

# Healthcare Science Programme

February 2023 newsletter

## Programme update

Throughout the last few months, the Healthcare Science Programme team has been progressing activities towards meeting the ambitions set out in the Healthcare Science in NHS Wales Looking Forward Framework.

We would like to recognise the tremendous support that the programme has received from the healthcare science professions in Wales, despite significant challenges faced within frontline NHS services over the winter period. The programme team would like to express sincere thanks for the continued support and dedication from the healthcare science workforce in Wales through these challenging times.

The programme team has been working on a number of key projects, including:

- In 2022, the Healthcare Science Network developed and published the Consultant Clinical Scientist (CCS) Recommendations for NHS Wales and CCS Implementation Plan. A CCS group has met regularly to deliver the plan, including the provision of CCS spotlight sessions, resources, YouTube videos and website updates.
- An Electronic Staff Records (ESR) workforce data project has been established to develop clear guidance for correct coding of staff across Wales. This will ensure that ESR data for healthcare science professions in NHS Wales is both consistent and reliable. The project success is dependent on strong partnership working and collaboration with Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW), health boards, trusts and subject-matter experts for all healthcare science professions in Wales, including national programmes for imaging and pathology, in addition to workforce information professionals across Wales. Workshops are being held with a range of partners and implementation of the guidance with workforce information managers across Wales is anticipated to commence in April/May 2023.
- A digital pathway for Healthcare Science Careers is near completion and will be published across our platforms.

- A national campaign to recruit high calibre applications to our 2023 Scientist Training Programme placements including social media posts and YouTube “shorts”, updated webpages, coordinated planning and two live STP drop-in sessions which were attended by over 140 prospective applicants.
- A successful “Do They Know It’s Rehab” Christmas campaign was produced to promote the amazing work of allied health professionals and healthcare scientists who deliver rehabilitation services in NHS Wales. The social media posts increased engagement of up to 85%.

Following the development of working groups for Healthcare Science Workforce and Education, Quality and Safety, Research and Innovation and Service Transformation, programme activities have further accelerated the delivery of the Framework.

## Working group updates

### Healthcare Science Workforce and Education (WEG):

The WEG is an internal HEIW working group which brings together education, commissioning, placement and quality leads from across the organisation to monitor and develop a range of actions around education commissioning for undergraduates, postgraduates and the advanced and consultant workforce, work-based learning and apprenticeships developments, career pathways, placement principles and much more.

### Healthcare Science Research and Innovation (RIG)

The RIG has:

- developed and published a five-year **Vision for Wales for Healthcare Science Research and Innovation**
- strengthened partnerships with a range of key stakeholders for research and innovation
- benefitted from presentations from key partners within the industry including Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW)
- increased awareness of research funding opportunities for healthcare scientists in Wales through regular communication and promotion of opportunities
- made progress towards understanding the research capability and capacity for healthcare science professions in Wales, including identifying opportunities to gather data and improve research data coding
- progressing discussions with directors of therapies and health sciences with regards to ensuring research is included within job plans.

### Healthcare Science Service Redesign and Transformation Group (STG):

The STG has benefitted from a number of topical presentations from programmes such as Value in Health, A Regional Collaboration for Health (ARCH) and Improvement Cymru which have highlighted key opportunities. The group has made a significant effort to identify and promote service transformation opportunities to the healthcare

science profession in Wales, and continues to strengthen relationships with key partners to ensure this promotion and collaborative working is continued. The programme team is also seeking to build an understanding of the healthcare science professions' access to quality improvement training.

### Healthcare Science Quality and Safety Group (QSG):

Supported by health boards in Wales, the QSG is currently undertaking an audit of service accreditation and professional registration across NHS Wales. The aim of this activity is to understand the current position in Wales and identify key opportunities and barriers. The group has also identified an opportunity to standardise approaches to monitoring professional registration for healthcare science professions in Wales.

## Staff news

**Name:** Cerys Davies  
**Role:** Workforce Transformation Research Analyst  
**Team:** Healthcare Science Programme Team



**Bio:** I recently started in November 2022 and I am thrilled to be a part of the Healthcare Science Programme team. Prior to joining the team here at HEIW, I was an MSc Clinical Psychology student at the University of South Wales. I have always had a strong passion for learning and research, and I am delighted that I can now use my skills and knowledge to help transform the workforce in healthcare science. In addition to my degree, I took part in a research internship with the University's Criminology department this year; this has helped me develop my research skills further and apply them to different disciplines.

I am new to the world of healthcare science and eager to learn all about the profession; I am excited to be working on projects to transform the healthcare science profession in Wales!

**Interests:** Outside of work I enjoy spending quality time with my friends and family. As mentioned previously, I enjoy learning, so I am currently learning Welsh (dw i'n dysgu Cymraeg!). I am a lover of the outdoors and enjoy visiting the local nature reserves and hiking with my partner. I also have a strong passion for animals, and while I wish I could have many more, I currently have a pet cat and two rats!



**Important - save the date!**



### Healthcare Science Cymru Conference 2023

We can confirm that Healthcare Science Cymru 2023 will be a full day event in Cardiff on Monday 13 March 2023. Please save the dates in your diaries and share widely.

### The Advancing Healthcare Awards 2023

The Advancing Healthcare Awards is a unique awards programme which crosses boundaries and fosters partnership working. It is open to allied health professionals, healthcare scientists, and those who work alongside them in support roles.

Key Dates:

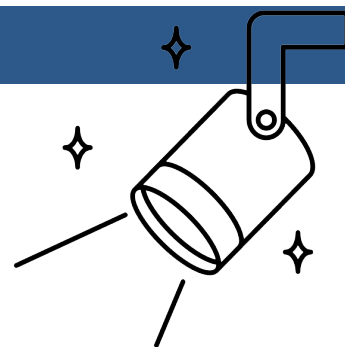
- Virtual judging panels: w/c 27 February and w/c 6 March 2023
- Awards lunch and ceremony in London: 21 April 2023

Please visit: [United Kingdom - Advancing Healthcare Awards \(ahawards.co.uk\)](https://ahawards.co.uk)

## Healthcare science spotlight sessions 2022

We would like to thank all colleagues who attended our Healthcare Science Consultant Clinical Scientist Spotlight Sessions in 2022.

Further spotlight sessions will be announced shortly for the year ahead!



If you were unable to make any of the sessions, all of our spotlight sessions are uploaded to our [Healthcare Science YouTube](#) playlist. You can also find our animated CV and a variety of videos from our healthcare science colleagues.

## Meet the scientist

The NHS has a strong tradition of nurturing the brightest and best healthcare scientists. We are so proud to celebrate the fantastic scientists we have working day-in-day-out to deliver high quality care for all.







**Chloe George:**  
**Head of Blood Component Development and Lead Scientist in Transfusion Medicine,**  
**Welsh Blood Service, Velindre University NHS Trust,**  
**AHA Scientist of the Year 2022.**

### **My job role as a healthcare scientist:**

To perform research and development on new ways of manufacturing blood components to maximise positive patient outcomes from transfusion. As the lead scientist for our organisation, I provide specialist advice on provision of blood components for patients and for testing and manufacturing procedures.



### **What I enjoy about my job:**

I really enjoy the multi-disciplinary aspects of my job. Such as working with colleagues in different roles and specialisms across the NHS and I am a big advocate of collaborative leadership. Every day is different, and I feel that my work makes a difference to patients' lives.

### **How did you get into your role?**

I have a BSc degree in Biochemistry from Warwick and started to work as a trainee biomedical scientist for the Welsh Blood Service when I left university. Once qualified I spent a few years working in the different laboratories, giving myself a broad grounding in my specialism whilst doing a part time MSc degree in Biomedical Science. Following this, I worked in laboratory management roles whilst leading on scientific projects. And I then applied for equivalence and became a clinical scientist and entered the doctoral Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) programme.

If you are interested in a career in healthcare science, visit the Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) website where you can find information regarding the 50+ disciplines available and routes of access:

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/transformation/healthcare-science-cymru/>.

## **News alert**

To promote the amazing work that our healthcare scientists do, please get involved by completing our 'Meet the Scientist' form [here](#).

Alternatively, you can get in touch with the team on [HEIW.HCS@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:HEIW.HCS@wales.nhs.uk)



[@HCS\\_Cymru](#) / [@GGI\\_Cymru](#)



## Good news stories

### Congratulations to all AHA nominees and award winners!

The nominees for Advancing Healthcare Awards (AHA) Cymru 2022 have now been announced, which include the following healthcare scientists:



- Healthcare Scientist of the Year – Chloe George (Clinical Scientist, Welsh Blood Service), Justine Challis (Genetic Technologist, All Wales Medical Genomics Service (AWMGS)), Eleanor Blaxland (Vascular Scientist, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB))
- Award for Outstanding Achievement by an Apprentice, Support Worker, Assistant or Associate – Michelle Apostol (Associate Clinical Technologist, CVUHB)
- Award for Improving Public Health Outcomes – Hospital Services team, Welsh Blood Service
- Award for New Ways of Working – Lucy Mills (Principal Treatment Planning Healthcare Scientist, Velindre Cancer Centre)
- Award for Compassionate Leadership and Change Management – Holly Lewis (Senior Clinical Scientist, AWMGS)

This follows a month of many award winners across our professional areas. We would also like to congratulate:

- Prof Chris Hopkins (Clinical Engineering, Hywel Dda University Health Board (H DUHB)) for winning the NHS England CSO Excellence in Research and Innovation in Healthcare Science Award
- Dr Emma Rees (Cardiac Physiology, Swansea University), who was awarded the Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) Health Research Fellowship
- At the British Academy of Audiology 2022 conference, Anne Lincoln (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB)) was awarded the Jos Millar Shield, Paul Stokes (Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB)) was awarded Paediatric Audiologist of the Year and Jack Allum (SBUHB) was awarded the first David Baguley Award
- The Community Cardiac Physiology team in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) won the NHS Wales Award for Improving Health and Wellbeing
- A collaboration between Welsh Blood Service, Public Health Wales, SBUHB and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) was nominated for the NHS Wales Award for Providing Services in Partnership across NHS Wales

### Well done to all!



# Congratulations

Congratulations to Linor Llywd Jones for an excellent article in December's Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) newsletter. Following her presentation on this to the Healthcare Science Network, Linor has submitted this article to the All-Wales Audiology Preceptorship programme, now published.

For the full edition and details of how to submit your articles on improvements, opportunities or perspectives, the link is:

<https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/news-events/vox-healthcare-science-newsletter/vox-archive/>

## Exciting news - digital work



Over the last couple of months, the Healthcare Science Programme team has been working closely with the HEIW Digital team and the healthcare science professions across NHS Wales to develop promotional materials which reflect the breadth of roles and careers of the healthcare science profession in Wales.

We have created ten new digital avatars to represent the five healthcare science disciplines of Imaging Science, Bioinformatics, Life Sciences, Physical Science/Biomedical Engineering and Physiological Sciences. We have also created five new job profiles which showcase all healthcare scientists across NHS Wales!

We are delighted to announce that these are now completed, and we would love to share them with you. High quality versions of these can be downloaded and used within your own health boards and trusts for promotional activities and other imagery.

Please contact [HEIW.HCS@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:HEIW.HCS@wales.nhs.uk) and we will send a download link.

Thank you all!

## Do They Know It's Rehab Campaign - December 2022

Our Project Support Officer, Ellie Claridge, has been supporting the Allied Health Professional Programme team within HEIW to manage the "Do They Know It's Rehab" campaign that launched over social media in December 2022.

"Do They Know It's Rehab?" ran in December 2022 and showcased some of the ways which AHP's are having an impact in rehabilitation services, through short blogs and videos of AHP's and people working alongside.



A special thank you to all the healthcare scientists who supported the campaign, and the HEIW Communications team.

If you are interested in the campaign, please visit the link below to view some of the excellent stories:

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/news/ahps-launch-do-they-know-its-rehab-campaign>

## Promote Healthcare Science

We continue to work with the profession to raise the profile of healthcare science in NHS Wales and enable the vision of “one voice” approach. To this aim, please do use the **Communication Toolkit** infographic and animated CV for your purposes.

We are eager to reach as many members of the 50+ professions which make up our healthcare science community in Wales as possible. Please encourage colleagues to get involved by:

- visiting our **webpage**
- following us on social media: @HCS\_Cymru / #HCS\_Cymru
- signing up to our **mailing list**
- completing our ‘**Job Profile**’ questionnaire.

Our team can also be contacted directly at: [HEIW.HCS@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:HEIW.HCS@wales.nhs.uk).

