

PTA Review

The latest pathology technology news, views, and announcements

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Is it almost October already?

The year is flying by and amidst all the global shifting sands of the global stage we have been keeping our heads down and getting on with things. Through consultation with our multistakeholder advisory panel for genomics, we devised a concise response to the draft National Health Genomics Policy Framework Consultation, with the TL:DR we want to see more urgency and ambition ([read more](#)).

We're closely following the Department of Health, Disability, and Aged Care in their response to the output from the point-of-care testing working group and will be sharing our supplementary report and proposal for a National Framework ([read more](#)).

We welcomed three new directors to our board at our recent AGM, where we also hosted a comprehensive panel discussion unpacking the opportunities and risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence in pathology technology and services ([read more](#)).

Our diverse and very clever planning committee are busy shaping the scene for next year's big pathology technology in health congress - PTA-C/26, make sure you grab your ticket early and be part of this key discussion ([read more](#)).

If there is a tagline for the past quarter, we think it would be "getting it done", as once again our small but mighty team focus relentlessly on ensuring the value of our member's technology is elevated, valued, and ultimately invested in so we can continue ensuring we get the right test in front of the right patient at the right time.

Enjoy this, our tenth quarterly newsletter - Dean, Madeline & Chami

Do the aims of Genomics Australia lack the ambition needed to move us forward?

As Australia charts its national genomics strategy, questions are emerging about whether current plans match the pace and complexity of the challenge. The National Health Genomics Policy Framework 2026–2030 rightly positions genomics as central to a modern health system, but many believe its implementation roadmap falls short on bold reform.

Key enablers such as modernised funding pathways, mission-driven procurement, connected data infrastructure, and a genomics-ready workforce, remain underdeveloped or siloed. PTA stands with many other industry and expert groups to stress the need for foundational investment in technology, clinical workflows, and skills.

This investment cannot be an afterthought. Our sector represents a primary lever of access, equity, and efficiency. Without a strategic shift in how we fund, assess, deliver, and embed genomics, Australia risks building a blueprint that doesn't power its own engine.

Stark contrast is evident when comparing Australia's draft genomics policy with Genome UK's 2022–2025 Implementation Plan for England. The UK is setting more aggressive, measurable targets across the full stack from diagnostics to equity and infrastructure, and backing up this plan with sufficient funding to drive it - committing ~£175 million over three years. They also publish high-level metrics to track diagnostic activity, access, rare disease diagnoses, research use, and inequalities in genomic medicine.

By contrast, Australia's draft Framework has many of the right pillars and guiding principles (equity, community-centredness, workforce, infrastructure), but it lacks some of the boldness in committing funding, defining concrete assessment pathways, mandating workforce training and infrastructure investment up front, and setting nationally consistent metrics that ensure transparency and accountability.

We're in close conversation with leadership at Genomics Australia to ensure they understand that unless these gaps are addressed, there is a risk that Australia's genomics ambitions will trail global peers, especially on equitable access, early diagnostics, and the ability to scale data and infrastructure in a sustained way.

You can read our full response to the [Genomics Australia Consultation on the National Health Genomics Policy Framework Consultation July 2025](#) here.

Point of care testing – the Department of Health’s report and PTA’s view.

The report from the Department of Health’s Point of Care Testing (PoCT) Working Group confirmed what many in the sector already know: while PoCT can deliver faster, more equitable care, particularly for rural, remote and underserved populations, we underutilise this technology compared to our global peers. Currently, only eight PoCT items are listed on the MBS, most dating back to 1991, resulting in very limited uptake (just 0.2% of all MBS pathology services). By contrast, countries like Switzerland and Germany support more than 30 analytes through national frameworks.



As part of the working group output, PTA and our multistakeholder advisory group authored a supplementary paper outlining a pragmatic national framework approach to move beyond traditional HTA barriers, leverage existing quality and safety systems, and ensure funding models that reflect the true value of PoCT in improving outcomes and reducing inequities.

Meet the new directors on the Board at PTA

As we farewell and thank our retiring Directors, Jenny Carson, Colin Denver, Tony Bhalla and Cyrus Boomla, we welcome three new Directors.

Helen Spiers - Associate Director and Leader of Large National Initiatives, APAC, Middles East and Africa at Illumina.

Amongst Helen's responsibilities are directing strategic partnerships and managing a team dedicated to advancing the uptake of genomic technologies for precision healthcare - including Phase II of Singapore's PRCISE program. Prior to this Helen served as Deputy Director at the Ramaciotti Centre for Genomics at the University of NSW.



Kensi Naicker - Managing Director for Hologic in Australia and New Zealand.

Kensi brings a rich experience from a varied background in healthcare - from R&D to startups and on to multi-nationals. This experience has given Kensi strong business development instincts, patient and customer focus and strategic focus on advocacy for cutting edge technology led solutions.



Sandrine Richard - General Manager for ANZ and Business Unit Director for APAC at Diagnostica Stago.

Sandrine leads a multi-disciplinary teams that drive strategic transformation in Healthcare. She brings deep operational experience and a commitment to innovation. This is inspired by Sandrine's commitment to improved patient outcomes, enhanced stakeholder engagement and sustainable growth in our complex health environment.



Our new Directors bring a wealth and diversity of experiences that will contribute strongly to the direction and achievements at Pathology Technology Australia.

Unique Healthcare Congress tackling the big issues

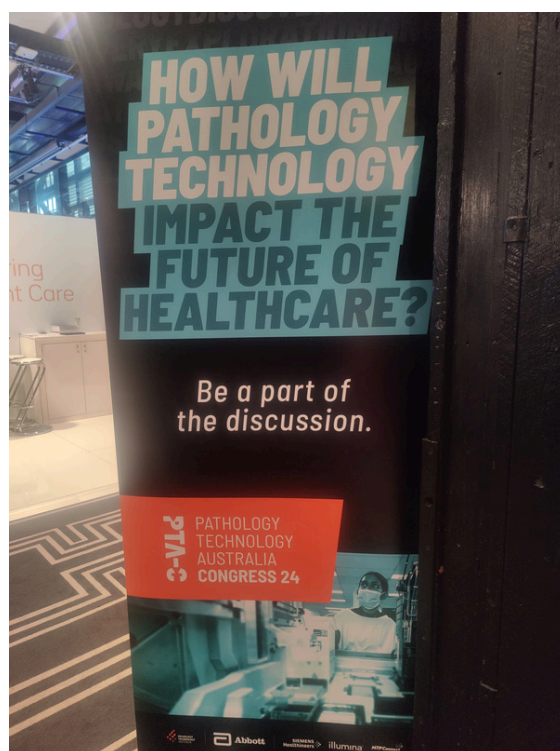
Building on the success of our unique 2024 format, PTA-C/26 will once again bring together the full spectrum of healthcare leaders to tackle one urgent question: how do we transform Australia’s health system to be predictive, preventative and personalised?

The evidence is clear, our healthcare system is under growing strain. While recent boosts in Medicare funding, Urgent Care Clinics and training places are welcome, they fall short of the systemic change required. Other advanced economies are already moving from reactive, sickness-based care to proactive, wellness-based models. Australia risks being left behind.

The technologies to lead this transformation—genomics and proteomics, point-of-care testing, digital health and AI—have been proven for years. Yet here, they remain under-funded, under-adopted, and under-valued. PTA-C/26 is about changing that.

This biennial congress is a catalyst for change. Delegates will engage in deep cross-sector discussions, contribute to a consensus-driven white paper, and help shape the path forward for sustainable, value-based care in Australia.

Past speakers, PTA-C/24



Unique Healthcare Congress tackling the big issues cont...

In 2026, three themes take centre stage:

- **Predict. Prevent. Personalise.** How diagnostics enable earlier detection, targeted prevention and tailored care to deliver better outcomes for patients and systems alike.
- **Innovation in Motion.** Delivering the right test to the right patient at the right time in real-world settings.
- **The Value Fountain.** Why the 'value of knowing' and other metrics must sit at the heart of health decision-making.

With a proven format, diverse participation, and a clear mission, PTA-C/26 offers delegates the chance to influence the future of healthcare in Australia.

Be part of the conversation. Shape the solution. Register now at ptacongress.com

A promotional poster for the PTA-C/26 Pathology/Technology Australia Congress. The background is black with a golden starburst pattern. The text is arranged as follows: 'PTA-C/26' in large white and blue letters, followed by 'PATHOLOGY/TECHNOLOGY AUSTRALIA/CONGRESS' in white. Below this, 'SAVE THE DATE FOR 2026' is written in white, with 'The Langham, Sydney' in a light blue script font. The dates 'MAY 27-28' are prominently displayed in large red letters. At the bottom, it says 'SIGN UP FOR EVENT DETAILS' and provides the website 'www.ptacongress.com' in a blue button.

PTA-C/26 PATHOLOGY/TECHNOLOGY
AUSTRALIA/CONGRESS

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What word comes to mind when you think about AI in Healthcare and Pathology?



AI in Healthcare and Pathology – the experts have their say

“.....medicine is a science of uncertainty and an art of probability, and I think that's just the same as AI.” Nigel Maher, Anatomical Pathologist, Chair of RCPA AI Working Group

We recently hosted our most attended AGM event to date, bringing together nearly 130 in-person and online participants for a timely panel on artificial intelligence in pathology. The discussion featured leading voices from the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and the Australian Digital Health Agency, with industry veteran Warren Bingham chairing the session

“...if you're taking an off the shelf product and modifying its intended purpose to have a therapeutic purpose, then you're responsible for that.” Olivia Reeves, TGA Director Medical Devices, Software

Our experts explored how AI is already being applied from diagnostic triage and quality assurance, through to clinical decision support, and touched on the regulatory, ethical and workforce challenges that accompany this shift.

AI in Healthcare and Pathology – the experts have their say cont...

Key themes included:

- Trust and transparency: Clinicians and patients alike need confidence in how AI systems are trained, validated, and used in practice.
- Data sovereignty: Ensuring Australian health data remains protected while still contributing to global advances.
- Regulation and liability: Clear responsibilities for developers, clinicians, and regulators must evolve as AI moves from decision-support to more autonomous roles.
- Workforce impact: AI should augment, not replace, clinical expertise—supporting productivity while maintaining essential skills.

We are in fierce agreement that AI will only strengthen pathology's role at the heart of healthcare, provided implementation is responsible, transparent, and collaborative. Our leading expert Lesley-Anne Farmer had a family emergency and was unable to attend this event, however PTA will continue this national conversation, and we will be drawing on her insights in our future AI Webinar series to be launched in November – look out for more information in the coming weeks.

“You're starting to see these models build up and get more and more mature and when foundation comes along and things are very more tailored to those specific use cases, especially in a pathology setting, you'll start building up more trust.” Tim Panoho, Branch Manager – Australian Digital Health Agency, Architecture & AI, Artificial Intelligence Accountable Official

PTA presented this panel discussion in partnership with London Agency. John Emmerson, from the agency, summed up everything perfectly saying “Clearly AI is going to increase pathology's offer to health systems and ultimately the patients will benefit. That's something that you know we're thrilled to see and be part of that conversation.”



Dean Whiting, Warren Bingham, Madeline O'Donoghue, Tim Panoho, Nigel Maher.



Discover the world of In Vitro Diagnostics in Healthcare

Whether you're new to the field or work alongside diagnostics and pathology, understanding in vitro diagnostics (IVDs) is essential. These tests are the backbone of modern healthcare. IVDs represent everything from routine blood work to cutting-edge genetic testing. Yet for many professionals, the sector can feel like a "black box."

The PTA Academy's Know IVD program changes that. This flexible, online learning series breaks down the fundamentals of IVDs: what they are, how they differ from other medical devices, the technologies driving innovation, and how they shape patient outcomes and healthcare delivery

Through four self-paced module clusters, you'll gain:

- A solid foundation in IVD science and technology.
- Insights into patient pathways and market dynamics.
- Awareness of Australia's regulatory and funding environment.
- Practical knowledge of government influence and commercial frameworks.

Who is it for?

Perfect for new hires, those in logistics, sales, product development, or anyone collaborating with the diagnostics sector, Know IVD helps you fill knowledge gaps and build confidence in conversations with colleagues, customers, or partners.

Bonus Live Q&A

Take advantage of our special offer today. Enrol and complete the on-line modules before November 13th and you can access a bonus live Q&A session with a panel of experts from the IVD sector. Select individual modules to sharpen your knowledge or save upfront with the entire Know IVD package.

Ready to get started?

Enrol now at [PTA Academy Know IVD](#)