



JOANNA ANDREW

- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2026-2028*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

UNITED KINGDOM - Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- Workforce Sustainability - training, well-being, recruitment and retention.
- Promoting the value of biomedical scientists
- Professional training and continuing professional development to support career progression
- Education - to create opportunities to ensure all biomedical scientists' education is at Bachelor level with access to post-graduate studies across the globe.

I am the current (2026) Past President of the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) having served as President for 2 years (2024 & 2025). I am passionate about increasing the visibility of the biomedical science profession. During my presidency I engaged widely with members through UK-wide laboratory visits, regional events, and national conferences. I helped to strengthen policy and influence by engaging with MPs, government forums, and by contributing to workforce and healthcare policy discussions. I promoted workforce development and education, supporting initiatives such as workforce planning, training pathways and advanced practice roles. I represented the IBMS at the Biennial NML Congress in Iceland in 2025 and presented on 'Advance and consultant practice for Biomedical Scientists, the UK experience'. In April 2026 I joined the EPBS at the European Parliament to celebrate International Biomedical Laboratory Science Day and contributed to raising awareness of the importance of biomedical Scientists in the patient pathway.

In my role as Lead Biomedical Scientist for the pathology network, I manage the blood science departments across 4 hospital sites. I am responsible for providing effective leadership for the departments of Biochemistry, Haematology, Immunology, Blood Transfusion and Point of Care Testing. I am responsible for developing policies and strategic plans to ensure the network delivers a safe and high-quality diagnostic service. I am committed to developing and maintaining a highly skilled workforce and leading continual improvement to support better patient outcomes. I have experience of managing and leading teams in cellular pathology and infection sciences in my previous role.

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

If elected, I would be interested in actively contributing to the strategic development and work of the IFBLS, by aligning with the 2024-28 strategy in the following ways: -

Education and Professional Development:

I would support expansion of accessible professional development opportunities that strengthen competence, encourage knowledge exchange and ensure equitable access. I would wish to build on the work already done using the Britta Karlsson Advancement Program and the Britta Karlsson Educational webinar series to support international training and to benefit member associations. Many member countries face similar issues in staff shortages, for example, and to be able to share and promote best practice by developing forums where members can compare approaches to workforce development, regulation and innovation is key.

Promote the profession:

Long term sustainability depends on attracting more early career biomedical scientists into professional leadership roles. I would use social media platforms, such as LinkedIn to encourage participation in working groups and policy discussions, with the aim of developing an early career advisory network linked to IFBLS. In addition, I would promote international awareness campaigns to highlight the central role of biomedical laboratory scientists.

My motivation for seeking election to the Board of Directors is to contribute effectively to future strategies by sharing the knowledge, experience and professional insight I have gained from my roles serving the IBMS as well as my role as a biomedical scientist and senior manager of a blood sciences service.

I am highly motivated, organized and reliable. In my 10 years as IBMS Council member I have never missed a council meeting. I have served as chair of the Education & Professional Standards committee, remuneration committee, audit committee, strategic research group and was on the specialist advisory panel for clinical chemistry for 8 years. I would welcome the opportunity to strengthen the IFBLS goal of bringing the profession and health priorities to the world stage.
