



# Association for Laboratory Medicine



## ALM Scotland Regional Newsletter October 2026

### Regional Committee

**Prof Seshadri Vasam**

Chair & Council Representative

**Miss Donna Chantler**

Secretary

**Dr Angela Burns**

Meetings Secretary

**Miss Emma-Louise Reid**

Treasurer

**Mrs Susan Johnston**

Regional Tutor

**Dr Jane McNeilly**

FCS Representative

**Dr Alana Burns**

FCS Representative & Member for  
Greater Glasgow & Clyde

**Dr Ailsa Hamilton**

Trainees Representative (East)

**Miss Hannah Worthington**

Trainees Representative (West)

**Dr Angela Ballantyne**

Audit Representative & Member for  
Tayside & Fife

**Mr Stuart Reid**

Microbiology Representative

**Dr Frances Henriquez**

Immunology Representative

**Dr Iain Jones**

Royal College of Pathologists  
Representative

**Miss Amy Frank**

Member for Greater Glasgow &  
Clyde

**Dr Christopher Pitt**

### Committee News

There are a lot of new faces and new places at the LabMed Scotland Committee table. At the AGM in March we welcomed a new Chair, Secretary, Meetings Secretary & Treasurer as well as some new regional & trainee members. Many thanks to those vacating these posts for all their work and a warm welcome to those newly appointed. More changes are anticipated, however, with a number of members moving region, attaining substantive posts or simply coming to the end of their term by Spring next year, so please look out for upcoming vacancies.

### LabMed Scotland Scientific Meeting

A 2-day Autumn Scientific Meeting will be held 5-6 November 2026 at the Stirling Highland Hotel, FK8 1DU. Professor Catherine Ross, Chief Scientific Officer for Scotland will deliver a plenary lecture followed by parallel sessions for Biochemistry and Immunology.



Sustainability & EDI  
Representative, Member for  
Lanarkshire, Dumfries & Galloway,  
Ayrshire & Arran  
**Dr Ijeoma Okoliegbé**  
Member for Grampian & Highland  
**Ms Becky Pattenden**  
Member for Lothian, Forth Valley  
& Borders  
**Dr Joy Johnstone**  
Newsletter Editor, Member for  
Tayside & Fife



## British Society for Immunology Congress & Clinical Immunology Professional Network 2026

Registration is open for BSI Congress which will be held in the SEC Glasgow 30<sup>th</sup> Nov- Dec 3rd. Running alongside from 30<sup>th</sup> Nov - 1<sup>st</sup> Dec is the **BSI Clinical Immunology Professional Network (BSI-CIPN)** at which Scottish labs will be well represented, with 3 speakers participating.

## EuroMedLab 2027

EuroMedLab is coming to London 16-20<sup>th</sup> May 2027 and will be held at Excel. This is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to put our best foot forward – as delegates and presenters of oral and poster presentations. EuroMedLab 2027 will incorporate UKMedLAB so do consider attending and/or presenting at this prestigious meeting and book tickets, travel and hotel early. See [www.euromedlab2027london.org](http://www.euromedlab2027london.org) for more information.

## Information for Trainees

If you would like to join with other Trainees across Scotland to discuss hot topics or get help with preparations for professional exams you may like to join in with the Scottish Biochemistry Tutorials which are soon to be launched. They will be held over MS Teams with a rolling day format over Tuesday to Thursdays at 11.00 am and last for one hour. An MS Teams channel is available to join – contact Ailsa Hamilton to join or for more information [ailsa.hamilton@nhs.scot](mailto:ailsa.hamilton@nhs.scot) to apply.

## Bursaries

Bursaries are available for trainees to attend meetings. 2 awards have been made already this year, but further funding is available. Contact [emma-louise.reid@nhs.scot](mailto:emma-louise.reid@nhs.scot)

## Audit

Some of the work of the Scottish Audit Committee was published in a recent edition of the Annals of Clinical Biochemistry: "A UK and Ireland national audit of urine acidification." Thanks to Emma Hughes, the lead author and former chair of the Audit Committee, who left the role this year and was replaced by Angela Ballantyne. The committee is continuing with a busy programme which aims to identify issues and progress in Scottish practice. The next audit to be launched is for Vitamin D which should come into your inbox soon. The national audit meeting is scheduled for Monday, 16th November 2026 at the Royal College of Pathologists.



**Look out for  
committee  
vacancies this  
Spring.**



**Angela Ballantyne**

Audit reports are lodged on the ALM website. If you have suggestions for a Scottish national audit please contact [angela.ballantyne@nhs.scot](mailto:angela.ballantyne@nhs.scot)

## **Sustainability**

LabMed recently became a member of The UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (UKHACC). A current hot topic is the impact of plant-based food on climate change which may be relevant to clinical biochemists working with nutrition services and to colleagues preparing for FRCPath examinations. The NHS has a massive carbon footprint and addressing it requires us to look into every aspect of health care from the ground-breaking to the mundane and to consider the environmental impact of all new projects.

## **A Representatives-Eye View**

*Angela Ballantyne, is coming to the end of her term as Member for Tayside & Fife. All Scottish members, whatever their experience, are encouraged to apply for vacant posts and regional member rep is a good place to start if you would like to be more involved. Here's what Angela has to say about her time as regional rep:*

LabMed Scotland is a welcoming committee which meets quarterly via Microsoft Teams. Regional Representatives provide a link between the committee and members within their area, which generally comprises two or three health boards. They may raise issues affecting their region or concerns brought to their attention by local members. Regional Representatives may also contribute to subgroups involved in planning scientific meetings, training events and other committee activities.

The role is both rewarding and enjoyable, providing opportunities to develop valuable communication and organisational skills. Serving on the committee offers an opportunity to build a network of colleagues from across Scotland, while gaining the experience and confidence needed to progress to more demanding committee roles in the future, should you wish to do so.

## **Opportunities for Feedback**

To submit information for inclusion in the newsletter e-mail [joy.johnstone@nhs.scot](mailto:joy.johnstone@nhs.scot) or [Christopher.pitt@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Christopher.pitt@aapct.scot.nhs.uk)

