

Healthcare Science Programme

March 2020 Newsletter

Introduction from Dr Rob Orford, Senior Responsible Officer for the National Healthcare Science Programme

On 23 March 2018, the Welsh Government, with the support of NHS Wales, published the Healthcare Science in NHS Wales – Looking Forward Framework. The Framework is endorsed by the Minister for Health and Social Care and describes a number of activities that are designed to lead Healthcare Science in NHS Wales into the future, and embrace the opportunities within ‘A Healthier Wales’, our long term plan for health and social care.

‘Looking Forward’ sets out our vision and direction of travel for the healthcare science workforce in Wales. In delivering the ambitions of the framework, we will work collaboratively with our rich and diverse range of healthcare science professions (50+) under the leadership of our Executive Directors or Therapies and Health Sciences, enabling NHS Wales to be safer, more sustainable, innovative and provide increased value for the citizens of Wales. Also we will showcase Healthcare Science as a rewarding career choice, working at the edge of science to improve patient care across a range of disciplines and clinical pathways.

I look forward to sharing updates on the programme, including how you can help to shape the future of healthcare science in Wales. Our talented healthcare science workforce are key to the transformation of NHS Wales, and are central to the delivery of high quality care. Together we will unlock the potential of Healthcare Science – “Delivering Tomorrow, Today”.
post and the successful applicant will be joining us shortly. We want to take this opportunity to thank the healthcare science workforce for their support in disseminating the job description and we look forward to sharing the news of the new appointment in the next newsletter.



Meet the Healthcare Science Programme team



Dr Delia Ripley

Senior Programme Manager
for Healthcare Science
Programme



Dee joined the team from Cardiff Metropolitan University, where she held the position of Reader in Healthcare Science. Dee is a HCPC registered Biomedical Scientist whose past responsibilities include the training and education of healthcare scientists in the life sciences division, alongside the implementation and management of the BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science Practitioner Training Programme.



Maria Edwards

Programme Manager
for Healthcare Science
Programme



Maria joined the team in December from her senior management post at Mirus Wales as Practice Development & Innovation Manager where Maria successfully managed a range of projects working towards delivering the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act. Maria has also worked as the National Diabetes Lead on all aspects of diabetes education working with Welsh Government, Secondary and Primary Care, Public Health Wales and the third sector.



Samantha Cook

Senior Project Support Officer
for Healthcare Science
Programme



Sam has been in post since September and joined the team as Senior Project Support Officer. Her previous role was located in Cardiff and Vale UHB where Sam was a Medical Education Assistant responsible for the co-ordination of student medical placements and teaching sessions, and delivery of the C21 Curriculum. Sam has a degree in Educational Psychology and has worked within the NHS since 2017.

Engagement sessions - next steps

A number of engagement sessions have taken place across Wales to raise awareness amongst scientific staff across Wales in the 'Healthcare Science in NHS Wales – Looking Forward Framework'.

Your involvement in these sessions has been instrumental in highlighting current issues and prioritising key areas of work for the Healthcare Science Programme. Each quarter we will update you on our progress and outline next steps.

Your continued contribution will be fundamental to help us drive forward the ambitions within the framework.



Leadership



The award winning Practical Skills for Professional Education and Leadership (PSEL) programme is an interactive, experiential programme developed to equip and empower healthcare scientists with the relevant leadership knowledge and skills. It is a four-day intensive programme aimed at those responsible for developing their workforce. We are collaborating with the team to review the

content and ensure suitability for healthcare science (HCS) in Wales, with a view to rolling out delivery in Summer 2020.

Raising the profile of the Healthcare Scientist

With the help of healthcare scientists, NHS staff, members of the public and patients, we are using our platforms to raise the profile of the healthcare science community in Wales.

There isn't currently a dedicated website for HCS in Wales. The vision is to have a public facing element and a secure (sign in) domain for HCS to join discussions, and get involved with strategic initiatives, policy direction, and engagement and also to share opportunities such as jobs, research and innovation opportunities. We have explored options for creating a website with both NWIS and external suppliers. Work is ongoing to make good progress in 2020 and we will share the developments as they happen!

We have been in discussions with Techniquet who are leading on the 'STEM Ambassador Programme' on behalf of See Science. They are very keen to work with us and we will be collaborating on some events during the summer. In addition, we are working with Glyn-Gaer Primary School filming pupils asking our Healthcare Scientists a few ad-hoc questions. The videos that are produced from this will be shared on Twitter as part of Healthcare Science Week, and used at future events. This will be a pilot school and we hope to roll out the engagement to more schools across Wales in the future.

If you have any ideas for future activities that we can engage with to create content for our website and social media platforms, please get in touch!

Developing the role of the Healthcare Scientist in Neurophysiology



A key action of the framework is to develop the role of the healthcare scientist to enable an increased contribution to clinical delivery in areas of acute demand. This will also serve to enhance career progression for healthcare scientists, and give workforce recruitment and retention in the area a much needed boost! The HCS team have been working with Neurophysiology colleagues to develop a service specification that will allow healthcare scientists to have a reporting function, thereby addressing some of the service pressures that are currently being faced by this workforce group.

Medical devices

We have engaged with ClinEng to assist with ensuring compliance with new medical device regulations across all relevant disciplines. Quality Management Systems (QMS) will be put into place to ensure compliance in Clinical Engineering and related areas across the whole of NHS Wales. A report is currently being compiled by ClinEng on the progress that has been made thus far.

Award success



The inaugural conference for Allied Health Professionals (AHP), Healthcare Scientists and Pharmacists took place on 26th November 2019 in Mercure Holland House Hotel in Cardiff showcasing the exciting and innovating work happening across NHS Wales highlighting the value of person centred care.

The Advancing Healthcare Awards Wales evening was equally successful with Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AM opening the evening. Several key achievements for our Healthcare Scientists were awarded to the following:

- Healthcare Scientist of the Year: Clive Morgan, CAVUHB
- Award for Making Every Day Count: Swansea Bay Neurophysiology Department
- Outstanding Contribution to Research Delivery: Edward Guy, PHW
- Healthcare Science Lifetime Achievement Award: Annette Thomas, CAVUHB
- Congratulations to all of the winners, and to everyone who was shortlisted - the stories shared were inspiring to all.



Opportunities



We have started engaging with academia, third sector and other colleagues within the health sector to promote Healthcare Science. Healthcare Science Week (6th - 13th March) is fast approaching, let us know what you're doing and we can feature you in our newsletter or as part of our social media campaign!

We would love help from you and your wider teams, and are looking for the following:

- volunteers willing to be filmed for social media
- volunteers to attend events
- volunteers to talk at primary schools – 'meet the healthcare scientist'
- any interactive resources that can be used for a stall/stand at an event.

We are looking to create interactive content for our social media using videos to promote both Healthcare Science as a whole, and what each of you do in your individual disciplines. Our Healthcare Science workforce are transforming the experience and outcomes for people in Wales...let's shout it from the rooftops!

Contact: samantha.cook3@wales.nhs.uk to register your interest.

Future events

The Healthcare Science Programme Team will be attending the following events:

We would love some of you to come along and help out - you are the experts!



Wednesday 11th - Thursday 12th March 2020

Science in Health LIVE! University Hospital
Wales, Cardiff



Wednesday 6th May 2020

Genomics Showcase
City Hall, Cardiff