

Institute of Biomedical Science Manifesto

Introduction

With over 20,000 members vital to NHS pathology, the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) is the UK's leading professional body for biomedical science. Our members – biomedical scientists, support workers, associate practitioners, clinical scientists and medics – form the backbone of healthcare diagnostics across 16 essential laboratory disciplines. This manifesto outlines a clear plan to maximise the potential of their work and expertise, transforming patient outcomes and strengthening the NHS.

Our Vision

We envision a healthcare system where:

- Patients receive timely, accurate diagnoses, leading to earlier treatment and improved survival.
- Our members are recognised as indispensable healthcare leaders, driving innovation.
- The UK is an undisputed global force in diagnostics, attracting investment and talent.

Key Policy Recommendations

Workforce

1. Recognise and empower our members

Formally acknowledge biomedical science as the cornerstone of diagnostics, and the IBMS as the standard-setting body ensuring professional excellence.

2. Invest in the future workforce

Support the [IBMS Long Term Biomedical Scientist Workforce Plan](#) to build a skilled and sustainable pipeline of qualified talent.

3. Expand training opportunities

Introduce a registration training grant to increase training places – retaining graduates and ensuring a skilled, ready workforce.

Early Diagnosis

1. Tackle cancer backlogs

Implement the groundbreaking recommendations of the [IBMS/AstraZeneca “Time to Test”](#) report, expediting cancer diagnostics for vastly improved patient outcomes.

2. Harness the power of technology and data

Optimise existing technology, leverage AI, and prioritise comprehensive data analysis by following the action plan outlined in the [IBMS/Microsoft "Digital Pathology and Integrated Care Systems"](#) white paper - driving innovation for reduced costs, increased efficiency, and improved patient care.

3. Wider, more accessible testing

Expand [point of care](#) and community testing, encourage home-sampling, and introduce targeted screening informed by robust data. Delivered with the support of our HCPC registered members, the acknowledged diagnostic experts, ensuring patient safety and best use of technology and resources.

Conclusion

Pathology lies at the heart of modern medicine. By investing in biomedical science, political parties invest in the future of healthcare.

Our proposals offer a roadmap to:

- **Empower patients:** Give patients earlier diagnoses, faster treatment, and better chances for successful outcomes.
- **Strengthen the NHS:** Reduce backlogs, enhance efficiency, and future-proof our healthcare system against emerging challenges.
- **Deliver on innovation:** Bringing new technology and approaches to healthcare, safely and rapidly.
- **Lead the world:** Maintain the UK's position as a global pioneer in diagnostics and biomedical innovation, attracting investment and benefitting both our economy and our health.

The IBMS stands ready to work with all political parties to make this vision a reality. By committing to pathology, you commit to a healthier, stronger, and more resilient United Kingdom.