



AAPT STRATEGY 2026-2030

Building a recognised, confident and future-focused profession

OUR VISION

To be the credible and respected expert voice for Anatomical Pathology Technology, protecting the public, supporting APTs and shaping the future of the profession.

OUR PURPOSE

AAPT exists to represent, develop and promote Anatomical Pathology Technology and to support high standards of professional practice, education, accountability and public protection.

1. Protect the public and strengthen professional regulation

We will continue to make the case for statutory professional regulation of APTs and work with Government, regulators and stakeholders to establish an effective route forward. We will promote clear professional characteristics, standards and accountability so that the public can have confidence in those working in mortuary and anatomical pathology services.

2. Develop a confident, recognised and professionally valued workforce

We will support APTs to develop throughout their careers through education, CPD, professional registration, assessment, recognition of prior learning, wellbeing support and clearer professional progression. We will continue to promote Science Council and Academy for Healthcare Science registration and strengthen opportunities for professional equivalence.

3. Shape the future of APT practice

We will support appropriately qualified and experienced APTs to contribute to enhanced and advanced roles. We will engage with relevant professional bodies and stakeholders to develop credible pathways linked to higher qualifications, while helping APTs respond positively to emerging technologies, changing policy and portfolio careers.

4. Lead knowledge, education and evidence

We will strengthen APT-led research, evidence-based practice and educational development. We will support links with further and higher education, encourage research governance and methods training, progress the development of higher qualifications, and develop and promote AAPT Best Practice Guidance.

5. Build a stronger, sustainable and effective AAPT

We will grow and engage our membership, strengthen Council structures and governance, develop sustainable sources of income and use technology effectively. We will ensure that AAPT has the capacity, resilience and clarity of responsibility needed to deliver an ambitious programme of work.

6. Be the credible and influential voice of APTs

We will strengthen engagement with Government, regulators, pathology organisations, professional bodies and other stakeholders. We will use media, social media, education and partnership working to raise the profile of APTs and communicate clearly about the contribution and value of the profession.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2026-2030

- Progress the case for statutory regulation and stronger public protection.
- Increase professional registration and support members through registration pathways.
- Strengthen trainee assessment, assessor development and consistency of assessment.
- Support advanced practice, expanded roles and progression through higher qualifications.
- Maintain and develop a strong CPD and educational offer, including CPDMe, the AEE, webinars, training and Read Test & Reflect.
- Develop AAPT Best Practice Guidance and promote evidence-based practice.
- Encourage APT-led research and stronger academic partnerships.
- Strengthen membership, governance, financial sustainability and Council resilience.
- Increase AAPT influence through engagement, partnerships and effective communication.

HOW WE WILL KNOW WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS

The strategy will be supported by a detailed delivery plan and reviewed annually by Council. Progress will be assessed against agreed actions, measures and milestones, with priorities refreshed where circumstances or opportunities change.

AAPT will continue to build on the achievements of more than two decades of professional activity while ensuring that the profession is prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the years ahead.