

PTAReview

The latest pathology technology news, views, and announcements

In This Issue

Welcome

PTA Shaping Genomics
in Healthcare

ADAPT Report

Join the Conversation

Patient in the Spotlight



To say a lot is going on in healthcare, the economy, and politics is an understatement; unsurprisingly, these topics are firmly linked. The Intergenerational Report released by the Federal Government on 24 August is a good example. It clearly demonstrates a rise in the cost of healthcare over the next 40 years, growing much faster than GDP, meaning healthcare will become increasingly unaffordable.

Does this drive Australia to a user pays healthcare system – the USA model – or an underfunded model currently seen in New Zealand? The good news is we can land in-between. Strategic use of diagnostic technology can deliver high-quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare to all Australians. In this edition, Madeline summarises the key health findings from the Intergenerational Report that speak to the efficiencies provided by the technology in our sector.

The ADAPT Report, released on 28th August results from a comprehensive, 1-year study into Australia's diagnostic technology sovereign supply security and capability. It was funded by the Department of Industry Science and Resources and completed in partnership between PTA and MTP Connect. The report identifies a clear roadmap for improving the supply of pathology technology in Australia and informed PTA's submission to the House of Representatives committee inquiry into developing advanced manufacturing in Australia. We had the honour of presenting the report to Rob Mitchell MP, the Chair of this inquiry. Justin was PTA's lead on the project; we have his report in this edition.

Finally, I am very excited about the PTA Congress (PTA-C/24) we are organising for March next year. As far as I know, this is the first congress to focus on some of the more significant challenges in healthcare and explores the role of technology in addressing them. Topics such as "Does your postcode influence your health outcome?", "Have we been left behind in the diagnostic technology revolution?" and "The role of technology in addressing challenges in healthcare, sustainability and the economy" will all be tackled. The congress is also unique in its format. Each topic will have a plenary lecture, followed by a panel discussion where experts pick apart the topic. The congress then breaks into workshop sessions where the delegates discuss and make recommendations to a focused talking point. The workshop outputs will be reported in a congress communique. We invite you to Join the Conversation.

We are very happy to receive your feedback on this newsletter and hear about topics you want to see.

In the meantime, stay safe. Dean Whiting, CEO Pathology Technology Australia

Intergenerational Report 2023 – Opportunities for Pathology Technology and an Australian Wellness Economy

The recent Intergenerational Report (IGR) published by the Federal Government highlights the trend of Australia's aging population and increased cost-pressures on Health expenditure. Within this backdrop is a call for improved efficiency for the delivery of healthcare services.

The pathology technology sector is well-placed to answer that call, as we well know the dramatic efficiency dividends delivered in the pathology services over the past 30 years has been led largely by evolution from technology suppliers. This technology advancement continues through to this day and is set to accelerate even more rapidly off the back of digital and AI-related expansions. We are advocating for our leaders to act fast and capitalise on these global trends. Click [HERE](#) to read our sector response to the IGR.

PTA Shaping Genomics in Healthcare



Our Communications and Government Affairs lead, Madeline O'Donoghue, was selected to the Government's Expert Advisory Group (EAG) to provide advice to the Federal Health Department on issues related to the establishment of a new national genomics body – Genomics Australia. The role of the EAG is to advise the Government on the optimal design, role, key priorities, and critical partnerships of the new national genomics body to ensure the integration of genomic health technologies as standard elements of Healthcare in Australia.

The breadth of stakeholders across the EAG are tasked with identifying barriers, opportunities, and key priorities to support integrating genomic health technologies under five key themes: research, translation, implementation, data, and patient/community. The discussions have been very open and collaborative, and this work will be presented to the Health Technology and Genomics Collaboration (HTGC), a sub-committee of the Health Chief Executives Forum (HCEF – previously AHMAC).

In her role on the EAG, Madeline represents a broad industry voice, as she convenes a parallel advisory panel to help inform her position. In addition to discussing and collating recommendations from InGeNA (Industry Genomics Network Alliance) roundtable outputs and other published papers, Madeline is gathering additional observations and experiences from the broad suite of industry expertise. All of these discussions and suggestions will be fed into the EAG process, ensuring that a strong and representative voice prevails in this vital initiative to evolve our healthcare system for the benefit of all Australians.



ADAPT Report

Building a Resilient Future: PTA Excited to Bring the National Action Plan to Life

We are thrilled to announce the release of the National Diagnostic Action Plan, a groundbreaking initiative, that took place over 12 months in partnership with MTPConnect to establish a robust diagnostic technology sector in Australia and enhance health security through supply chain resilience. This plan comes at a pivotal moment in Australian manufacturing history, as the national reconstruction fund gains momentum, and we couldn't be more excited to bring it to life.

This Action Plan represents the collective wisdom of over 140 stakeholders nationwide and incorporates valuable insights from those working tirelessly in a wide range of startups, SME multinational companies, universities, research organisations and healthcare. It sets forth a series of pragmatic recommendations that chart the course for a flourishing sustainable sovereign diagnostics manufacturing ecosystem in Australia.

PTA wants to emphasise the significance of this plan. It's not just about fostering innovation; it's about laying a solid foundation for all pathology technology companies to thrive. By getting the regulatory, reimbursement, and procurement environment right, we are not only opening doors for innovators but also ensuring that Australian patients have access to timely results, the right medicines, and, ultimately, improved health outcomes.

In today's interconnected world, where global supply chains can be vulnerable, it is essential that we bolster our domestic capabilities. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us the value of self-sufficiency and resilience in the face of health emergencies and supply disruptions. With the implementation of this plan, Australia will be better prepared to manage future crises effectively. We envision a future where Australian manufacturing regains its strength, our nation is self-reliant, and we lead in global markets where we have strengths. This Action Plan is a significant step toward achieving that vision. By strengthening our diagnostic capability, we enhance our national security, create high-paying jobs, and foster economic growth.

We encourage all of you to read the full report [HERE](#) and engage with us on the barriers and opportunities it presents. Pathology Technology Australia (PTA) is committed to bringing these recommendations to life, and we welcome your thoughts, insights, and collaboration on this important journey.

Let's make Australian manufacturing great again, together. Let's ensure that the health of our citizens is safeguarded, and let's learn from the lessons of the past to build a resilient and prosperous future.

Join the Conversation

PTA-C/24 is an important new opportunity to address some of the big challenges facing patients, healthcare and Australia's economy.

While many congresses focus on tactical topics related to a specific discipline, PTA-C/24 highlights three big challenges facing diagnostic healthcare and explores technology-driven solutions. Not only is it a different focus, we're switching up the format as well. This congress will deal with each of the three topics using a drill down format - commencing with a plenary lecture to set the scene, moving to a panel discussion to break open component parts, and completing the session with breakout workshops, where the delegates add their expertise to the discussion topics, make recommendations and drive the needle towards much-needed evolution in healthcare delivery.

While this congress is an initiative of the pathology technology supply sector, there are no industry-based speakers contributing to the formal program. The plenary and panel speakers are all drawn from the healthcare sector (including professionals and patients), government and other related groups, and selected for their expertise and perspectives and the broader challenges faced by all.

The three key topics are:

- Access & Equity – does your postcode dictate your healthcare outcome?
- Multi-omics and technology evolution – are we missing out on the benefits of the technology revolution?
- Saving lives, the economy and the planet – the surprising role technology plays in global challenges.

This congress is aimed at a broad range of health stakeholders; the pathology sector, policymakers, funders, healthcare institutions, and professionals – including regional and rural, patient advocacy groups and the technology innovators, manufacturers and suppliers.



PTA CEO, Dean Whiting noted, "This might be the first time these important health topics have been discussed by such a broad cohort of stakeholders. I am excited about the congress and about the possible outcomes and drivers for change."

The congress communicate will summarise the outcomes of the workshops and is expected to give guidance on addressing the three key themes.

As part of PTA-C/24 PTA members will also present a comprehensive technology exhibition, host technology breakfast and workshop sessions, and provide opportunity to showcase the breadth of their technology solutions. As part of the exhibition activities, noted experts will address key technology developments and how they can improve patient outcomes.

PTA-C/24 will be held across two-full days in Sydney on March 12 and 13, 2024, commencing on the evening of 11th, with a networking mixer. Detail of the congress can be found with this [LINK](#), where you will see the full program, sponsorship opportunities and the registration page to join the discussion.

This might be the first time these important health topics have been discussed by such a broad cohort of stakeholders. I am excited about the congress and about the possible outcomes and drivers for change.

Patients in the spotlight

Deidre Mackechnie, CEO of Australian Patient Advocacy Alliance



Madeline spends 10 minutes with Deidre, drilling into the challenges and opportunities of patient advocacy activities in today's health landscape. [To listen to the interview in full, click here.](#)

"One of the things we learned from our experiences in the pandemic is how inextricably linked health and the economy are." Deidre Mackechnie, CEO APAA.

[Listen to Deidre's thoughts on how spending money to support a healthy Australia goes beyond health budget considerations.](#) Through her advocacy, Deidre is seeking Government to view health as an investment rather than the perspective that health spending is a cost.

APAA currently represents an alliance of 42 different patient organisations, encompassing over 12 million patients living with chronic or complex disease.

"We're looking for that long-term vision that transcends an election cycle, and that's the biggest challenge" Deidre Mackechnie, CEO APAA.

[Deidre speaks to need for the government to communicate their healthcare vision so that we can coalesce around the best steps along the 10-15-year journey it will take us to get there.](#)

We end the interview with a [call to collaborate, with the knowledge and experience that when we find the common ground to all work together, we are stronger and establish a world class healthcare system.](#)