

Healthcare Science Programme

March 2021 Newsletter

Programme news

We have been supporting the All-Wales Neurophysiology Group, comprising of both medically qualified Consultant Neurophysiologists and Clinical Neurophysiologists, to coproduce a service specification to address some of the acute staff shortages, by enabling healthcare scientists to give an increased contribution towards clinical delivery. The Clinical Neurophysiology Service Specification consultation period ran from 25 January – 22 February 2021. The group will be meeting in April 2021 to review the feedback and agree next steps.

You may remember that we asked our healthcare science (HCS) workforce to provide data on innovation and new ways of working to support healthcare science deployment during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response. The thematic analysis of the healthcare science survey data is well underway, and our dedicated chapter will feature in the NHS Wales COVID-19 Innovation and Transformation Study Report launching this March... watch this space.

It's here! We are very excited to bring the Practical Skills in Leadership and Education (PSEL) programme to Wales this month. 16 healthcare scientists will embark on this four-day interactive, experiential programme followed by a programme of half day action learning sets to promote peer collaboration and professional networking. Thank you to everyone who applied, we had an excellent response.

Whilst we are on the topic of leadership, all of our workforce can access [Gwella](#), the bi-lingual leadership portal for NHS Wales which offers a wide range of compassionate leadership and management resources curated from The King's Fund, Open University and colleagues across the other UK nations.

We are excited to announce that we are in the process of recruiting to the Head of Science Transformation 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.

Healthcare Science Week 2021

This year, Healthcare Science Week ran from 5 - 14 March 2021 and we had a very busy week. We were able to showcase YOU, our amazing workforce, and the incredible work that you do every day. You can catch up on the week via the [@HCS_Cymru](#) and [@HEIW_NHS](#) Twitter pages where we shared job profiles, videos and blog posts from a number of healthcare science disciplines across Wales.

Lots of outreach and engagement events took place during the week for us to inspire the next generation of healthcare scientists and

showcase healthcare science as a rewarding and vital career. We had interactive exhibits at Science in Health LIVE with Cardiff University on 10 March 2021 and Teen Tech Health Session on 12 March 2021.

We hosted our first webinar during Healthcare Science Week to celebrate the contribution of our amazing healthcare science workforce in the NHS. We had a great line-up and this is the start of quarterly webinars hosted by the programme team.

Healthcare Science Programme Webinar

10 March 2021, 10:30am - 12:30pm



Event line-up

- Dr Rob Orford, Chief Scientific Adviser (Welsh Government)**
Overview of his work and next steps for Wales.
- Dr Delia Ripley, Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser (Welsh Government)**
How the healthcare science workforce has stepped up during the pandemic.
- Tom James, Assistant Director - Innovation (Aneurin Bevan UHB)**
Shining a spotlight on healthcare science - NHS Innovation and Transformation Study Report.
- HEIW Careers Team**
Introducing 'Careersville'
- Michael West**
Compassionate Leadership

Healthcare science equivalence funding

We recently conducted a survey to follow up on the experiences of healthcare scientists who were allocated equivalence funding to progress their training and development in their dedicated healthcare science discipline. We have received a good response to this survey and have collated the data to assess the impact of the investment provided to staff on their personal and professional development.

If you have received equivalence funding from HEIW during 2020/2021 and have not participated in this survey, please contact Samantha.cook3@wales.nhs.uk who will send you a link to the survey.

Applications for funding for healthcare scientists and support staff employed by NHS Wales to undertake the equivalence process will open on 1 April 2021. This is the third year that the funding has been offered to NHS Wales scientific staff and you can apply by requesting an application form from the HEIW webpages - <https://heiw.nhs.wales/news/application-for-equivalence-funding-for-the-nhs-wales-healthcare-scientific-workforce/>.

The vital role of healthcare scientists during the COVID-19 pandemic



The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge for the NHS and the entire UK population, and our healthcare scientists have been working tirelessly to support the pandemic in many different ways. Chris Hopkins (Head of Clinical Engineering, Hywel Dda UHB) and Hannah Hunt (Unit Manager, Lung Function Department, Cardiff &

Vale UHB) highlight the challenges of their work over the last year in this recent news article - [‘The vital role of healthcare scientists during the Covid-19 pandemic’](#).

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

To mark International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021, the National Healthcare Science Programme and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) celebrated the outstanding achievements of the women that we have working in healthcare science in Wales.

You can find videos and interviews from some of these inspiring women on the [HEIW website](#).

Healthcare science honours and awards

We recently conducted a survey to follow up on the experiences of healthcare scientists. It’s been a busy year for healthcare science and we are proud to see our colleagues recognised for the incredible work that they do. Congratulations and well deserved to all.

One name we must mention is Dr Fiona Jenkins who was awarded an MBE for services to healthcare in the New Year’s honours list. Fiona is the Executive Director for Therapies and Health Science (Cardiff & Vale UHB) and Interim Executive Director of Therapies and Health Science (Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB) and has worked closely with the healthcare science

programme team as part of the All-Wales Neurophysiology Group, contributing to the creation of the Clinical Neurophysiology Service Specification.

You can read more about Fiona’s award from this [news article by Cardiff and Vale UHB](#).

The Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering teams of Swansea Bay UHB had great success at the inaugural Swansea Bay Living our Values awards in December 2020.

Colin Craven (Radiotherapy Physics) won the Essential People Award where Colin was recognised as “an essential person for an effective radiotherapy service and patients having the best possible patient experience”. Although a patient will probably never see him, he will have had many critical contributions to their treatment, their comfort, their environment and their safety”.

Ryan Lewis (Head of Radiotherapy Physics) was awarded the Excellence in Leadership and Management Award, recognising his commitment to the Health Board values and encouragement to creating an environment



of development and success. As Head of Radiotherapy Physics, the service at the South West Wales Cancer Centre has become an internationally recognised centre of excellence, demonstrated by our partnership with Philips Healthcare.



Finally, the Automating Breast Radiotherapy Treatment Planning Team was Highly Commended in the Always Improving Award which demonstrates the commitment and dedication from the department.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

The Advancing Healthcare Awards (AHA) are back for 2021. Now more than ever it is important to recognise our healthcare scientists and to shine a light on the incredible work that you do. The awards will be showcasing examples of innovative practice throughout the UK and help healthcare scientists to communicate their key role in health and social care to a variety of audiences.

Closing date for entries was 15 March 2021 with the awards ceremony being held on 21 May 2021. Find out more information visit the [AHA website](#).

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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