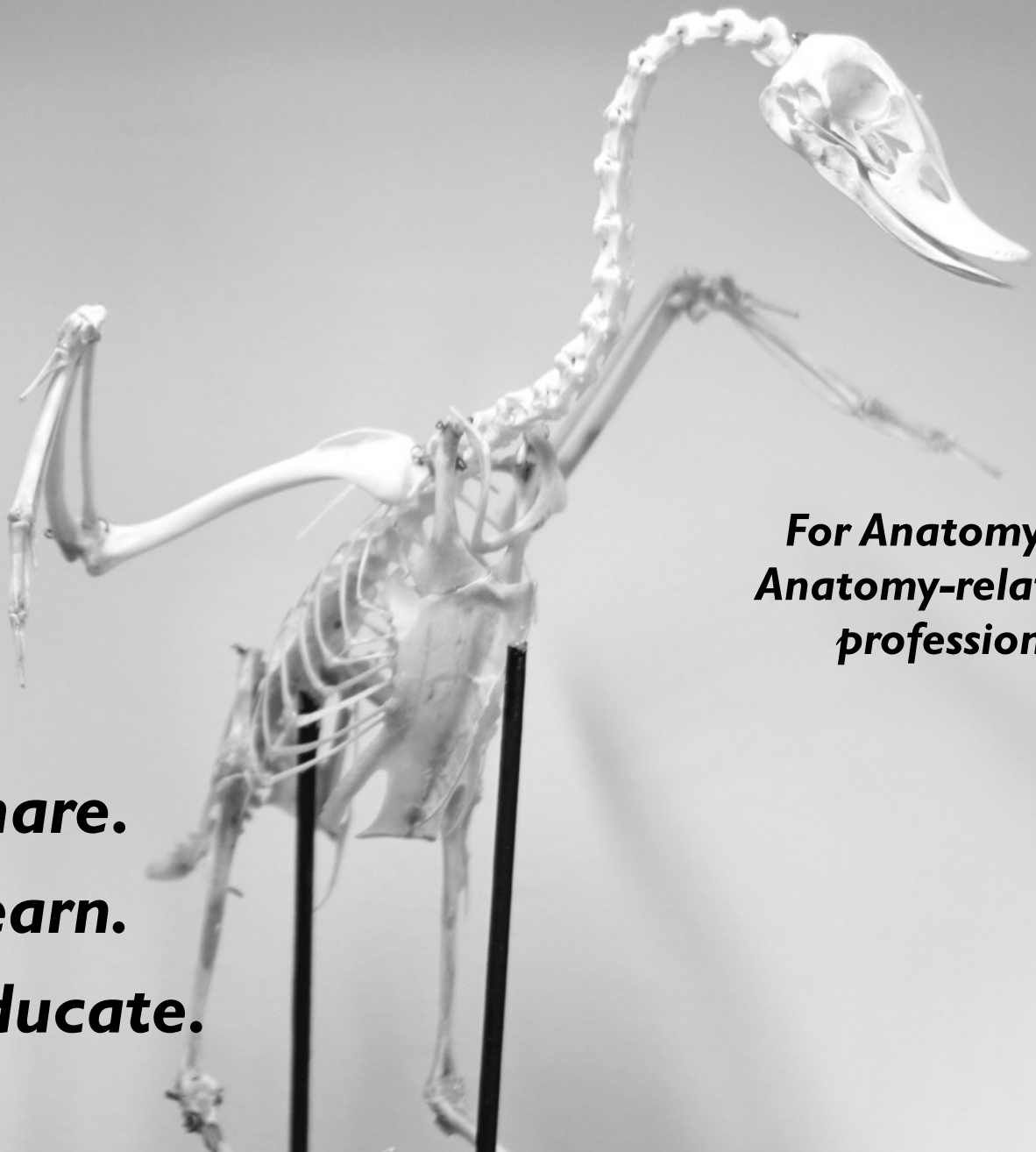


No. 219

JUL-AUG

2026

THE INSTITUTE OF ANATOMICAL SCIENCES



***For Anatomy or
Anatomy-related
professionals***

***Share.
Learn.
Educate.***

Catchup with the latest IAS news and MORE...



Editor's Letter

Liverpool is busy preparing to host the Autumn Scientific Meeting next month, and there's really not long to go now. The competitions have now closed and tickets are no longer on sale for the meeting. We're looking forward to welcoming those of you who are attending, and hope you walk away with a new connection with a colleague, or a tidbit of information that can help you in your departments.

This edition sees the continuation of our piece on HTA standards in Governance and quality system standards, a short piece on knowledge exchange between anatomy departments, and an in depth interview with one of our council members, Benedicta Quaye, our Journal Editor. Gunther von Hagens passed away last month, and despite the divided opinions surrounding him, a brief life story has been written to acknowledge his passing, along with his contributions and controversies, within the anatomical world.

As always, if you have something you would like to contribute to a future issue, I would be very pleased to hear from you. Please get in touch at Rebecca.Aitken@liverpool.ac.uk.

Rebecca Aitken

CONTENTS

Pg. 2	Editor's Letter
Pg. 3	IAS Autumn Scientific Meeting
Pg. 4	IAS News
Pg. 5	HTA and Bequeathals: Governance and quality system Standards
Pg. 6	IAS Council Vacancies
Pg. 7	Zane's Trip to Liverpool
Pg. 8-12	Meet the Council Members - Benedicta Quaye
Pg. 13	The Journal of the IAS
Pg. 14-15	Gunther von Hagens
Pg. 16	Education and Development
Pg. 17	Workshops
Pg. 18	Brain Boggler
Pg. 19	Stay Connected
Pg. 20	Sponsors
Pg. 17	Brain Boggler answers




WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

2026

IAS AUTUMN SCIENTIFIC MEETING



>>> **Date:** 2nd-3rd September 2026
Location: Human Anatomy Resource Centre (HARC) in Liverpool



"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

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



The Institute of
Anatomical Sciences



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL



Our ticket sales have now unfortunately ended for this year's Scientific Meeting. Please look out in your emails for any further information that may be relevant to the conference.

We can't wait to see you all there!

For more information please visit the IAS website which also includes the programme of events at the conference:

[Events and Meetings - The Institute of Anatomical Sciences](#)

The finalised programme will be available closer to the time!



We don't have a lot of news from the last couple of months as we've been very busy preparing for the upcoming conference. We only have a short time to go!

New Members 2026:

Iris Anil

Job title - Medical Laboratory Assistant
University of Birmingham

Maria Paola Ferrigno

Job title - Technician
University Liverpool

Rachel Andrews

Job title - Teaching Fellow in Anatomy
University RVC

Mustafa Tekeli

Job title - Anatomist
Cukurova University

Charles Cunnane

Job title - Student
University Liverpool

Megan Stephens

Job title - Senior Technician - Veterinary Science
University Lancashire

Natasha Price

Job title - Lecturer
Queen Margaret University

Claire Tierney

Job title - Senior Lecturer in Anatomy
University of Liverpool

Hafiz Faseeh Ur Rehman

Job title - Lecturer in Veterinary Medicine
University of Lancashire

Isabella (Rio) de la Mora

Job title - Student
University Edinburgh

Bobby (Robyn) Gould

Job title - Student
University of Oxford

Tennessee Cruz

Job title - Student
University of Cambridge

Helen Maver

Job title - Technical Manager (Anatomy)
Canterbury Christ Church University



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

Have some educational or general 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.



HTA AND BEQUEATHALS: GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY SYSTEM STANDARDS

Governance and Quality Systems in the Anatomical Examination Code

Governance and Quality Systems (GQ) Standard 94 might not be the most thrilling read, but the framework it describes is genuinely what keeps anatomy departments running safely and transparently. Essentially, it asks one straightforward question: can you demonstrate that everything you do is documented, justified and fit for purpose?

There are six standards, and they work best when treated as a joined up system rather than a checklist.

GQ1 is about having documented policies and procedures that actually reflect what you do day to day, not just what sounds good on paper.

GQ2 asks for a documented audit system. Audit is only useful if findings lead somewhere, which is where CAPA planning comes in. A CAPA (Corrective and Preventive Action) plan is your mechanism for closing the loop: addressing what went wrong and preventing it from happening again.

GQ3 covers staff training and ongoing development. Importantly, training needs can come directly out of CAPA activity. If an audit or adverse event reveals a knowledge gap, addressing it through training becomes part of the corrective action.

GQ4 is about record keeping. CAPA plans are only as good as the paperwork behind them. Named owners, realistic deadlines and evidence of completion are what turn good intentions into demonstrable governance.

GQ5 requires prompt investigation of adverse events. Every significant event should feed into a documented investigation and, where needed, a CAPA plan. This is what a learning culture looks like in practice.

GQ6 focuses on regular risk assessment. Risk assessments feed the preventive side of CAPA, identifying what could go wrong before it does.

Together, these six standards describe a department that monitors itself honestly, responds to problems properly and keeps getting better.

Real Life Applications:

1) **Risk assessment flags a new procedure being introduced** GQ6 prompts a formal risk assessment before the procedure is adopted. A CAPA plan is raised preventively under GQ1 to ensure a new policy is written and approved before practice begins. Staff are trained ahead of implementation (GQ3) and the risk assessment is signed off and filed under GQ4.

2) **An adverse event occurs during preparation** GQ5 triggers a prompt investigation. Root cause analysis reveals a procedural gap not covered in current policies. GQ1 is updated, staff are briefed, and a risk assessment under GQ6 is reviewed and updated accordingly.

Top tip: If your CAPA plans are sitting open for months with no update, that is itself a governance risk. Closed loop, evidenced action is what inspectors want to see.

Worth knowing: The HTA inspects against evidence, not intention. A well maintained CAPA log is one of the clearest ways to demonstrate that your governance framework is genuinely working rather than just existing on paper.



JOIN THE IAS COUNCIL!

Looking for a new and
exciting opportunity?

Look no further!

VACANCIES

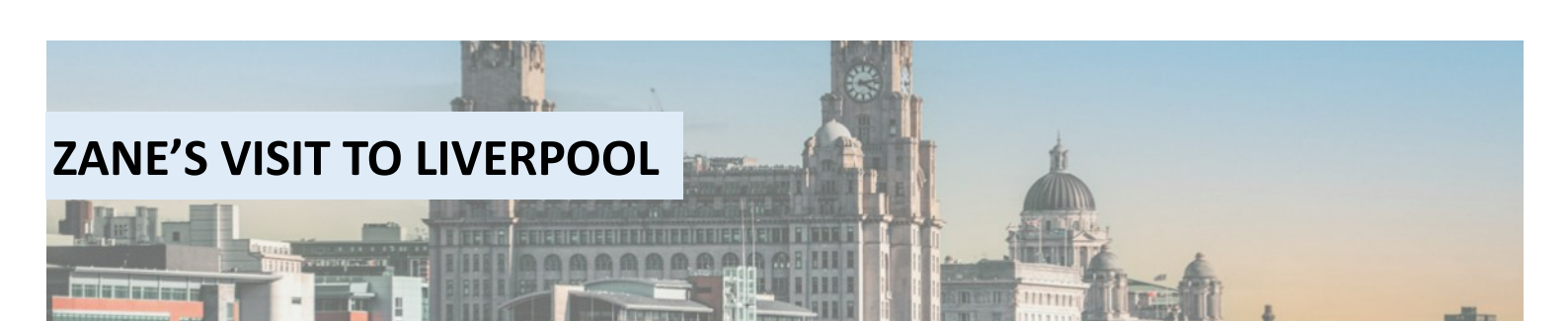
- **Journal of the IAS
Communications
Officer**
- **Deputy Secretary**

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.



ZANE'S VISIT TO LIVERPOOL

Zane Williams - University of Birmingham

In June, I had the opportunity to visit HARC for a week! I did this through the knowledge exchange programme that was run by the UK Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy (UK ITSS). There were many hurdles along the way, with the first being that they did not know about an anatomy technician and what they did! And with this being the first grant I had ever applied for, both sides learnt something new. This sets the premise for the trip quite well, as when I arrived in Liverpool, we shared knowledge about our jobs and experiences, with us both learning something new.

On my first day in Liverpool, I met the team, looked at a few prosecutions, had a tour and started the prosecution that I would be working on for my week there. The team were so welcoming and helpful, I miss them already! We exchanged some embalming knowledge, as we both make our embalming fluid in-house and have historical embalming fluid recipes. In the afternoon, we removed the specimen from the fridge and began dissection work.

For the rest of my week, both Rebecca and Desiree sat with me to give me advice and try new tools that we did not yet have at the University of Birmingham! We worked through the pelvic and gluteal region, which I wasn't the most confident in to begin with. Throughout the week, we worked on muscles, vessels, nerves and ducts. Learning how to slow down, take my time, and really get the best from a specimen. I know that my time here has really improved my skills and my confidence.

I would recommend that more people leave their usual workplace and spend a day with a new colleague, because sometimes you don't know what you are missing!

I would like to use this space to thank everyone on the HARC team for hosting me for the week and being such an amazing team, as well as the people at the University of Birmingham who freed me to be away for a week and helped fund my adventure north!

Rebecca Aitken - University of Liverpool

At Liverpool we've not had the opportunity to host someone from another technical team to come along for a whole week before. We were delighted when Natasha Russell contacted us to arrange training Zane in prosecting, it was an exciting opportunity for both sides. We were curious about practices down in Birmingham and were hoping to achieve some knowledge exchange during this process as well.

It was wonderful meeting Zane in person after months of contacting via email and Teams. They were practically bursting with questions and were very eager to answer ours in return. Predominantly they were being trained in different prosecting techniques by us but as the week went on we talked about other important technical matters including embalming fluid, outcomes, the differences between our equipment and prosecutions. I was shocked to learn that Birmingham have no fridges, and have no intention of getting any for their new build.

We had a heck of a heatwave that week, and while I'm not knocking the wonderful sunshine, it made prosecting very sweaty work! Zane persevered throughout though, and we took a few well deserved trips back to the air conditioned office to cool off. Lynne Staunton-Jones also very kindly provided ice cream which was a welcome break.

Prosecting for Zane here is an entirely different experience to their workplace due to stark differences in tissue density and texture. The principles of technique are the same though and I was pleased that they were able to take what we had taught away with them with the promise that we will visit soon.

Zane is a very eager, passionate and self-driven individual and I found their drive to learn and improve their practice really admirable. I wish them very good luck in their adventure across the UK to learn more.

MEMBER INTERVIEW

Meet the Membership - The Interview

Benedicta Quaye

Lancaster University

John:

Hello Benedicta, thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for the 'Meet the Members' piece of the magazine. The interviews are designed to 'introduce' members to each other, no matter where in the world we are based. In this case it's also to introduce you as a Council Member.

For those who don't know, you recently joined the IAS with the role of Editor of the IAS Journal, which has been quiet in recent years, but I know you are full of ideas which can lead to it being fully relaunched in the not-too-distant future. But we can possibly talk a little more about this in a few moments.

So, to begin the interview, you work at one of the newer medical schools in the U.K. at the University of Lancaster, so please can you tell us about your department and what your work there involves?

Benedicta:

Thank you, John, it is a pleasure to be part of the interview. I am honored to have recently joined the IAS Council and to serve as Editor of the IAS Journal. Looking into the future with hope and great expectations. I am at the Lancaster Medical School, as an Assistant Professor in clinical Anatomy. Indeed, although we may not have the long history as some of the more established institutions, there is something rather exciting about helping to shape a relatively young school. There is a real sense of possibility and an openness to new ideas, while still recognizing the importance of the traditions that underpin anatomy and medical education. My role is wonderfully varied, which is one of the things I enjoy most. I teach anatomy across year 1 and 2, and also involved in curriculum development, assessment and pastoral support. I also supervise research students which gives me the privilege of mentoring learners at different stages of their careers. My research focuses on cardiovascular anatomy and medical education, particularly improving our understanding of sex differences in the heart and how these differences may influence health and disease.



My passion about medical education is in ensuring that anatomy is taught in ways that are engaging, inclusive and relevant to modern healthcare.

I also have the privilege of serving as Year 1 Director for the MBChB programme, a role that allows me to help and guide students through what is often one of the most transformative years of their medical education. Supporting students as they make the transition into university and begin to develop their professional identities is both a responsibility and a real privilege.

What I value most about my job is the human aspect and tangibility of your contributions to the role like the students who arrive full of ambition and uncertainty, and watching them grow in confidence, develop resilience and begin to think like doctors and scientists. Truly rewarding.

I have always believed that anatomy is much more than learning structures and passing examinations. It is about cultivating curiosity, respect for the human body, and an appreciation that every donor, every patient and every person have a story. Perhaps that sounds a little old-fashioned, but I think some values are timeless, and they are just as important today as they have ever been.

John:

What led you into working in anatomy, was it something you always wanted to do or did you come to it by chance?

Benedicta:

Being an anatomist is certainly not something I had planned from childhood. In fact, when I was little, I was absolutely convinced I was going to be an air hostess. I loved the idea of travelling the world, meeting people from different cultures and seeing new places. I even used to practice at home, pretending to welcome passengers on board and serving meals to my family. Looking back now, perhaps the teaching was already there because I always seemed to enjoy explaining things to people.

Anatomy entered my life much later and rather unexpectedly. During my undergraduate studies I found myself increasingly drawn to anatomy. I realised rather early that anatomy wasn't simply about learning names of structures but understanding the remarkable relationship between form and function. Anatomy brought everything together, revealing how beautifully the human body is designed. The more I learnt, the more fascinated I became. I also discovered that I enjoyed helping others learn. Before examinations, I would often gather with classmates to go through difficult topics, sketching diagrams, simplifying concepts and making connections. I never thought of it as teaching at the time. It was simply something I loved doing. Looking back now, those informal revision sessions were probably the first signs that education would become such an important part of my career. As my career progressed, I realised that teaching gave me just as much fulfilment as research. There is something incredibly rewarding about seeing a student's face light up when a concept finally makes sense. Again, watching students grow in confidence and begin to appreciate anatomy as more than a subject but as the language of medicine is a privilege I never take for granted.

Honestly, I don't think I chose anatomy quite as much as anatomy chose me. It has taken me on a journey I could never have imagined. Above all, it has introduced me to a remarkable community of people who are generous with their knowledge and united by a shared passion for the discipline.

But, what continues to inspire me about anatomy is its timelessness. It teaches us to observe carefully, to remain curious and to approach the human body with humility and respect. In a world that often encourages us to rush, anatomy reminds us that understanding begins by taking the time to really look. I hope I never lose that sense of wonder.

John:

Now I said you have joined council as the editor of the IAS Journal. Is there anything you wish to say about the Journal or of what you want the members to do?

Benedicta:

Thank you, John. I feel both honoured and excited to take on the role of Journal Editor. The IAS Journal has a rich history, and I see this as an opportunity to build on that foundation and help re-establish it as a vibrant platform for anatomical scholarship and education. My vision is for the Journal to be a place where members feel proud to publish their work, whether that is original research, educational innovations, case reports, review articles, or perspectives that stimulate discussion within our discipline. I would also like it to reflect the diversity of our international membership by showcasing work from anatomists at every stage of their careers and from different parts of the world.

Importantly, I would like the Journal to provide opportunities for all members of our community. Our anatomy technicians and technical staff make invaluable contributions to teaching, research, and innovation, and I would very much like to encourage them to share their expertise and experiences through publications. Their knowledge, practical innovations, and educational contributions are an important part of our discipline and deserve to be documented.

Of course, a journal can only flourish when it belongs to its community. So, my message to our members is simple: please get involved. Submit your work, volunteer to review manuscripts, encourage your students and colleagues to contribute, and share ideas about how we can continue to improve the Journal. Even small contributions can make a significant difference. Above all, I hope the Journal becomes more than just a place to publish papers. I would like it to become a forum where we celebrate good science, excellent teaching, innovation, and collaboration across the anatomical sciences.

I am very much looking forward to working with the Council and our members to help make that vision a reality.

John:

We now start with the questions that are loosely based upon the personality quiz first devised by Marcel Proust. There are no right or wrong answers!

If you could have ANY job in the world, what would you most like to do?

Benedicta:

I think I have to say that my childhood self would still vote for being an air hostess as I was completely convinced that was my future, but life had other plans. Today, if I could choose any job, it would still involve travelling just not on an aircraft serving meals.

I would love a job that gives me the opportunity to travel internationally as an ambassador for anatomy and medical education, working with students and educators from different countries, learning from their experiences and helping to improve healthcare education globally.

John:

Is there a profession or job you would you NOT like to do?

Benedicta:

I have a great deal of respect for all professions, because every role has its importance in society. Personally, I think I would struggle in a role with little opportunity for interaction or learning.

John:

May I ask how you like to spend your spare time?

Benedicta:

I do find joy in simple, grounding things. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, especially having long, unhurried conversations over good food. I find something very restorative about that. I also enjoy travelling, even if it is just short family trips. I think I still carry a bit of that childhood fascination with movement around the world although I may have swapped the idea of being cabin crew for simply appreciating the experience of being somewhere new. With a busy academic role, I have also learnt to value quieter moments. I have come to appreciate stillness more than I used to whether that's going for a walk, listening to music, or just having time to think without rushing. It helps me reset and come back to work with clearer perspective. I suppose, like many people, I am still learning what balance really looks like, but I have come to realise that the small, ordinary things often matter the most.

John:

What would be your idea of perfect happiness?

Benedicta:

That is an interesting question because I don't think happiness is something we hold permanently. Rather, it appears in those brief moments of connection, clarity and peace that sit between everything else. Over the years, I have come to appreciate that happiness and joy are not quite the same thing. Happiness often depends on our circumstances. It comes and goes with life's successes, disappointments and unexpected twists. Joy, on the other hand, feels much deeper and more enduring and for me, my joy is rooted in my faith in Jesus Christ. My faith gives me a sense of hope, purpose and peace that is not dependent on everything going perfectly.

It reminds me to be grateful, to trust through uncertainty, and to find meaning even in life's more difficult seasons.

So, answer your question, my idea of perfect happiness is not about achieving every goal or living a life without challenges. It would simply be knowing that the people I love are well, having opportunities to serve others through my work, and ending each day with a grateful heart and a quiet sense of peace.

John:

If you could have your choice, where would you choose to live? Now this could be a country, a town, a region or even a style of property.

Benedicta:

I find myself drawn to much quieter places. If I had a choice, I think it would live somewhere with a sense of history and calm maybe a place with old buildings, a lot of nature and green spaces but within a community where people still know each other. I like places that feel like life isn't rushing past so quickly that you forget to notice it.

John:

If you could live in any time of the past, the present or the future which would you choose and why?

Benedicta:

I think I would choose the present, but with the opportunity to visit the past. It would be fascinating to walk through medieval cities or witness some of the great moments of scientific discovery or hear the conversations that shaped medicine before textbooks existed. But I wouldn't want to stay there.

That said, I would love to live in the present. A time where I can teach, research, travel and contribute in ways that simply wouldn't have been possible for many of those who came before me. I think the past has much to teach us, but the present gives us the privilege of building on it and live in the moment.

John:

If you could have your choice of ANY superpower or ability, which would you choose?

Benedicta:

I think I would love the ability to truly understand people and to see beyond what they say and recognise what they are carrying. So many people are fighting battles we know nothing about.

If we could understand one another a little better, I think we would be kinder, more patient and perhaps a little slower to judge.

John:

We now come to a list of questions that deal with your personal 'favorites'. So, number one, do you prefer dogs or cats?

Benedicta:

Dogs, without hesitation. I love their loyalty, enthusiasm and the way they seem genuinely delighted to see you, no matter what kind of day you have had.

John:

Do you have a favourite food?

Benedicta:

That is an easy one. I have a real weakness for home cooked Ghanaian food. If I had to choose, it would probably be *jollof riace or waakye with vegetables plantains, grilled ox tail or fish and shito*.

John:

And is there a food that you hate?

Benedicta:

I wouldn't say hate, because that's quite a strong word. I am actually not a fussy eater. I like trying foods from different cultures. There are a few things I probably wouldn't choose if they were on a menu like real cheesy foods, but I wouldn't say I *hate* any food. Life is too short not to be a little adventurous.

John:

What is your favorite type of music, or if you prefer, who is your favourite artist, band or composer?

Benedicta:

I love music John. My playlists are probably as eclectic as I am. It really depends on the mood I am in. My Christian faith is central to my life, so gospel music features heavily. Whether traditional or contemporary gospel, I find it incredibly uplifting and grounding. There are songs that have carried me through both joyful and challenging seasons. Often times, I have worship music playing in the background while I am working.

I also enjoy a good mix of R&B and jazz. There is something timeless about jazz. It encourages you to slow down and simply listen. Country music has grown on me over the years. I love that many country songs tell stories about ordinary life, family, resilience and hope.

And, of course, my Ghanaian roots mean I have a soft spot for highlife and Ghanaian gospel. Those songs immediately make me think of home, family celebrations and community and getting my dance shoes on. Honestly, I don't think I could ever choose just one favourite artist or genre, because music has a wonderful way of meeting us where we are.

John:

Do you have a favourite colour?

Benedicta:

Red. I think I have always been drawn to its warmth and depth. It is a colour that feels very alive. I get a lot of compliments whenever I wear red.

John:

And your favourite film?

Benedicta:

I don't think I have just one favourite film, but I am drawn to epic stories that feel both timeless and meaningful. Some of my favourites include *Troy, The Odyssey, Hercules, The Head of Medusa, The Last of the Mohicans*, and *The Wheel of Time*. They tell stories that explore courage, identity, destiny and human resilience.

John:

Do you have a favourite TV programme?

Benedicta:

I don't watch a huge amount of TV, but I am generally drawn to programmes that are engaging but still make you think a little afterwards.

John:

Do you have a favourite Book or if you prefer, a favourite author?

Benedicta:

The Bible would have to be my favourite book. It is not just a book I read it is one I continue to learn from. Different passages seem to speak to different seasons of life, and I find that remarkable. Outside of that, I enjoy biographies and historical fiction. I have always been fascinated by people's stories, what shapes them, what they overcome, and the legacy they leave behind.

John:

And which is your favourite word?

Benedicta:

“Becoming.” I like the idea that we are always in process, always learning and growing. It feels gentle and hopeful like life is something to slowly unfold.

John:

And your least favourite word?

Benedicta:

I think my least favourite word is **“can’t.”**
Not because there aren’t genuine limits in life, but because I think it sometimes stops people from exploring what might still be possible.

John:

Is there a sound or noise do you love?

Benedicta:

I would say the sound of the sea waves and the way they rise and fall. There is something very calming about it. It feels steady and rhythmic, and it always makes me pause and slow down, almost like everything else becomes quieter for a moment.

John:

And what sound or noise do you hate?

Benedicta:

The sound of an alarm clock on a Monday morning. I am sure I am not alone in that.

John:

Who or what inspires you?

Benedicta:

I am inspired by people who quietly make a difference. They may never make the headlines, but they live lives of integrity, serve others faithfully, and leave every place a little better than they found it.

My greatest inspiration, however, is Jesus Christ. His compassion, humility and the way He treated people with dignity, grace and love continue to challenge and shape how I try to live my own life. I don't always get it right, but He remains the example I aspire to follow. I also find inspiration in my students. Watching them persevere through challenges, grow in confidence and develop into compassionate healthcare professionals.

John:

If you could change just one thing, either in the world around us or even about yourself, what would it be?

Benedicta:

I would change the growing tendency to see the world as "us" and "them." Whether in science, education or everyday life, progress happens when people come together, listen to one another and work towards a common goal. We have far more in common than we sometimes realise.

John:

If you could be given the chance to spend 24 hours with any person, either living or dead, who would you most like to meet and why?

Benedicta:

I think it would be Leonardo da Vinci. He was an anatomist, artist, engineer and inventor, and his curiosity seemed to have no limits. I would love to understand how he observed the world so carefully and how he connected ideas across disciplines. I find it fascinating that centuries later we are still learning from his observations. I think I would spend much of those 24 hours listening rather than talking because I have realized that wisdom often begins with learning to listen.

John:

We are nearing the end now. If I had the power to grant you just one wish, what would you wish for?

Benedicta:

I think my one wish would be for every person to discover their purpose. I have seen how transformative it can be when people recognised the unique gifts they have been given and realise they have something valuable to contribute.

John:

And the final question, if Heaven exists, what do you think God will say to you when you arrive?

Benedicta:

I think I would hope to hear something simple, like: *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

Not because I have done everything perfectly, but because I tried to live with purpose, to care for people, and to use what I have been given in a meaningful way. That would feel like enough.

John:

Benedicta, Thank you for giving us this interview and I look forward to serving with you on the IAS Council for many years to come!!

Benedicta:

Thank you for having me John. It is such an Honour.

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](#) at 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.



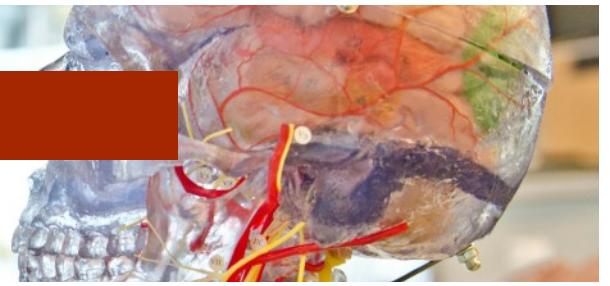
For our hard copy readers who can't click links, please contact b.quaye@lancaster.ac.uk if you are interested in peer reviewing.

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.

GUNTHER VON HAGENS 1945 - 2026



Gunther von Hagens, the anatomist who invented plastination and turned it into one of the most-visited exhibitions in history, died in Heidelberg on 24 July 2026, aged 81, following a cerebral haemorrhage. He had lived with Parkinson's disease since 2008, a condition that had steadily withdrawn him from public life in his final years.

For anyone working in anatomy, his death closes a chapter that began almost exactly fifty years earlier. Whatever view individual anatomists take of his career, and few in this field hold a neutral opinion of him, his technical contribution is beyond dispute, and his own body is now, by his own long-stated wish is becoming his final specimen.

Von Hagens invented plastination in 1977, while working as a scientific assistant at the Anatomical Institute of Heidelberg University. The idea is said to have come to him after seeing specimens preserved in the conventional way: sealed inside a block of plastic resin, much like an insect trapped in amber, where the plastic only ever encased the tissue from the outside.

He questioned why the plastic couldn't instead be introduced into the specimen itself replacing the fluid within the tissue so that preservation happened throughout the material, not just around it.

Over the following two years he refined a process that removes water and soluble fats from a cadaver and replaces them with curable polymers (silicone, epoxy, or polyester resin) leaving tissue permanently preserved, odourless, and dry to the touch.

The process is outlined itself on the [Body Worlds website](#) which explains the process of plastination in basic terms. 1. Fixation and anatomical dissection, 2. Removal of body fat and water (using acetone), 3. Forced impregnation (of a liquid polymer), 4. Positioning, and 5. Curing (hardening). Curing can take on average a year to complete.

He patented the technique in 1977 and founded the Institute for Plastination in Heidelberg in 1993, followed by the Plastinarium in Guben in 2006, by his own account the largest plastination centre in the world. Plastination has since become a standard preservation method in anatomy departments and medical schools worldwide, valued for producing durable, non-toxic teaching specimens that hold their form indefinitely without the storage and safety burdens of traditional wet-tissue methods.

Where von Hagens departed from conventional anatomical practice was in taking plastinated whole-body specimens out of the dissection room and putting them in front of the public.

Body Worlds debuted in Japan in 1995 and went on to be seen by more than 58 million visitors across dozens of countries. It is routinely cited as the most successful touring exhibition ever staged. Bodies were dissected, and posed in dramatic tableaux: playing chess, riding a rearing horse, mid-stride as a runner. He described his aim as "aesthetic shock" in service of public education, arguing that visceral engagement with the body's structure would make people healthier and more body-literate.



Body Worlds in Amsterdam

The exhibitions earned him both wide public fascination and the tabloid nickname "Dr Death." Critics accused him of sensationalism, among them the Roman Catholic Church, several national governments, and sections of the medical establishment. He faced formal allegations of voyeurism and of profiting commercially from death. A televised public autopsy in London in 2002, performed before a live audience, drew sharp criticism from UK medical bodies.

The more serious and recurring controversy concerned where his bodies came from.

Von Hagens always maintained that every whole body used in public exhibitions came from donors who had given full, informed consent before death: a claim that, as multiple outlets have noted over the years, has never been independently verified against specific specimens on display.

Von Hagens also extended plastination beyond humans. Building on work he had been developing since 2000, he unveiled "Body Worlds of Animals," later touring internationally as "Animal Inside Out," featuring around 100 species from goats and sharks to gorillas and a full elephant, whose plastination alone took some 64,000 working hours.



The exhibition grew out of the death of a female elephant in 2005, and later came to include one of his most demanding specimens yet: a giraffe, which took three years to complete.

The animal work drew far less controversy than its human counterpart, and yielded some striking anatomical findings along the way, including the discovery that an elephant's trunk contains more than 40,000 individual muscles.



None of the controversy halted the exhibitions' popularity. Body donation programmes connected to his institute grew steadily over the decades, and defenders point out that public engagement with anatomy and, by extension, willingness to donate arguably rose because of Body Worlds rather than despite it.

Von Hagens had spoken about plastinating his own body since at least the early 2010s, once describing his intention to stand at the entrance of his own exhibition to "welcome" visitors after death. His family and the Plastinarium confirmed, following his death, that this wish will be honoured.

Reactions from within the field are likely to remain as divided as they were during his lifetime. But few would dispute that he changed what anatomical education could look like outside the dissection room, for better or worse. And stripped of the showmanship, plastination itself has quietly become part of the everyday toolkit for some medical and anatomy schools.

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 Technology 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.

Thinking about it?
Please email
education@anatomical-sciences.org.uk for more information

Your application form needs to be verified by the signature of your supervisor

Application form

Small deposit required on submission of application
Remaining fees due once Viva has been set

Viva voce exam (spoken) is conducted at applicant's workplace

Your employer may cover the fees!



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.

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**

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

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.

BRAIN BOGLER

P W V C N S T F D E B L O L M F S O Z G D D M Q
H O Y C A E Q P E B P S F V L D T N B R C H C C
B X H N I Y I X L K H N O G E X S S M F J U Q T
T M E F B F L P T Y P A N C R E A S V D B U U N
D L A R I D F A O M R S L I I Q E Q O D S A A R
M F P S T X P E I I E A K P I C J Z N H C Q D Y
E U M S N J V G D U M L V I Y Z Q A J P X W R P
K E Q Y C Z N A S Q O C Z A D N S U D H S L A S
J N R Y N E O S W H Q A X N K Q P W K F C G T S
F A H B F S D T P A G V H S K X A Y K E F E U E
L E Y F G C N R O C C I P I T A L L O B E Q S C
M S M N X E E O W O B T U N D T L H D G K S L O
T G B U F R T C F F G Y Y S J R D T I D B D U R
H Y I D R E S N J I I H C A R B S P E C I B M P
U N N A Q B E E F O A I K D L O A N A U X I B D
M R I P F R L M U I R T E M O D N E B H L U O I
E J R Z G U L I R O L C Q Y D Q O U D I P T R O
R H E B L M I U P L H P K S F K C T U B E J U T
A V N I C R H S W N J O C G E F R M K K R P M S
L E V R E N C I T A I C S R Z E T H Z S C E E A
H E Z Y G W A L A J T U A E T L M U N U J E J M
E D W N C Z C A I N I T S I V C E V P O M B W J
A G A A W N T R K O I Y N G B I H P J G Q S K P
D L V U A J I Y M N N A G J I N S S V U E Q B B

1. achillestendon
2. bicepsbrachii
3. cerebrum
4. deltoid
5. endometrium
6. femur
7. gastrocnemius
8. humeralhead
9. ilium
10. jejunum
11. keratin
12. larynx
13. mastoidprocess
14. nasalcavity
15. occipitallobe
16. pancreas
17. quadratuslumborum
18. retina
19. sciaticnerve
20. tibia

9		5				4		
8								
			1	9		8		
	4	2		1	9	6	7	
			2					
6	1		4		7			9
1	5	9					3	6
2		7				5		4
		4	5	7	6	9		

6					2			
			4					
	4	2		8			1	
		9		2	6		4	
	2	6			4			
					1		2	
		1			3		6	2
								3
			6	4		7		

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

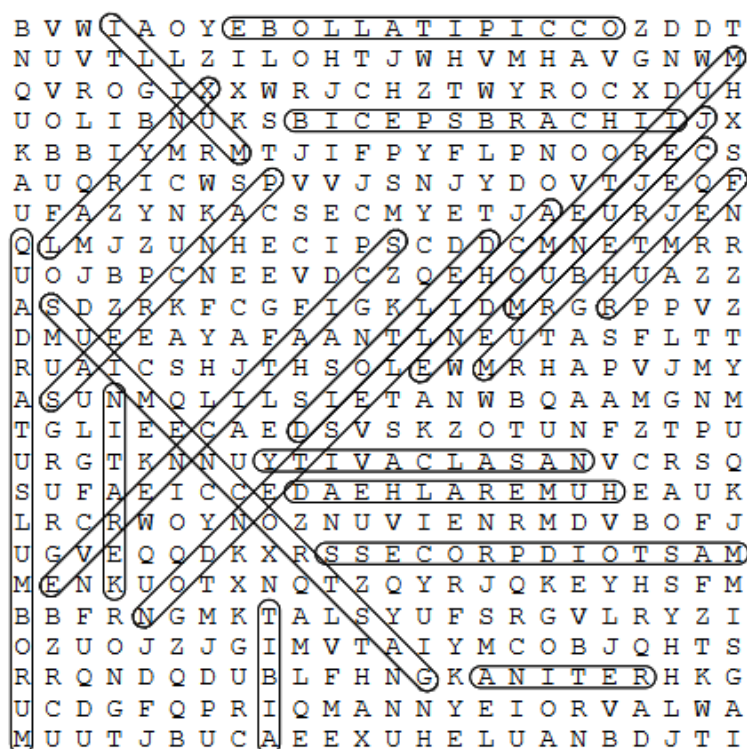
SERVING MEDICAL EDUCATION WORLDWIDE

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



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

BRAIN BOGGLER ANSWERS:



9	3	5	7	2	8	4	6	1
8	2	1	6	5	4	3	9	7
4	7	6	1	9	3	8	2	5
5	4	2	3	1	9	6	7	8
7	9	8	2	6	5	1	4	3
6	1	3	4	8	7	2	5	9
1	5	9	8	4	2	7	3	6
2	6	7	9	3	1	5	8	4
3	8	4	5	7	6	9	1	2

6	5	7	1	3	2	9	8	4
1	3	8	4	6	9	2	7	5
9	4	2	7	8	5	3	1	6
8	1	9	3	2	6	5	4	7
5	2	6	9	7	4	1	3	8
3	7	4	8	5	1	6	2	9
7	8	1	5	9	3	4	6	2
4	6	5	2	1	7	8	9	3
2	9	3	6	4	8	7	5	1

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.

Editor: Rebecca Aitken. BSc (Hons), FHEA. Rebecca.Aitken@liverpool.ac.uk

News Supplement Editor: John Ben. BA, F.I.A.S. john.emile.ben@mail.com

Credit: [Free Images & Pictures | Unsplash](#), pg. 15 Credit: [Rémi](#) / [CC-BY-SA-3.0](#), pg. 16 Credit: [Rudolphous](#) / [CC BY 2.0](#); [Thesupermat2](#) / [CC BY 2.0](#); [Yitzilitt](#) / [CC BY 2.0](#)