

PTA Review

The latest pathology technology news, views, and announcements

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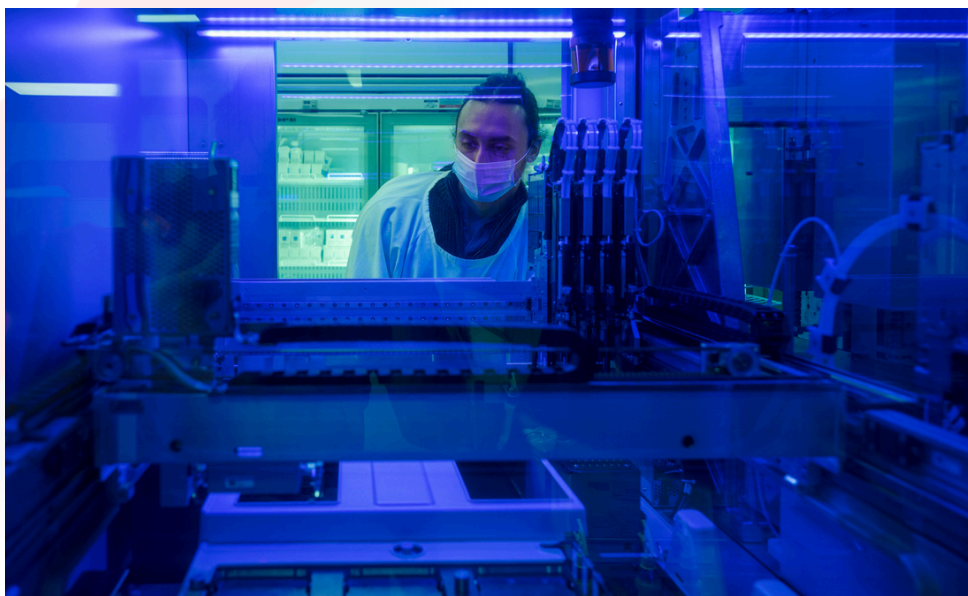
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Welcome to the 11th Edition of the PTA Review. In this issue, we skim across the top of some of the focus activities for pathology technology in 2025, we expand a little on the exciting and unique congress coming up in May, we again dive into the rapidly advancing world of AI in healthcare and we provide a video glimpse of the IVD world.

PTA-C/26 PATHOLOGY/TECHNOLOGY
AUSTRALIA/CONGRESS

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2026

The Langham, Sydney

MAY 27-28

SIGN UP FOR EVENT DETAILS

www.ptacongress.com

PTA Year in Review

Collaboration, consultation and changing the paradigm are the descriptors that best sum up the year for PTA.



Collaboration is a powerful way to build and amplify, especially in government advocacy. MPs and their staffers, frequently tell us that a shared message from a collective voice is far more powerful than similar messages coming from multiple voices. That is why PTA is working with so many in the health fraternity to align key messages and advocacy positions. We don't have to agree on every element with all stakeholders, but there are key elements that we can agree on:

- Our healthcare system is under stress and is becoming unsustainable
- Systems that underpin our healthcare system are no longer fit for purpose
- More agile and flexible approaches are urgently needed to ensure rapid funding and adoption of technology that will deliver a better healthcare outcomes more sustainably.

In 2025, PTA continued the push to form a broad-based health alliance to focus on future health reform. This alliance has been successful in pulling together patient, medical practitioner, pharmacist and industry groups, but has still not reached the critical mass we believe is need to move the dial.

During the year PTA has collaborated with other major industry participants, patient advocacy groups and health professional groups. Where-ever pathology technology can make a positive difference to healthcare outcomes, we are happy to collaboration.

Consultation was a key focus in 2025. PTA was the only industry group selected to participate in the Department of Health Disability and Aged Care (DHDAC) Point of Care Testing Working Group. In addition to developing the working group report, PTA also delivered a supplementary paper adding more detail in response to the terms of reference. This paper was accepted in full by the working group.

PTA was also invited to participate in a Pathology Review, initiated by Hon Mark Butler, Minister for Health. We worked closely with the consultants on this project, emphasising the opportunity for technology to drive a paradigm change in way healthcare can be delivered in Australia.

Our Technical and Regulatory Sub Committee, works very closely with the TGA, providing input to formal consultations and participating in the less formal meetings, workshops and seminars. This contributes strongly to a regulatory environment that suppliers can navigate, while ensuring the safety of the technology for patients.

PTA Year in Review cont...

In a way, our PTA-Academy functions as a consultation - to our members. During 2025 we conducted training courses in managing tenders and government procurement, director's fiduciary responsibilities and three levels of TGA regulations for IVD - Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced. Our TGA training courses are supported by the TGA, who provide experts to participate in key parts of the training. This year our TGA courses were attended by almost 50 people and attained a Net Promotor Score (NPS) of 9.8.

We established our online Learning Management System (LMS) which offers courses including our "Know IVD" program. This self-paced course offers 4 modules that explains the role of pathology technology and provides a broad-based overview of the IVD sector. See the embedded video via the link in this newsletter.

Changing the Paradigm in healthcare delivery has been a major PTA focus for 3 years.

The right test for the right person at the right time.

Our advocacy work with government seeks to position a technology led transition of healthcare, from a sickness-based, test and treat model, to a wellness-based predict, prevent and personalise model.

Our current healthcare system has served us well since its introduction over 40 years ago, when diagnostic technology had barely escaped the test-tube stage. I should know, I was there, as this (fake) photo can attest.

This is when the activity-based, universal healthcare system under Medicare was launched. This system catapulted Australia to near the top of the global healthcare rankings.



Figure 1; I should know, I was there.

PTA Year in Review cont...

Since then healthcare technology has advanced beyond the ability of our healthcare systems to extract maximum value. In fact, Australia is slipping down the global healthcare rankings and we lag 10 to 20 years behind comparable economies in the adoption of some pathology technologies. This is leading (directly and indirectly) to the critical sustainability issues our system is now facing, potentially poorer patient outcomes and increasing costs. During 2025, PTA continued advocating at DHDAC, as well as with the Health Minister's office, to follow the WHO (advice for member countries) to establish a diagnostic strategy (Australia does not have one) and create a broad-based diagnostics advisory panel to advise on the transformation. Essentially, Australia needs to be far more agile and flexible in funding and adopting enabling technology in genomics, biomarkers, point of care testing and the digital health enablers.

We have made small gains but frankly, there are few tangible outcomes we can see that will deliver meaningful change. This is becoming a critical issue, as we know that a slow moving system like healthcare will take years to transition. The burden of increasing chronic disease and rapidly aging population is already putting enormous pressure on healthcare in Australia and this is affecting patient outcomes, increasing costs and becoming unsustainable.

We have the technology, we have the examples from comparable countries. With the right vision and willingness, we can start the transition.

PTA Congress – PTA-C/26 – Unique format, important topics

Life expectancy in Australia is trending down for the first time in decades. The prevalence of chronic conditions is rapidly increasing. More people are delayed seeing or did not see a doctor because of cost or long waiting times. The number of adults experiencing high levels of psychological distress is increasing. (ABS, Measuring What Matters 2022).

These are all objective measures of a healthcare system under stress.



**DIAGNOSTICS IN HEALTHCARE
CONGRESS**

**PTA-C/26: FROM INNOVATION TO IMPLEMENTATION
– TECHNOLOGY SHAPING TOMORROW'S STANDARD
OF CARE TODAY**

📅 **WEDNESDAY MAY 27 – THURSDAY MAY 28, 2026**

📍 **LANGHAM HOTEL SYDNEY, 89-113 KENT ST, MILLERS POINT**

PTA congress cont.

Coincidentally, or perhaps related, is the widely held view that Australia is falling behind in the adoption and funding of new technology and treatments. Importantly, there are no obvious efforts to move Australia's healthcare system from a reactive, sickness-based system to a proactive, wellness-based system - that is more predictive, preventative and personalised. This is the approach being progressively adopted in many like economies.

There has been no pan-healthcare discussion connecting these topics or discussing how to address this urgent threat, until PTA convened PTA-C/24. This congress is the first we know of that attracts healthcare stakeholders from across the board - patients to professionals, government to industry.

Building on the unique format, so successful in 2024 ([read the 2024 congress report on our website](#)), PTA-C/26 promises to take another penetrating look at how Australia moves our healthcare system to be more predictive, preventative and personalised.

The three key themes for examination in 2026 are:

Predict, Prevent and Personalise

How innovative diagnostics enable earlier detection, targeted prevention, and tailored care. An efficient and sustainable approach driving better outcomes for patients and systems alike.

Innovation in Motion

What it takes to deliver the right test to the right patient at the right time - in real-world, flexible, and decentralised settings.

The Value Fountain

Why the 'value of knowing' and other fundamental metrics must be central to healthcare decision-making. Exploring diagnostics as a cornerstone of value-based care.

You can register for this important opportunity and have your voice heard. Join the discussion by going to www.ptacongress.com.

PTA-C
PATHOLOGY
TECHNOLOGY
AUSTRALIA
CONGRESS 26

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
PANEL DISCUSSIONS
EXPERT INSIGHTS
CASE STUDIES
BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE
COCKTAIL NETWORKING
TECH WORKSHOPS



AI Webinar – exciting new development

PTA is delighted to share that following ongoing conversations with the Department of Health, Aged Care and Disability (DHAC), we will be partnering directly with the Department to shape and refine the content for our upcoming AI webinar series. This collaboration ensures that our feature series contains the most accurate, contemporary, and policy-aligned insights into how AI will be governed, deployed, and supported across Australia's health system. The Department has recognised PTA as a critical conduit between industry expertise and system-level policy, and they are committed to helping us deliver education that aligns with whole-of-government AI governance priorities.

As part of this partnership, DHAC has also generously agreed to participate in an exclusive, members-only Q&A session, creating a rare opportunity for our sector to ask direct questions, clarify policy direction, and engage meaningfully with the officials shaping Australia's approach to AI in healthcare. This session will facilitate proactive and ongoing collaboration between industry and policymakers and ensure that the voices of our members influence how this transformative technology enters the Australian market.

The webinar series itself will span three to four short, highly focused micro-sessions:

- the "black box" of AI
- emerging agentic capabilities
- the business models underpinning AI development
- the central role of data (including synthetic data)
- future trends driving rapid evolution in the field.

The live Q&A session will cap off the series, bringing together insights from earlier modules and tailoring discussion to member interests and will be available to members and associate members only. If you would like information on how to join the PTA member community, please reach out to ea@pathologytechnology.org.au

This series developed in partnership with the Department will equip our sector with the clarity, capability, and forward vision needed to confidently navigate the next wave of AI-enabled diagnostics.

Lesley-Anne Farmer

Expert Advisor on AI in Healthcare

Strategic consultant, AI Program Manager and software technologist, Lesley-Anne has worked with the World Health Organization and global AI research groups and is widely published in Nature, NEJM-AI, and Lancet Digital.

Lesley-Anne has advised government and organisations on AI education, standards, AI transparency and explainability, implications of AI for medical devices, consumers, evidence for AI products, and generative AI for clinicians.

Learn more about IVD via this informative video

Have you seen our sector-first comprehensive on-demand training?

If you would like a glimpse of what you will find in the Know IVD training program, click on the Know IVD icon to play the video.



Ready to get started?

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

Season's Greetings

This year seems to have gone by in the blink of an eye – such is the fast-paced world we now live in. Even more reason to stop when you can to reflect, reconnect and recharge.

It can be a tough time for some, especially if you draw the short straw at work, or if personal circumstances prevail.

For many it's a time to connect with family, friends and community. For others, its time for reflection, a good book or that TV series you haven't yet had time to binge.

Whatever your circumstance, the team at PTA wish you a happy and safe holiday and a healthy, prosperous 2026.

We will be closing the PTA office from 23rd of December and will reopen on 5th January.

With our very best wishes – Chami, Madeline and Dean

