

Healthcare Science Programme

March 2022 Newsletter

Programme update

The Healthcare Science Programme continues to facilitate the delivery of the [Healthcare Science in NHS Wales 'Looking Forward' framework](#) across the five pillars:

- Workforce and Education.
- Research and Innovation.
- Culture and integration.
- Service Redesign and Transformation.
- Quality and Safety.

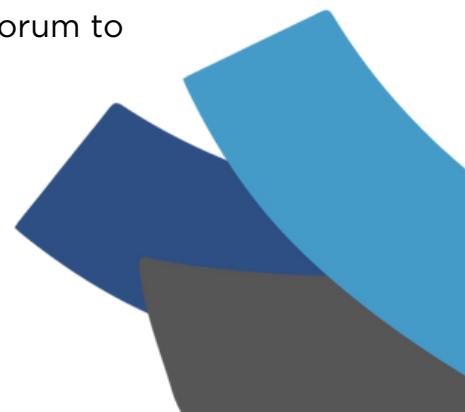
A paper is being developed by the Healthcare Science Network to provide Information and guidance on the role, recruitment and training of Healthcare Science Assistants and Associates in Wales. The paper is for Service Planners, Workforce and Operational Development colleagues in NHS Wales University Health Boards and Trusts.

It describes the role, recruitment and education or attainment requirements for Healthcare Science Assistants, Associates and Support Workers in NHS Wales. This paper is intended to support the development of Health Science services where Healthcare Science Assistants and Associates support Healthcare Science practitioners, Clinical Scientists, and others across the diverse scientific areas within Healthcare Science.

The first cohort of learners are to be enrolled on the Level 4 Healthcare Science Apprenticeship. The Level 4 qualification will support learners into assistant audiology, blood science and clinical engineering roles and many other Healthcare Science roles, with learners being able to enrol from NHS organisations right across Wales. While the programme is running across the whole of Wales, the project has been led by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB).

The programme is being delivered in partnership with Educ8, combining the vocational learning expertise at Educ8 with subject experts in the health service.

We continue to collaborate with the Wales Healthcare Student Forum to encourage membership of Healthcare Science workforce. The Forum represents all pre-registration healthcare students in Wales and meet once a term to discuss pertinent issues and look for ways to influence and improve education and future work opportunities.



Staff news

On 11 February, Maria Edwards left her role as Strategic Programme Manager for the National Healthcare Science Programme. Below is a personal message from Maria:

“

It is bittersweet to be writing this message as I have had the best two years implementing the Healthcare Science ‘Looking Forward’ framework and progressing the actions within it alongside our incredible healthcare science workforce across NHS Wales. Though I am leaving NHS Wales, instead of saying goodbye, I’ll say until we meet again. As I move on to the next chapter of my professional life, I thank you for being a remarkable set of people whom I’ve greatly enjoyed working with. I leave here knowing more than when I arrived.

I’m also very grateful for the Healthcare Science Network and Welsh Government’s continuous support, encouragement, and guidance, and to our sensational healthcare science workforce in Wales for teaching me about your incredible profession and helping to shape the programme into what it is today. I’m sad to be leaving yet excited for what lies ahead, for me and for all of you. May all your futures be full of outstanding achievements.

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We are very appreciative for all the hard work that Maria has done for us over the last two years, and she will be missed.

Welcome to the team!

We are so pleased to introduce you to Toni Davies, Karen Stanley, and Ellie Claridge, who have recently joined our team.



Name: Toni Davies

Role: Programme Manager for Healthcare Science Transformation

I am excited to start in HEIW as a Strategic Programme Manager for Healthcare Sciences. I have worked in a variety of corporate and operational roles in the NHS in South Wales. I have developed leadership and management skills over a number of years with a particular interest in Programme Management, Project Management, Planning and Transformational Change. My first NHS role was in Feb 2016 as Graduate Management Trainee in Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB and, prior to this, I spent

over 7 years in the National Exercise Referral Scheme in Bridgend as an Exercise Professional, working directly with patients and service users to improve their health and wellbeing through exercise prescription. I studied a BSc (hons) in Psychology and will be completing my Executive MBA in May 2022.

Interests:

What makes me happiest is spending time with my family and friends. I am a wife and mum of two and spend much of my down time taking my children to new places to explore and run around. I absolute love art in all forms (dance, music, painting) and I am always seeking out new challenges, both professionally and personally.

Name: Karen Stanley

Role: Implementation Support Officer for Healthcare Science Transformation

I am excited to be commencing in HEIW as an Implementation Support Officer within Healthcare Science. I have worked in the NHS for several years; my first role was based within Primary Care, which led to roles within Mental Health and Wellbeing. I decided

to pursue my career further within the route of Projects, very much enjoying the dynamics which projects can often bring. The previous Programme I was involved in was a National Clinical Programme procuring a new Imaging Service for Wales. I am qualified in Business Administration and Business Management. Recently I have gained additional qualifications within Project Management.

Interests:

I am a very keen hill walker, getting out into the mountains as often as I can. I am a keen gardener and grow my own fruit, vegetables, and herbs. Cooking is a passion of mine and I will happily spend many hours in the kitchen creating dishes with the grandchildren. Rugby is a sport I am obsessed about! The Sepsis Trust is a charity I actively volunteer in.



Name: Ellie Claridge

Role: Administrative Assistant for Healthcare Science Transformation

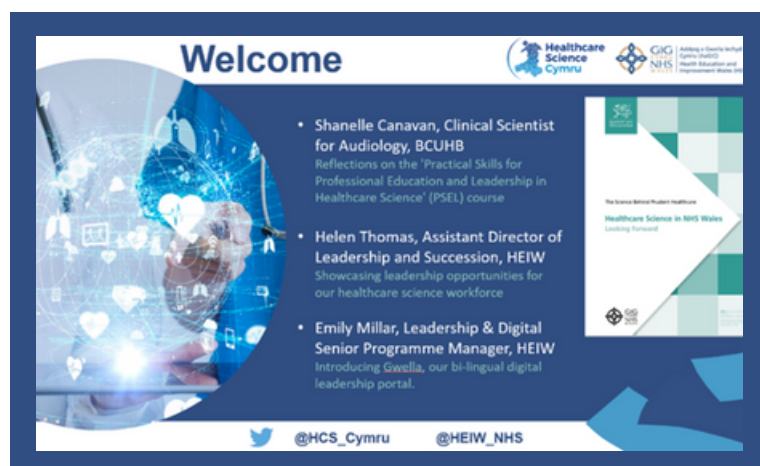
I'm one of the newbies to the team, starting work for HEIW in March 2022. I have worked in Administration for approximately three years whilst completing an apprenticeship with my previous employer, Cardiff University. My role is varied, which includes minute taking, booking events, setting up new posts within the Healthcare Science team, along with being on hand to answer general enquiries from internal teams within the organisation.

Interests:

Outside of work, I enjoy socialising with my family and friends. I also enjoy long walks with my boyfriend and dog to places like the beach. I am also a member of a gym, Love Lagree, it is an American pilate workout, but is the only gym in Wales to offer the unique workout!

Healthcare Science Spotlight Sessions

Since our last newsletter we've hosted a fantastic spotlight session on 'All Things Leadership in NHS Wales'. Helen Thomas the Assistant Director of Leadership and Succession in HEIW provided an overview of the multi-professional leadership offer across NHS Wales and Healthcare Science colleagues shared their experiences of undertaking the Practical Skills for Education and Leadership for Health Care Scientists (referred to as PSEL).



Watch this space for our calendar of spotlight sessions to be released shortly for the year ahead!

International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2022



Every year, 11 February recognises the remarkable and inspiring achievements of women making an impact across the scientific world.

To celebrate 2022, a multitude of female role models working across Wales were brought together by Techniquist, with the aim of inspiring future generations: to encourage them to step out on a career path focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). A series of short talks beamed directly into classrooms throughout Wales.

Head of Education at Techniquist, Andrea Meyrick explains:

“When we first had the idea to engage with schools in this way, we planned to run the event on-site at Techniquist. However, as has been the case throughout the pandemic, we've had to be flexible to allow for the continued disruption educational organisations are facing.

So, we developed a digital model to roll out to secondary schools on Women in Science Day itself and had over 7,000 pupils from almost every county in

Wales signed up to take part. We're really excited about the event and the fact that going digital means we've been able to reach far more students, and from a much wider geographical area, than we'd have been able to in person.

There are so many different careers out there for young people to discover. We wanted to share some great role models with them to help them navigate their way; and show too, that choosing STEM isn't just about white lab coats and goggles – though obviously they do have their place!

We had a phenomenal response to our initial call-out to female STEM professionals to take part in this and we're hugely grateful to all our contributors, who have given up their time to create the programme with us.

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The speakers came from organisations such as Health Education and Improvement Wales 'Healthcare Science Cymru Programme', BMW, Cardiff University, The Environment Agency, Microsoft, University of South Wales, Swansea University, Wardell Armstrong, Welsh Water and Western Power amongst others. They had a wide range of experience to share climate change, Ecosystems, Biomedical Science, data modelling, acoustic engineering, civil engineering, healthcare, and computer sciences are just a few of the fields covered by this particular group of women.

With the aim of showcasing women in STEM roles and sharing different career pathways open to students, schools were able to choose one of seven different online sessions. Each one hour long and included four 15-minute talks from different STEM professionals working in Wales, along with the opportunity for students to put their own questions to the speakers. This was just one of many engagement events the programme team took part in to celebrate the amazing women and girls we have working in Healthcare Science. Check out our all-female job profiles book created specifically for this day [here](#).

Inspire and Engage Young People in the World of STEM

What can you offer as a STEM professional to help young people with life changing skills, find a fulfilling career path, and help bridge the wide gap between school and the world of work?

**You could become a
STEM Ambassador!**



STEM Ambassadors are a special network of people whose passion and enthusiasm for their chosen career path is one of the most effective ways to promote a career in Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM).

From your own experience, you often find it was people, whether family, teachers or other contacts that made a difference to your career path. STEM Ambassadors reach out to students of all age groups from reception to advanced level, FE colleges and community audiences.

You may already be taking part in such events but never registered to have this title and become part of an official networks of STEM communication and inspiration.

The programme is:

- Free to join
- Provides a free enhanced DBS
- Light on requirement: one or two events of your choice each year including any provided by your employer.

“ I love being a STEM Ambassador, thank you for allowing me to talk about one of my passions. ”

“ The Ambassadors were excellent and really helped them in future career choices. ”

To read more or register please visit [Becoming a STEM Ambassador](#).

Healthcare Science Week 2022

Healthcare Science Week ran from 14 - 20 March 2022. Several outreach and engagement events took place to inspire the next generation of Healthcare Scientist and showcase HCS as a rewarding and vital career. These included the first HCS Cymru conference which you can read all about later, celebrating the fantastic Scientists working continuously to deliver high quality care for all.



The agenda for the first HCS Cymru conference can be found below:

- [English - HCS Cymru Conference Agenda](#)
- [Welsh - HCS Cymru Conference Agenda](#)

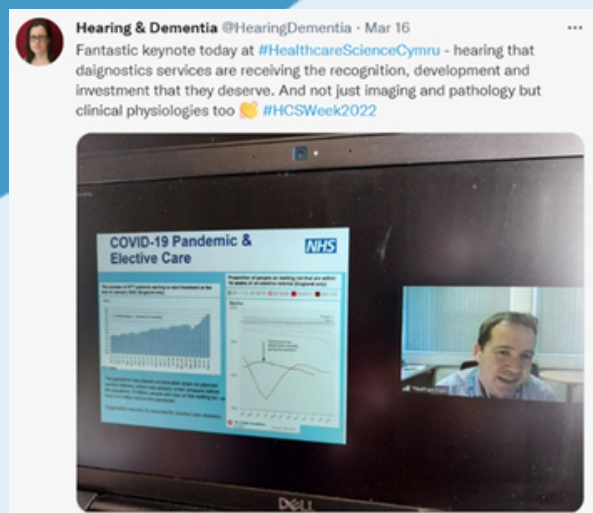
Healthcare Science Conference 16 March 2022

We would like to thank both participants and attendees for attending the Healthcare Science Cymru 2022, Transforming Together conference on Wednesday 16th March 2022. It was great to see so much commitment, and to hear from all our presenters talking about their experiences across the Healthcare Science profession to support Healthcare Science Week!

Don't forget to check our Twitter channels, @HCS_Cymru and @GGI_Cymru for updates and images from Wednesday's conference. The total number of attendees at the Healthcare Science Cymru conference, from our downloaded Zoom documents was 92 - what a great turn out! In the afternoon, there were two breakout rooms: Track 1 - Research & Innovation, Track 2 - Quality & Safety. The number of attendees in Track 1 totalled at 20 and Track 2 with 13 attendees.

The poster awards were announced at the end of the conference. Second place was awarded to Natalie Hamling (Clinical Scientist) and Dr Eloise Willis, and first place was awarded to Andrew Newman (Genetic Technologist) and colleagues. Both winners proudly work for All Wales Medical Geonomics Service (AWMGS)! The judges wanted to express that it must be emphasised that all the poster applications were excellent and have considerable merit in terms of their aims.

#HCS2022 #HealthcareScienceCymru



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.

Ewan Roberts is a Therapy Radiographer in Velindre Cancer Centre, Velindre Trust, Radiotherapy department. Read about Ewan's journey here:



My job role as a Healthcare Scientist:

Working in a team to provide radiation therapy to patients, often those with forms of cancer. The area of the body being treated affects the position of the patient, and it is our job to ensure that they are in exactly the correct position for treatment. To do this, we have apparatus designed to keep the patient as still and

comfortable as possible. We then line up the tattoos given at the CT scan, and use the planning based on this scan, to ensure that the patient is in the same position every day that they were in during it. We take images of these positions to ensure that we are treating where we want to be treating. Another important job is to assess the well-being of our patients and give advice on how to manage side effects of the treatment. These side effects can be both physical and psychological, and we can refer to other medical professionals and support groups to provide the best care possible.

What I enjoy about my job:

Knowing that what we are doing is aiding patients' well-being. Often, patients have many weeks of treatment with us, so it is rewarding to be able to develop a relationship with them, allowing for better care. I also enjoy the chance to work with different people. There are many specialist teams within radiotherapy that you can become a part of, and I hope to explore these areas to expand my knowledge within the profession. I also aim to grow within the field up to band 6 in a few years, and band 7 later on. I may also choose to expand my knowledge by getting a master's degree later in my career.

How did I get here?

I went to Cardiff University to study Radiotherapy and Oncology for 3 years. Within this course, we had opportunities to have placement at Singleton Hospital in Swansea, Glan Clwyd in North Wales and here at Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff.

My job would suit someone who:

Enjoys interacting with people, both other colleagues and patients. It would also suit someone who enjoys building their knowledge and also problem solving and adapting their knowledge to suit differing situations.

!NEWS ALERT!

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

