

Healthcare Science Programme

September 2021 Newsletter

Programme News

Last year, we asked our healthcare science workforce to provide data on innovation and new ways of working to support healthcare science (HCS) deployment during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response. We are pleased to announce that the NHS Wales COVID-19 Innovation and Transformation Study report launched on 23 June. Our healthcare science workforce contributed to a number of case studies that were analysed as a whole chapter in this report. You can read the full report via the [NHS Welsh Confederation](#).

Following the consultation of the Neurophysiology Service Specification, a paper has been presented to the Collaborative Executive Group inviting them to approve the model service specification and commend it for formal adoption by individual health boards in Wales. A workshop has been organised for 2 November to bring together colleagues to develop a clinically informed action plan and identify the implications associated with adopting the Service Specification. You can [sign up for the workshop now via Eventbrite](#).

Terms of Reference have been drafted for a Clinical Scientist, Operating Department Practitioner and Biomedical Scientist Patient Group Directions Task & Finish Group. The purpose of this group will be to consider the steps necessary to successfully implement the use of Patient Group Directions by these professions in Wales, once UK approvals are in place.

We have been working closely with the Made in Wales team in Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) to assist with the development of career pathways for healthcare science. Initial drafts are being developed for Pathology and this will be used as a template to inform other areas of healthcare science. The pathways will show clear career progression from Healthcare Science Associate through to a Director of Therapies and Health Science. We have also been working with the Communications and Careers team within HEIW to assist with the development of Careersville. Careersville will launch on 21 October and we are excited to showcase our HCS colleagues across Wales who have provided us with video content, blogs and images.





We have some exciting programme team news! We have appointed Lauren Howells to the role of Learning Technologist. Lauren

previously worked in the Planning team in HEIW and will now be assisting the National Healthcare Science Programme with digital support as part of her role. Lauren has experience in the creation of

digital content and her unique skillset will be an amazing addition to the programme to assist with events support, content creation and the enhancement of existing resources into digital resources. Finally, we celebrate two years of Samantha Cook in her post as Senior Project Support Officer for the National Healthcare Science Programme. Sam joined the programme team in September 2019 having worked in various roles in the NHS. She has seen the programme grow from a small team of two in the NHS Wales Health Collaborative, into a team that's fully integrated with the wider HEIW team with excellent engagement from our wider healthcare science community.

Animated CV & communications toolkit

In our last newsletter, we introduced you to our Healthcare Science Careers Infographic. This month, we are excited to announce the launch of our Animated CV to promote the opportunities available in healthcare science. The animation explains, in simple terms, the breadth of healthcare science across NHS Wales. It covers areas including careers routes into the 50+ disciplines and summarises each of the five professional groups within the field. You can [watch the full video here](#).

The Animated CV is an addition to our expanding [communications toolkit](#) and will accompany the [Healthcare Science Careers Infographic](#) and new [Healthcare Science YouTube Playlist](#) on the HEIW YouTube Channel. Since we released the Animated CV, the video has received over 37,000 impressions on Twitter and has been shared from colleagues across the UK.

As with the infographic, this resource has been co-produced with our Healthcare Science Communications & Engagement Group, Healthcare Science Network Board, Directors of Therapies and Health Sciences and a

number of colleagues from across HEIW. A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in the creation of these resources, we really appreciate your input into this work.

You can find the [news release of the Animated CV](#) via the HEIW website.

Please share with your colleagues, networks, families and friends – shout from the rooftops about the brilliant work and the incredible breadth of healthcare scientists and the impact you have on the wider health system.



IPEM President's Gold Medal for exceptional service during the COVID-19 pandemic

*Some of this article was originally posted on [Swansea Bay UHB website](#)



The Non-Ionising Radiation Team at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff, and the Medical Device Training Team at Morriston Hospital have both been awarded the IPEM President's Gold

Medal for exceptional service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The award for the Non-Ionising Radiation Team reflects the team's hard work, flexibility, resilience and performance of the highest standard in adapting service delivery, whilst also being under extreme clinical pressures and uncertainty, to maintain urgent COVID-19 and non-COVID vascular imaging.

"Everyone has played their part. I'm very proud of the way everyone in the team has pulled together and the service we have provided during the last year and a half. A huge thank you and well done to you all!" Dr Kate Bryant - Head of Non-Ionising Radiation, Cardiff & Vale UHB.

The Medical Device training team had a considerable impact on improving patient care, demonstrating excellence and leadership over the past 16 months. There were three key areas where the team demonstrated excellence and innovative ways of working:

- Essential Skills (Back to the Floor) which involved training for retired nurses and operating department practitioners, second-year students, doctors in training, community staff and those returning to work, in areas such as intra-venous (IV) therapy, donning and doffing PPE, oxygen prescribing and safety.
- A new IV Hub set up in the new temporary Intensive Care Unit (ITU) 28 bed area in Morriston. The project saw redeployed staff trained to draw-up and prepare intra-venous infusions ready for the mammoth task of treating very sick COVID-19 patients in ITU settings.
- A training session around medical gas and oxygen safety prescribing. This course became the most attended session, with the team travelling far and wide to ensure that staff supervising and caring for patients that needed oxygen therapy were also included in the new updated training.



“None of this would have been possible without the help, input and support from a range of staff including Claire Devine and Jennifer Thomas from the medical device training team, colleagues from nurse education and training, corporate nursing, the Liberty Stadium staff and, of course, all those staff and volunteers who answered the call and signed up to help and assist our patients during these unprecedented times. This Gold medal rewards a real team effort.” Paul Lee - Medical Devices Training Manager, Swansea Bay UHB.

The awards ceremony will be held online at the Medical Physics and Engineering Conference (MPEC) from the 21 – 23 September where the teams will make a 10-minute presentation about their exceptional contribution to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Gold Medal winners will also be featured in the December 2021 issue of SCOPE – the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) members magazine.

Congratulations to both teams on this prestigious and well-deserved award!

First IPEM PHD in Work Bursary Awarded

*This article was originally posted on the [IPEM website](#)

The first recipient of a new PhD in Work bursary from IPEM has been announced.

The new bursary, introduced in 2021, is to help students wanting to undertake a part-time PhD in an IPEM-related field of interest at a UK university or research institute. The funding will cover the fees only, up to £5,000 per year for a maximum of five years, and no research costs or living expenses are included.

Belinda Gorell is a Clinical Scientist in the Radiation Protection Service at Velindre University NHS Trust, Cardiff.



Belinda said ‘I’m delighted and grateful to receive this prestigious award from IPEM. It will enable me to undertake research on developing an evidence-based approach to neonatal and paediatric radiation dose optimisation methods, a field which I am passionate about.

‘I am incredibly excited to begin this journey with the support of my supervisors Dr Nicolas Courtier, Professor Daniel Kelly, Professor William Evans and Dr Matthew Talboys. I am very grateful to IPEM for this opportunity and I look forward to starting the PhD.’

Read more about Belinda’s project on [the IPEM website](#).

Congratulations Belinda!

Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists All Wales Conference & Awards 2021 - A Healthier Wales: Moving Forward Together



The Welsh Allied Health Professions Committee (WAHPC) and the Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee (WSAC) will be holding a virtual one-day conference on 25 November 2021. There has been a wealth of innovation during the pandemic, which has been rightly celebrated. This is an opportunity to showcase the achievements of the workforce. You can find out more information via the [AHA Website](#).

The Advancing Healthcare Awards are back for 2021 and will be held on Friday 26 November 2021. The awards programme is open to all those working in allied health professions and healthcare

science throughout Wales, recognising and celebrating the achievements of both professions.

There are eight awards to enter:

- the award for new ways of working
- the award for improving public health outcomes
- the award for outstanding contribution to research delivery
- the award for leadership and change/management
- the award for outstanding student project which helps Wales move forward together
- the award for excellence in rehabilitation
- the award for digital and technology innovation
- the award for outstanding achievement by an AHP or healthcare science apprentice, support worker, assistant or associate

The winners will be announced at the virtual ceremony on 26 November – we are excited to hear all about your contributions this year!

Healthcare Science Spotlight Session

On 23 June, the National Healthcare Science Programme Team hosted a Spotlight Session titled “Looking forward to the year ahead”. We gave an update on the work that the Programme Team are undertaking during 2021/2022, celebrated WINGS as winners from the Advancing Healthcare Awards, and heard from Dr Rob Orford on the Welsh Government priorities for healthcare science going forward.

The session was recorded and is now available on our [YouTube playlist](#).

We are pleased to announce that we are going to be hosting Spotlight Sessions throughout 2021/22 and will focus on a topic area for each session. They will also be recorded and uploaded to our healthcare science webpages on the HEIW website for anyone who is unable to make the live event.



SAVE THE DATE

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE SCIENCE PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT SESSION

23 JUNE 2021 10:00 - 11:00

Join us as we:

- Begin "Looking Forward" to the year ahead for the Healthcare Science Programme
- Celebrate our Advancing Healthcare Awards Winners - WINGS
- Hear about the Welsh Government's priorities for Healthcare Science



The dates for the upcoming sessions and Eventbrite links for tickets are below:

- **NHS Wales COVID-19 Innovation and Transformation Study Report**

Monday 11 October 14:00 – 15:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/167421806129>

- **Healthcare Science Equivalence in Wales**

Wednesday 17 November 10:00 – 11:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/167425697769>

- **Leadership in Healthcare Science**

Wednesday 19 January 10:00 – 11:00

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/167426648613>

We're looking forward to seeing you at the sessions, sign up now!

Meet the Healthcare Scientist

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

Amy Osbourne is a Biomedical Support Worker in Virology at Public Health Wales. Read about Amy's healthcare science journey so far below:

Tell us about your healthcare science discipline?

I work in the Virology team of the Microbiology department of Public Health Wales. Currently, I exclusively work with COVID-19 tests. I unpack the samples that arrive, which can be inpatient tests for hospital admissions/surgery or tests from community testing centres, label the samples with barcodes so that the tests can be tracked throughout their time in the lab, and then prepare the samples for testing by the biomedical scientists. The team consists of Biomedical Support Workers, Associate Practitioners, Trainee Biomedical Scientists, Biomedical Scientists and Senior Biomedical Scientists – we all play a vital role in ensuring the tests are carried out efficiently. I also provide support to the Serology and Chlamydia teams as a part of my role – usually in the form of administrative work such as scanning test request forms or storing samples.



What do you enjoy about your job?

I enjoy the teamwork that is involved as it means that we develop a strong relationship with each other. I also like the fact that I am playing a small role in the running of the hospital, I appreciate that there is a patient relying on this test and it motivates me to always keep focused.

What are your career ambitions?

I would like to either secure a Trainee Biomedical Scientist role within Microbiology and work up to being a Senior Biomedical Scientist, or secure a place on the Scientist Training Program and train to be a Clinical Scientist in Clinical Microbiology.

How did you get here?

I studied A-Levels in Biology, Physical Education and History. I then went through clearing to gain a place at Cardiff Metropolitan University on the BSc in Biomedical Sciences with Health, Exercise and Nutrition course. After my first year I transferred to the IMBS accredited BSc in Biomedical Science course, on which I am still currently studying.

What sort of person would your job role suit?

My job would suit someone who is interested in science, is compassionate and motivated by the thought that these tests are important to the patients, someone who is able to work well under pressure and is able to adapt quickly to new pressures, and someone who wants to work as a part of a large team within a hospital setting.

Let's shout out from the rooftops about the amazing work that you do. If you would like to get involved in our 'Meet the Scientist' section, please get in touch with Sam on samantha.cook3@wales.nhs.uk.

We need your help!

We are still looking for individuals from across healthcare science in Wales to participate in our job profiles survey. The purpose of the questionnaire is to collect a variety of 'job profiles' outlining the following:

- the variety of disciplines in healthcare science
- the different levels of career progression
- the different routes in education and training that lead to becoming a healthcare scientist
- an insight into the different job roles and responsibilities of a variety of individuals.

These profiles will be used in a number of ways to promote healthcare science and showcase the amazing work of our professions.

[Complete your job profile here](#) and check out some of the fantastic job profiles that we have received from colleagues across all healthcare sciences disciplines on [our webpages](#).

Wales Health Student Forum membership

The Wales Health Student Forum (WHSF) is a multidisciplinary forum comprising of pre-registration students from healthcare courses being delivered in Wales, with a passion for shaping the learning experiences for current and future students.

The WHSF is open to all healthcare students and empowers 'students to support students'.

Join the Forum by filling in the following form, [Wales Health Student Forum registration](#) or by scanning this QR code.



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