the anatomist narrated. Learning was visual and didactic, rather than hands-on.



Drawing of the Anatomical Theatre of Padua

Spectators stood shoulder-to-shoulder in the steep galleries, often for hours, looking down at the dissection below. Visibility was prioritised over comfort, there were no seats, and space was deliberately tight to maximise capacity.

The human cadavers were mainly executed criminals or deceased hospital patients.

"Hic locus ubi mors eam gaudet succurrere vitae,"

"This is a place where the dead are pleased to help the living."

Two additions were made by anatomist Francesco Cortese in the 19th century. A skylight and elevated dissection table were introduced to increase visibility. Having no external windows, the lighting came from candles. Another limitation was decay control. Dissections were typically held during colder months to slow decomposition.

The theatre was a stage for many great medical minds including Andreas Vesalius, Hieronymus Fabricus, William Harvey and Giovanni Battista Morgagni.

The medical school gained popularity and numbers so the medical school moved locations by 1872, nearly 250 years after the Pauda Academy Theatre was constructed.



A diorama of the theatre.

A quote from the Università degli Studi di Milano Statale gives us an insight of what it might have been like to have witnessed a dissection in the theatre:

"It's winter, between October and February. Cold is necessary to preserve the body. The theatre is crowded, there could be about 250 people."

"Not only students and professors of medicine, but also other professors of the university and members of high society. You can also see ladies. A small orchestra plays from the top floor of the theater, to relax the spirits and distract the large audience. The windows are darkened, the little light comes from candles arranged around the sector table. Some windows remain open along the stands to circulate some air. **The anatomy professor enters. With him the body of a man sentenced to death**, who probably arrived by boat from Piazza Capitaniato, through the numerous canals of Padua. He is neither Venetian nor Paduan, because these cannot be the subject of anatomy. **The doctor begins the autopsy that he performs personally and which can last, on the same corpse, even a week.** He is assisted by the "anatomical massari", students who are responsible for obtaining the corpses from the authorities and preparing the necessary for the execution of the didactic anatomy. It starts with the abdominal organs, those that rot the fastest, and ends with the bones. From time to time, many people hear applause from the stands: anatomy is a "show" that allows us to learn about God's work through the observation of the human body."

The Padua Anatomy Theatre was designed for a different era; one of spectacle, urgency, and limited access. Yet its influence persists in subtler forms.

Anatomy may no longer be performed before crowded galleries, but it still requires:

- Careful preparation
- Skilled demonstration
- An audience willing to learn

What has changed is not the importance of the body but the way we choose to engage with it.

[Palazzo del Bo and Anatomical Theatre – heritage.unipd.it](https://www.heritage.unipd.it)



WORKSHOPS

Please visit our Workshop page by following this link: [Workshops - The Institute of Anatomical Sciences](#) . Any upcoming workshops will be advertised here.

IAS members are also eligible for the [Garry Thomson Educational Grant](#) to cover the costs of the workshop if your workplace are unable to fund it.

Available Workshops:

Potting Course:

1 day training workshop on Anatomical Perspex Pot Renovation and Fabrication was run by the IAS and School of Anatomy, University of Bristol.

Interested? please email us at: info@anatomical-sciences.org.uk and we will let you know as soon as another workshop is booked.

The Institute of Anatomical Sciences is built on the passion, experience, and generosity of its members. Every one of us brings something unique to the field — innovative techniques, creative teaching methods, specialist knowledge, or years of hands-on skill.

Why host a workshop?

- **Grow your professional profile**
- **Support colleagues and early-career members**
- **Strengthen the UK & international anatomy network**
- **Showcase the expertise within your own institution**
- **Contribute to the future of anatomical sciences**

If you've ever thought *"Other teams might benefit from this..."* or *"I wish more people knew how to do this safely/effectively..."* then you already have a workshop topic waiting.



VACANCIES



Human Anatomy Centre Manager

The Department of Physiology, Development & Neuroscience is seeking a skilled professional to manage our Human Anatomy Centre (HAC). Reporting to the Business and Operations Manager, you will lead a team of five staff members, both technical and administrative. You will support the University Clinical Anatomists and the Neuroscience course organisers to provide technical and administrative support for teaching, research, examinations, and external courses. The role manages the day-to-day operations of the HAC, including overseeing the preservation of cadavers and prosected specimens, record management, and ensuring robust health and safety compliance across all HDR activities.

[For more information and to apply click here](#)

Where: Cambridge University, The Department of Physiology, Development & Neuroscience

Closing Date: 12/04/2026 at midnight

Salary: £35,608-£46,049 per annum

Job reference: PM49027

Informal enquiries about the position can be made to Daniella Peluso-White, Business & Operations Manager, pdnadmin@pdn.cam.ac.uk

STAY CONNECTED!



Facebook: [@IASAnatomy](https://www.facebook.com/IASAnatomy)



X (Twitter): [@IASAnatomy](https://twitter.com/IASAnatomy)



Bluesky: [@iasanatomy.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/iasanatomy.bsky.social)



LinkedIn: [Follow us for updates](#)



What can you expect?

- Featured speaker spotlights & conference updates
- Behind-the-scenes peeks at anatomy in action
- Fascinating facts and throwbacks from the history of the field
- Job posts, funding calls, and specialist technical courses
- Member highlights (yes, maybe even you!)

Follow Us on Social Media!

The Institute of Anatomical Sciences is now more connected than ever - and we want you to be part of the conversation!

Whether you're a student sketching structures in the lab, a researcher decoding tissue mysteries, or a teacher inspiring the next generation of anatomists, our social media channels are here to bring the anatomical community together in real time.

We'd love to see your posts too - tag us, share your work, or just say hello! Whether you're sculpting skulls in plasticine or scanning them with spectroscopy, we're building a vibrant online community where anatomy lives beyond the dissecting room.

The Council would like to thank and acknowledge all of these companies for their generous continuing sponsorship of the IAS!

In alphabetical order:

Adam, Rouilly

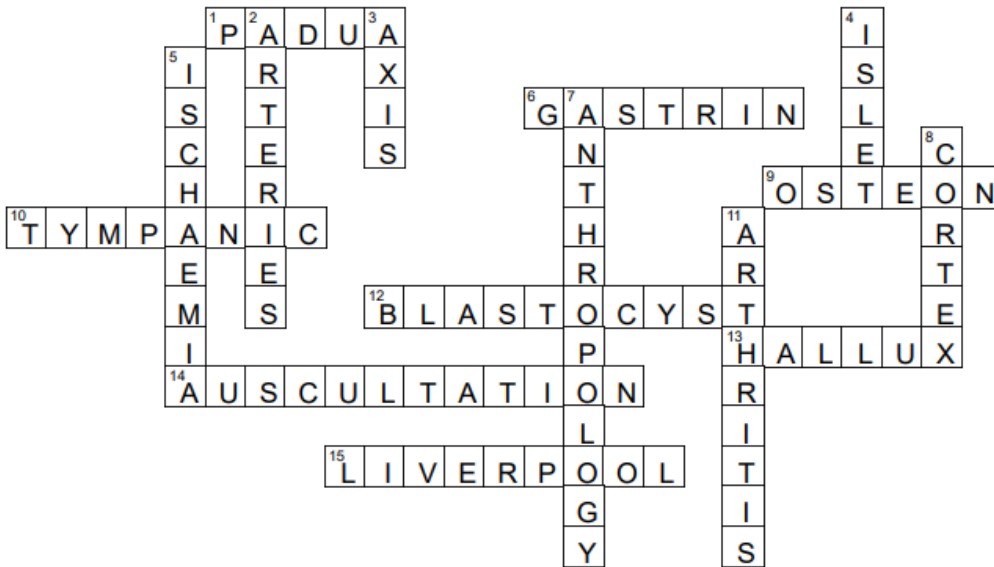
SERVING MEDICAL EDUCATION WORLDWIDE

<https://www.adam-rouilly.co.uk>



<https://www.leec.co.uk>

BRAIN BOGLER ANSWERS:



The views and opinions expressed by contributors in this edition of the magazine do not necessarily represent those of the Council nor those of the Institute of Anatomical Science.

The Editors reserve the right of editorial control to use their discretion on what is published and to edit and / or withhold articles should it be felt necessary to do so.

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