

Republic of Ireland region

Annual General Meeting 20th March 2026

Attendance: *Alison Bransfield (AB), *Janice Reeve (JR), *Brendan Byrne (BB), *Carl Talbot (CT), *Eileen Byrne (EB), *Roshaida Abdul Wahab (RAW), *Micheál Ryan (MR), Gayle Platt (GP), Kelly Foley (KF), Niamh O'Connor (NOC), Peadar McGing (PMG), Jennifer Brady (JB), Graham Lee (GL), Seán Costelloe (SC), Verena Gounden (VG)

*Committee members

Meeting minutes written by JR.

1	Apologies: None received
2	<p>Approval of 2024 minutes & matters arising: Minutes for the 2025 AGM were approved (Proposed EB, Seconded CT) Matters arising completed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scientific meeting report and advertisement of LabMed RoI committee published in ACBI/LabMed newsletter and posted on the website. 2. LabMed office updated RoI section of the website as per Committee instructions.
3	Declaration of conflict of interest: None
4	<p>Committee members: JR introduced AGM attendees to the RoI Region Committee members, including how long they have served on this Committee; AB Chair, previous Secretary/Treasurer since 2016, JR Secretary, previous Treasurer and Region tutor since 2018, BB Region Audit Lead since 2021, RAW Ordinary member since 2023, CT, Region Tutor, and EB, Region 'Trainee' representative since 2025 and MR, ACBI representative since 2026.</p>
5	<p>Chairperson/Council representative's report: AB ran through a report from a recent LabMed Chairs meeting in December 2025 (Appendix A).</p> <p>AB highlighted that the regional bursary applications are now open on the LabMed website and encouraged region members to avail of the opportunity. One regional bursary was approved in 2025.</p> <p>AB thanked everyone on the Committee for their enthusiasm and help with the planning of this year's Scientific meeting. AB thanked Dr Paula O'Shea (POS) who has stepped down as ACBI representative on this Committee after many years of service.</p>



	AB is due to step down as Chair at this AGM but no interested parties in this role have stepped forward yet.
6	Regional tutor's report: CT presented his first RoI region tutor's report. (Appendix B). Three Clinical Biochemists are LabMed and ACBI members and are supported in their FRCPath preparation by ACBI-facilitated tutorials, their annual assessments, held in December 2025, were successful. CT thanked external assessors (JR and Dr Jenny Hamilton) for their assistance with these assessments and POS for her time and help with tutorials.
7	Trainee representative report: EB presented the trainee representative's report (Appendix C). Exam successes and members educational activities and CPD opportunities through 2025 are outlined.
8	Vacant roles: JR reminded AGM attendees that there are a number of roles vacant on this Committee this year; Chair (elected), Secretary (elected), Audit Lead, Green Champion liaison, EDI liaison, Immunology and Microbiology representative. Roles can be applied through the LabMed website. JR happy to take informal queries.
9	Any Other Business: BB provided an Audit report (Appendix D). From the Analytical Conundrums survey two posters were presented (BB and CT) at the ACBI conference 2025. The poster submitted by CT was awarded a prize for best audit at the conference. It is anticipated that four more posters and an overall publication will be produced from this work.

Appendix A. Chairperson/Council representative's report

Title Report for Republic of Ireland Committee – 09/Dec/2025
 Name Alison Bransfield
 Date 09/Dec/2025

Alert

No update on Irish National Accreditation Board advisory services document.
 State registration (CORU) for clinical biochemists is still pending, both ACBI and LabMed Rol committee are engaging re same.
 Committee chair and audit representative standing down in Q1 2026. ACBI representative has stood down, ACBI council meeting on 10/Dec/2025 will appoint a new representative

Advise

The Region is planning to hold a virtual meeting in Q1 2026.
 One trainee has been successful at FRCPATH Part 1.

Assure

The regional committee continues to hold regular meetings.

Appendix B. Regional Tutor's report

Name Carl Talbot, Principal Clinical Biochemist, The Coombe Hospital, Dublin, Ireland
 Date 20th March 2026

The Republic of Ireland (Rol) does not have Clinical Scientist training posts. Any Clinical Biochemist preparing for FRCPATH examinations in the region will be in a substantive post (Basic, Senior or Principal Grade). LabMed Rol members who are Clinical Biochemists are supported in their exam preparation by the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI) of which they will also be members. The Chemical Pathology trainee programme is separate and facilitated by the Faculty of Pathology, Royal College of Physicians in Ireland. Of the 8 within the tutorial group, 3 trainees hold LabMed membership.

Exam module	Scientists (ACBI and LabMed Rol members)	Medics
Preparing / awaiting results of part 1	4	
Preparing / awaiting results of part 2	4	1

Alert: N/A

Advise:

The following regional events have been attended by Clinical Biochemists preparing for FRCPATH examinations:

- ACBI supported tutorials for career grade Biochemists. Since the previous AGM, the tutorials are managed/arranged through a mix of trainee led meetings, tutor led meetings or guest led by Consultant/Principal biochemist grades. I wish to thank those that gave time to facilitate these tutorials particularly Dr Paula O'Shea who provided a number of Consultant led tutorials in 2025.
- During December 2025, an assessment of trainees was completed through trainee logbook examination and meeting with individual trainees for feedback and to pose an exam question. Reports were compiled and feedback to both trainees and the ACBI. The assessment panel included Dr Janice Reeve, Principal Biochemist GUH, Dr Jenny Hamilton, Consultant Clinical Scientist, Craigavon Area Hospital and myself. I wish to thank both Janice and Jenny for giving their time for facilitating these assessments
- During the Jan 2026 tutorial meeting, a formal structure on the year's tutorials base on the 2025 assessment feedback and discussion on the day. The year will consist of a mix of trainee led tutorial and tutor led sessions incorporating some of the more common request including a mock MCQ session, a mock OSPE style session and a calculation practice session. October has been targeted for 2026 assessments.
- Feedback to the LabMed education group occurs twice annually with any relevant communication between the education group and the ROI region trainees being facilitated by the ROI Tutor. A separate trainee led communication to the LabMed is facilitated by the ROI trainee representative, Eileen Byrne

Additional education activities:

- LabMed Training day 2025
- PATH Plus attendance
- Professionalism, Leadership & Innovation, ACBI Forum. The Aisling Hotel, Dublin,
- Association of Clinical Biochemists Ireland (ACBI) 47th Annual Conference, Athlone
- Irish External Quality Assessment Scheme (IEQAS) Conference
- Inherited Metabolic Disorders through the life cycle. Annual ISIMD Hybrid Conference, Dublin
- FRCPATH Masterclass, Imperial College Healthcare, NHS, UK.
- LabMed Northern Ireland Regional Meeting, Belfast
- A range of online resources are being utilised including EFLM learning academy, AACC learning lab, medical podcasts

Other Activities:

Trainee members contribute to a wide range of activities within the region including

- Sitting on the LabMed ROI region committee
- Sitting on the ACBI committee
- Sitting on the ACBI conference organisation committees
- Regular contributions to the ACBI newsletter
- Participation in the LabMed ROI national audit group
- Contributions to the ACBI booklet on 'The Biochemistry of body fluids, 2025 edition' under the direction of Dr Peadar McGing

Assure: Summary

The tutorial group and its LabMed ROI members continue to with their educational activities in the pursuit of the RCPATH fellowship. The ACBI and LabMed ROI continue to support this goal. I want to

thank again, those that contribute their time and effort to the tutorial group through facilitating educational sessions and assessments. I also wish to acknowledge the trainees for their continued valuable contributions towards the regional activities listed previously which is done on top of their work commitments and educational pursuits.

Appendix C. Trainee representative's report

Name Eileen Byrne Principal Clinical Biochemist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Ireland,
Date 20th March 2026

Alert: N/A

Advise:

The Republic of Ireland (RoI) does not have Clinical Scientist training posts. Any Clinical Biochemist preparing for FRCPATH examinations in the region will be in a substantive post (Basic, Senior or Principal Grade). LabMed RoI members who are Clinical Biochemists are supported in their exam preparation by the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI) of which they will also be members. The Chemical Pathology trainee programme is separate and facilitated by the Faculty of Pathology, Royal College of Physicians in Ireland.

A total of eight Clinical Biochemists are currently participating in the ACBI-supported FRCPATH tutorial group. Four Clinical Biochemists in the region hold dual membership of both LabMed and the ACBI. In 2025, the group has been predominantly composed of both Senior and Principal Clinical Biochemists. Within this cohort, four members have successfully completed FRCPATH Part 1 (two of whom are both ACBI and LabMed members), one member has passed FRCPATH Part 2 (Module 2), and the remaining candidates are preparing to sit FRCPATH Part 2 (Modules 1 and 2). In addition, one Specialist Registrar in the region has recently joined LabMed and successfully completed FRCPATH Part 1 in 2025.

Assure:

The following regional events have been attended by Clinical Biochemists, preparing for FRCPATH examinations:-

- ACBI supported tutorials for career grade Biochemists preparing for FRCPATH examinations. The tutorials are arranged internally by the group and facilitated online due to the geographical spread of participants.
- LabMed Trainees/Freddie Flynn Day, Royal College of London, UK, 27/11/2025.
- Association of Clinical Biochemists Ireland (ACBI) 47th Annual Conference, Athlone, 14-15/11/2025.
- Irish External Quality Assessment Scheme (IEQAS) Conference, 02/10/2025.
- Professionalism, Leadership & Innovation, ACBI Forum. The Aisling Hotel, Dublin, 12/09/2025.
- Inherited Metabolic Disorders through the life cycle. Annual ISIMD Hybrid Conference, Dublin, 14/09/2025.
- LabMed Northern Ireland Regional Meeting, Belfast, 19/09/2025
- FRCPATH Masterclass, Imperial College Healthcare, NHS, UK. 12/09/2025
- LabmedUK25 Training day, Manchester, UK, 09/06/2025. Utilisation of virtual training resources, including the EFLM Learning Academy, the AACC Learning Lab, and relevant medical podcasts.

Acknowledgements

- Dr Paula O'Shea, Consultant Clinical Biochemist, who kindly led the ACBI-supported FRCPath tutorial group in 2025.
- Dr Janice Reeve, Principal Clinical Biochemist and Regional Tutor, for her support and leadership in the region until 2025.
- A warm welcome to Carl Talbot, Principal Clinical Biochemist and incoming Regional Tutor. • Sincere thanks to all colleagues who generously gave their time and expertise to facilitate and contribute to the tutorial programme.

Appendix D. Audit group report

Name Brendan Byrne
Date 20th March 2026

The Analytical Conundrums Survey was completed by members of LabMed (RoI Region), and members of the ACBI. It was comprised of 6 sections, namely Pseudohyponatraemia, HIL indices, Ammonia analysis, Macroprolactin & other Macroanalytes, Sample Contamination issues and Thyroglobulin analysis. We had responses from up to 20 laboratories depending on the section. The members of the Audit group were assigned a section each to review, and summarise, which has largely been completed. The Macroprolactin section led by myself, and the Ammonia section led by Carl Talbot, were submitted as posters to the ACBI Conference in 2025, and Carl's poster was awarded best Audit at that meeting. The remaining 4 sections have not yet been presented and I would anticipate some, or all, of these will be submitted to this year's ACBI or the UK's National Audit Meeting. We also plan to summarise the overall findings in a paper. Finally, thanks to all the members of the Audit group; Carl Talbot, James Kelly, Alison Bransfield, Heloise Tarrant and Micheál Ryan.