PRESS RELEASE: INSTITUTE WELCOMES FIRST NORTHERN IRELAND FEMALE PRESIDENT

Local biomedical scientist begins prestigious position as the new president of the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)

Alison Geddis, a resident of Kircubbin, County Down, is welcomed as the new IBMS President. She is the first president from Northern Ireland and the second female president in the history of the Institute, which was established in 1912.

Alison’s tenure as president began on 1st January 2018 and will last until 31st December 2019. She will be officially inaugurated as the IBMS President at a ceremony that will take place on 1st February at the IBMS offices in London.

During her two year term, Alison will work closely with the IBMS Council and members to implement the Institute’s future strategy for 2018 – 2020. This aims to raise the profile of biomedical science to the public as well inform them about the vital role it plays in their healthcare.

Having practised as a Biomedical Scientist for 30 years, Alison currently works as the laboratory and donor services manager for the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service. She is responsible for organising blood donation sessions, ensuring they have appropriate stock, blood processing and mandatory blood grouping and testing.

Alison commented, “The chance to work with over 20,000 IBMS members is an exciting prospect. In a time when laboratory professionals are in danger of being unappreciated as a back-office service, I want us to gain public recognition for the vital work we do and to strive to achieve more media attention for biomedical scientists and the profession.”

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About Alison

Alison has more than 30 years’ experience as a practising biomedical scientist, and more than 23 years as an IBMS committee member. Having joined the IBMS in 1982, Alison became a Fellow member in 2004. Fellow membership is the highest level of membership at the IBMS and is a prestigious achievement awarded to members who work at the highest level of their profession.

Alison has been an active member of her local IBMS Branch in Northern Ireland for 26 years, taking on roles as secretary and Chair, before being elected as a National Council member in 2002.

Alison was also a key player in Belfast’s Queen’s University’s decision to seek IBMS accreditation for their biomedical science degree programme in 2007.
For an outline of her goals as president, see the IBMS [website](https://ibms.org).

**About the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)**

The Institute of Biomedical Science is the leading professional body for biomedical scientists, support staff and students. For over 100 years we have been dedicated to the promotion, development and delivery of excellence in biomedical science within all aspects of healthcare, and providing the highest standards of service to patients and the public.

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**Our profession**

The term 'Biomedical Scientist' is a legally protected title. Anyone using the title must meet Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) standards and be HCPC registered to protect public safety.

Biomedical scientists mostly work in healthcare laboratories where they diagnose diseases and evaluate the effectiveness of treatment by analysing fluids and tissue samples from patients. In the UK alone, healthcare laboratories are involved in over 70% of diagnoses in the NHS, handling over 150 million samples every year.