



Get involved in National Pathology Week

Easy ways to take part



Introduction

National Pathology Week is delivered by the Pathology Alliance, a group of 10 organisations supporting pathologists, scientists, diagnostics companies and others working in pathology. Collectively, we welcome pathology-related events and activities of all sizes, and various formats (including online!).

The Royal College of Pathologists provides a range of online [resources](#) to help with planning and delivering great activities. You can [register your event](#) on their website, and they will help spread the word.

Other organisations in the Pathology Alliance have lots of useful background information on all the different specialty areas of pathology on their websites, the links to which can be found on the last page of this guide.

Why get involved in National Pathology Week?

There are many benefits to taking part in National Pathology Week, whether you work in pathology or simply have an interest in it.

Here are a just few:

- Gain new skills and give your CV a boost
- Raise the profile of pathology amongst non-pathologists including other medical professionals, patients, and the public
- Develop team bonds and strengthen internal relationships
- If you're a pathologist or scientist, it can help you think about your work and specialty from new perspectives.



Audiences and aims

Before you start planning your event or activity, it's a good idea to set some clear aims and objectives.

Think about:

- **Who you want to reach**

Define your audience; aiming to reach 'everyone' is usually unsuccessful!

- **What key messages you want to get across**

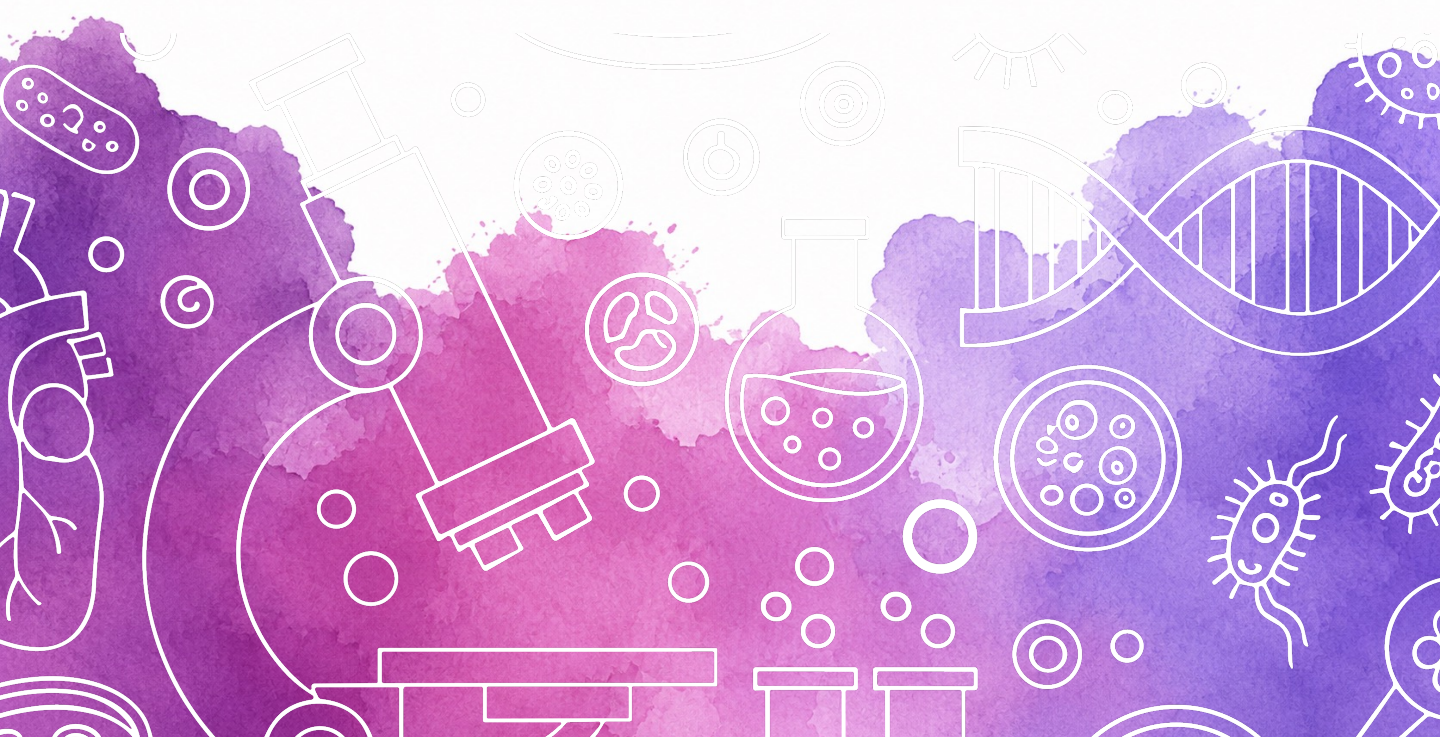
Choose three or four simple messages and stick to them

- **The outputs and outcomes you want to achieve**

Outputs are specific resources/ events/ activities/ materials that will help communicate your chosen messages. Outcomes are what the audience will learn, or gain an understanding of, as a result of participating in your event or activity

- **How you will measure your outcomes**

Consider how you'll know if you have achieved your aims, and who you will share your findings with – The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement has useful [guidance on evaluating public engagement](#).



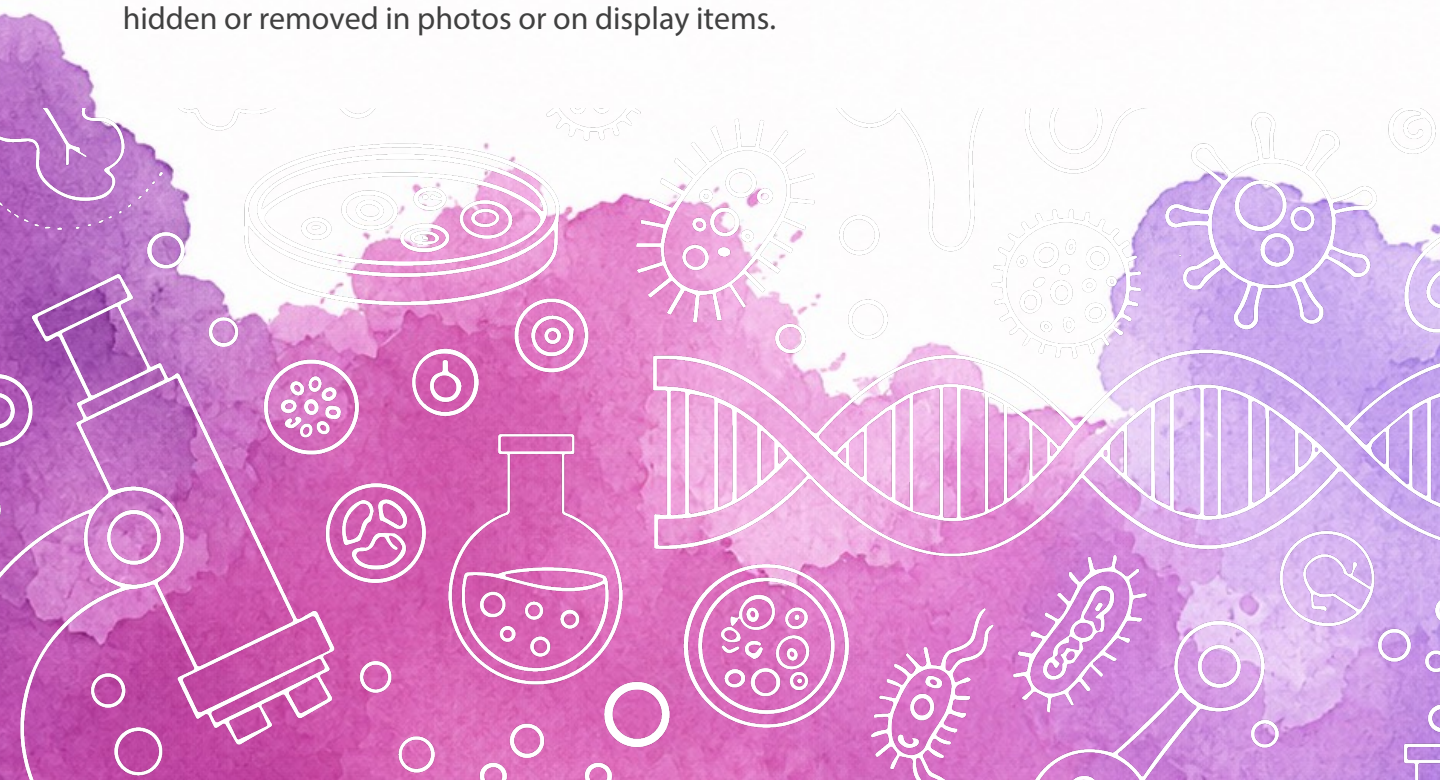
Welcome to the Lab

Ideas for NPW 2026

The theme for NPW 2026 is 'Welcome to the Lab' and we hope this provides lots of inspiration for sharing what you do during NPW; here are just a few ideas...

Set up a stand in your hospital and chat to people about what you do:

- Speak to your team and your Trust's communications department about working with them on a collaborative stand.
- You don't need lots of expensive equipment; a table and a couple of display boards will do! You can [order some of RCPATH's free branded materials](#) to give out to people and we also have ideas for simple activities and displays in our [activity resource area](#) and our event [organisers area](#).
- Why not put up some photos of your team in action in the lab on your stand? If you have any equipment and/or specimen examples from the lab you can have on display, these can offer great talking points. Remember to ensure any patient identifiers are hidden or removed in photos or on display items.



Organise lab tours for students or patients

- Speak to your lab manager/ team and recruit some volunteers to take on different aspects of the organising
- Limit groups to five to eight people so everyone can hear and see clearly.
- Remind visitors to wear closed-toe shoes, and tied-back hair in advance
- Remove or blur all patient identifiers on computer screens and physical paperwork.
- Ensure you have enough lab coats, safety glasses, and any other required health and safety clothing available for all visitors
- Promote via your local medical school, other relevant university department, or local patient group – you could use Microsoft Forms, Eventbrite or a similar free platform to manage visitor bookings.

Organise an activity or talk for your local school or youth group

National Pathology Week offers a great opportunity to make links with schools or youth/ family groups in your area.

- Contact your local [STEM Learning](#) team and consider signing up as a [STEM Ambassador](#). This can help you link up with schools in your region, and the STEM Ambassador registration and induction programme provides top tips and a DBS check
- Primary schools are usually keen to get guest speakers or activity facilitators in. If you've never run activities with groups of children before, watch the RCPATH's [Hands-on Activity video guides](#) and download their other [activity resources](#) for easy-to-follow, curriculum-linked ideas.
- Organise a discussion workshop or careers talk for secondary school students or undergraduates – these groups are always keen to find out about career options and training pathways and will enjoy hearing about your personal career journey. The RCPATH have some [video resources](#) about setting up a careers talk in a school offer a step-by-step guide.

Other quick ideas for getting involved

- Download and print off the RCPATH's pathology-themed colouring in resources, [Incredible You](#) – you could leave them in hospital waiting/ reception areas.
- Make a selfie video and post on social media - talking about your work and how it impacts patient care offers an easy way to reach people on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) – the RCPATH have a [top tips guide](#) to making selfie videos.
- If you're running an event, or attending one, please share your photos on social media and use #PathologyWeek and #WelcomeToTheLab

Useful links

Below are links to useful resources provided by the organisations in the Pathology Alliance that might help you with planning events, activities or online content for National Pathology Week.

The Royal College of Pathologists

- Visit the RCPa's activities resources page for a range of hands-on activity ideas for families, schools, and young people, such as [Discovering Cells](#) and our [Disease Detectives pack](#)
- [Request free NPW-branded materials for your events and activities](#)
- [Register your event so the RCPa can help promote it](#)
- [Visit the RCPa's public events listings to see if there are any events near you](#)
- Check out the [RCPa's YouTube channel](#), which includes a range of videos aimed at public audiences including [careers interviews](#) and [careers webinar recordings, activity guides](#) and [videos on how pathology tests help patients](#).
- Visit the [RCPa's careers pages](#), which cover all pathology specialties, including veterinary and oral and maxillofacial pathology.

Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI)

Association for Laboratory Medicine

Association of Clinical Pathologists

British Division of the International Academy of Pathology

British In Vitro Diagnostics Association

British Infection Association

British Society for Haematology

Pathological Society

Institute of Biomedical Science

The Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) has a range of information and resources to help parents, carers, teachers and careers advisers understand biomedical science as a career and support young people who are considering a career in the profession.

Explore how biomedical scientists contribute to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease on the IBMS's [Discover biomedical science page](#)

Hear directly from biomedical scientists about their roles, career journeys and experiences of working in the profession on the [Meet our members page](#).

Explore the IBMS's [Sample Journey resources](#) to find out what happens to patient samples after they are taken and the role biomedical science laboratory staff play in producing the results that support patient diagnosis and treatment.

IBMS members can **[order free leaflets and giveaways](#)** to support National Pathology Week activities and other public engagement events. You'll need to be logged in to the IBMS website to access the online order form.

[Find out how to become a biomedical scientist and Search for an IBMS Accredited degree](#)