

# ABPI Cymru Wales Bulletin

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Edition 20



Bringing medicines to *life*  
Dod a meddyginiaeth i *fywyd*

Cymru | Wales



## Womenspire 2018 – Building Wales Category Sponsor – ABPI Cymru Wales

ABPI Cymru Wales sponsored Chwarae Teg's *Building Wales* award at this year's Womenspire Awards.

*Building Wales* celebrated those women who are building Wales through advancing in their own career journey in science, construction, technology and engineering and making a real difference to their own sectors.

The finalists for the award in 2018 included Dr Yueng-Djern Lenn, a lecturer in Oceanography at Bangor University; Emily Bristow, Head of Intelligent Automation at CGI; and Jessica Leigh Jones, an engineer at Sony. The winner, however, was Delyth Prys, Head of the Language Technologies Unit at Bangor University. Delyth's work is teaching computers how to understand and speak Welsh.



Dr Sheuli Porkess and the Womenspire 2018 Building Wales winner Delyth Prys from Bangor University

Continued overleaf



The award was presented by Dr Sheuli Porkess, Deputy Chief Scientific Officer at the ABPI. Outlining why the ABPI became involved, she said:

*“Supporting the Chwarae Teg Womenspire Building Wales award is one of the important partnerships and collaborations ABPI will be engaging in during 2018, the 70th anniversary of the NHS. The ABPI, ABPI Code of Practice, Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority (PMCPA) and ABPI Cymru Wales are recognising our own 70th, 60th, 25th and 15th birthdays respectively and we are highlighting the work we do in*

*partnership with many others, specifically the NHS, to research, develop and deliver life-changing medicines for patients.*

*It is important to the ABPI that the pharmaceutical industry can recruit the very best people, regardless of gender. Although many roles in the pharmaceutical industry require science or engineering qualifications, companies also recruit people without a science background into roles in sales and marketing, IT, human resources, training, finance and administrative areas. The actual path that individuals have taken to get into their current role, and how they see their future career developing, is highlighted in over 80 case studies on our careers website ([careers.abpi.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx](http://careers.abpi.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx)). These include undergraduates doing a work placement, people who joined a company straight from school and have studied part-time once employed, and others who have had several role changes in their career to date.”*

Dr Rick Greville, Director of ABPI Cymru Wales added:

*“We applaud Chwarae Teg for the encouragement and support given to help ensure that women in Wales can enter the workplace, develop their skills and build rewarding careers, since its establishment in 1992. Their work with the government, academics and industry to influence the development of policies has been influential in opening up new and exciting careers for women across Wales. ABPI was delighted to be able to recognise the importance of this work and Chwarae Teg’s ongoing journey.”*

A video showing more about the finalists' work is available at: [www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=63&v=5l0CPoEHqec](http://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=63&v=5l0CPoEHqec) and the highlights from the evening are available from: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRwiVXHlbgA&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRwiVXHlbgA&feature=youtu.be)

## Promoting Hepatitis C Awareness in the Welsh Assembly

**Raising awareness about the risk factors of Hepatitis C and encouraging those at high risk to get tested should form the basis of a strategy to eliminate the virus as a public health concern in Wales.**

To get this message across to AMs in the National Assembly, AbbVie hosted an exhibit in the Senedd, sponsored by Dawn Bowden AM, where AMs were invited to play an interactive game to learn more about the risk factors for Hepatitis C, from tattooing and piercing to the use of unsterilised surgical equipment. Alongside AbbVie’s exhibit, local clinical specialists and the Hepatitis C Trust were on hand to talk to politicians about the innovative work they are leading across Wales to support patient access to testing and treatment in local communities.

Among the political visitors to the exhibit was Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services (pictured).

He acknowledged the importance of raising public awareness of Hepatitis C as a means to help identify the 50% of people who are undiagnosed, and also as a means to reduce the stigma that still exists with the condition. Mr Gething was particularly interested to speak to the Hepatitis C Trust about the peer-to-peer services they offer and to find out more from the clinicians about the ease of testing in local communities.

The meeting coincided with the launch of an online animation which was promoted via the Welsh media and on social media platforms.

▶ You can watch the video at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7v4-43hBo0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7v4-43hBo0)



*Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething AM, visits Assembly exhibit on Hepatitis C.*

# Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) – Velindre NHS University Trust and Novartis Working Together

The Velindre Cancer Centre provides services to over 1.5 million people across South East Wales and beyond. Each year the cancer centre treats over 5,000 new referrals and around 50,000 new outpatients.<sup>1</sup>



Members of Velindre NHS University Trust and Novartis; Working Together

Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) patient numbers are increasing along with the number of treatment options.<sup>2</sup> To ensure treatment optimisation the MBC patients require holistic support. This can be provided through different models of care depending on their needs with a key patient support worker such as a Non Medical Prescriber (NMP) pharmacist.

The Velindre Cancer Centre MBC service did not have the level of resource required to support a service development that would ensure patients receive this holistic support and achieve treatment optimisation. This identified unmet need led to the development, and implementation, of the two-year joint working project (JWP) between Novartis and Velindre NHS University Trust to develop the Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) Service.

The JWP started in December 2016 with clear aims and objectives that sought to ensure treatment optimisation for MBC patients within the Trust by improving patient care through stratification of patients into different models of care dependent on their needs, increasing MBC patient concordance and adherence to therapy through additional support, establishing oral Systemic Anti-Cancer Treatment (SACT) dedicated clinics and improving treatment pathways for oral SACT MBC patients across South East Wales by adhering to local guidelines and links into the multi-disciplinary team meetings.

The first year of the project has seen the achievement of the following outcomes:

- ▶ Improvement of the clinical journey for oral SACT patients:
  - Trust-agreed Non Medical Prescriber (NMP) Oral SACT Guidelines have been implemented into the dedicated oral SACT clinics
  - A database has been created that will capture:
    - the number of oral SACT patients seen in clinic per week
    - the percentage of oral SACT patients accessed in the new pharmacy-led clinic
    - the number of patients who have received an education review
    - the number of patients who received a toxicity assessment
    - the number of patients where a prescriber has been contacted to clarify any issues.
- A reduction has been demonstrated in overall patient waiting times from arrival at hospital to departure with oral SACT medication. Data shows an average of 1hr 18 mins within the NMP-led clinic compared to 2hrs 19 mins within the consultant-led clinic.
- ▶ Improvement of MBC patient care:
  - Establishment and delivery of an oral SACT dedicated outpatient clinic for patients initiated onto an oral SACT and a dedicated telephone service for patients have been put in place.
  - All patients on oral SACT receive education on treatment and how to manage toxicities, and toxicity assessments as required.
  - Patient survey shows improvement in patient experience, adherence and concordance.

In addition to these successful outcomes, the MBC project team shared learnings with the Royal United Bath oral SACT clinic, the NHS Grampian Melanoma oral SACT clinic and the NMP forum with the British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA). The MBC project team have also been successful in submitting a poster on the year 1 outcomes to the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress in September 2018 in Glasgow and were recently shortlisted for the 2018 Welsh Pharmacy of the Year awards.

The first-year outcomes of this JWP have demonstrated the value of this service development and with the project moving into its second year, a key outcome will be to create the business case for sustainable

funding; utilising the evidence created throughout the project, and ensuring a sustainable service continues at the end of this JWP.

▪ **Velindre Team:** Ms Bethan Tranter, Chief Pharmacist; Dr Annabel Borley, Consultant Oncologist and Clinical Lead; Ms Sophie Harding, Lead Pharmacist; Ms Sarah Gorman, Senior Pharmacy Technician

▪ **Novartis Team:** Maggie Clark, Government Affairs & Access Manager; Sarah Rawcliffe, Disease Area Specialist; John Bowen, Disease Area Specialist; Vivek Basantani, Customer Relationships Team leader

<sup>1</sup> [www.velindrecc.wales.nhs.uk/about-us](http://www.velindrecc.wales.nhs.uk/about-us)

<sup>2</sup> [www.velindrecc.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/1087/Velindre%20Cancer%20Centre%20Annual%20Report%202014.pdf](http://www.velindrecc.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/1087/Velindre%20Cancer%20Centre%20Annual%20Report%202014.pdf) (page 9)

## Welcome to the Future of Medicine: VR experience

### What will the future of medicine look like?

The ABPI recently launched our virtual reality experience which uses a mix of computer-generated imagery and live action laboratory footage from a working diagnostics lab, to take the user on a 360-degree journey into the world of breakthrough medicine, going inside the body to explore how the technologies being researched today may transform the treatment of tomorrow.

Check it out on YouTube:

([www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1CaeKHyCaI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1CaeKHyCaI))

or see the ABPI Director of Communications Aileen Thompson explain the ethos behind the project: ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=L99-WjhyK-Y&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L99-WjhyK-Y&feature=youtu.be)).



ABPI Cymru Wales took the opportunity to launch the VR experience in Wales at the Womenspire 2018 Awards

## NHS Wales Securely Open for Business – *the Vault workspace for commercially sensitive information*

**Over recent years, pharmaceutical companies in the UK have been given increased opportunities to introduce commercial arrangements alongside, or independently of, healthcare technology appraisals.**

These can include Patient Access Schemes, Managed Access Agreements, Commercial Access Agreements and rebate schemes. With all these initiatives, the importance of maintaining commercial confidentiality needs to be balanced against appropriate and necessary access to accurate pricing information by NHS staff.

In Wales, the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre has worked with its Medicines Horizon Scanning and Forecasting Group and the All Wales Drug Contracting Committee, making use of a secure file-sharing service (through [www.onehub.com/apps](http://www.onehub.com/apps)), to establish its own secure IT workspace via the Vault.

This new data management system allows all confidential and commercially sensitive information to be held nationally and in one place, whilst enabling a restricted

number of local, registered users access to details via encrypted files; thereby providing the confidence that only the people who need access to the information have access to the information.

Access to the Vault is strictly limited to appropriate and current NHS procurement and pharmacy staff, with Health Boards/Trust in Wales, each nominating two people whose usage of the system is monitored and recorded. In addition, registered users are expected to sign an annual confidentiality agreement, which reinforces the importance of keeping all the information strictly confidential to within NHS Wales and prohibits publication or onward disclosure of any information.

Speaking following the introduction of the Vault, Dr Rick Greville, Director for Wales and the Supply Chain at ABPI said:

*“It is reassuring to see that NHS Wales has been the first in the UK to develop a robust and secure national information system which ensures that its staff have the necessary access to the data they require, whilst understanding and maintaining the critical confidentiality of commercially sensitive information. This is a very tangible and positive example of how a ‘One-Wales’ solution can be developed which satisfies the requirements of multiple partners, building confidence and trust. It is this ‘can do, together’ attitude which is increasingly demonstrating that NHS Wales is ‘open for business’ and which is particularly exciting and holds great promise for ongoing and future collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry, for the benefit of patients across Wales.”*

# Midlands & Wales Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre

Advanced therapies, such as cell and gene therapies, are set to transform current care pathways with revolutionary treatments that repair, replace, regenerate and re-engineer genes, cells and tissues to restore normal function; potentially offering durable and curative outcomes where acute unmet medical need exists.

Such treatments often manipulate the patient's own cells to fight these diseases. However, healthcare services are not configured to accept, adopt and deploy these therapies on a broad and regular basis. Substantial changes in the entire 'bench to bedside and beyond' pathways are required to ensure equitable patient access of these transformative therapies within the NHS.

Recognising the above, the UK Life Sciences Industrial Strategy (Aug 2017) incorporated recommendations from organisations such as the ABPI, to support the development of first-of-a-kind manufacturing processes for new medicines and to accelerate patient access to such. Consequently, Innovate UK, the UK innovation agency, announced a two-phase £30m grant competition to establish three Advanced Therapies Treatment Centres (ATTCs).

The ATTCs will:

- increase patient access to advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs) on a national level
- establish best practice for safe and effective delivery of ATMPs to patients
- establish best practice for ATMP near patient Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) final preparation and manufacturing methods
- establish robust, connected supply chains for the manufacture and delivery of ATMPs
- lay the foundations for traceability and tracking systems compatible with Regulatory expectations and suitable for dissemination throughout the NHS
- establish best practice for patient follow-up and data capture.



*Representatives from the Midland & Wales ATTC, Innovate UK and the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult at a programme review meeting June 2018.*

A consortium, the Midlands & Wales Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre – jointly led by the Welsh Blood Service (on behalf of NHS Wales) and the NIHR Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre, was successful in securing one of the three awards and £7.3m in grant funding.

The additional partners in the consortium all have specific expertise in different aspects of the overall production and delivery of advanced therapies. They are:

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Asymptote Limited, Thermo Electron Limited (as Fisher BioServices), Trakcel Limited, Cellular Therapeutics Limited, Rexgenero Limited, NHS Blood and Transplant, World Courier Logistics (UK) Limited, Cell Medica Limited, Miltenyi Biotec Limited and Orbsen Therapeutics UK Limited.

In Wales, IT competency will be obtained through the NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS). Health Technology Wales will lead health economic technology assessments and payer model reviews, with

academic input from Swansea and Bangor universities and the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult.

Due to the specialist regulatory, resource, infrastructure and clinical experience required to deploy advanced therapies, the initial clinical delivery centres will be based in Cardiff, Swansea, Birmingham and Nottingham. In Wales, the therapies will be delivered through the clinical trials facilities in Cardiff & Vale and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Boards, due to specific implementation requirements that are currently only met by these centres.

The clinical trials will be used to assess the workflows, embedded systems and processes required to enable future wider adoption of advanced therapies across NHS Wales.

The other ATTC centres are: Innovate Manchester Advanced Therapy Centre Hub (iMATCH) and the Northern Alliance Advanced Therapies Treatment Centre (NAATTC, comprising Scotland, Newcastle and Leeds).

# £2.5m to develop new ways to tackle respiratory disease in Wales

Over the last few years, ABPI Wales has been working with a team at Swansea University to support the establishment of the first innovation centre for respiratory disease in the UK.

The Welsh Government has now announced £2.5m funding to support the creation of the Respiratory Innovation Centre, which will bring together health professionals, academic and industry to develop, test and implement new methods to tackle respiratory illness. Through this development it is hoped that new products and services will be made commercially viable through the Centre, creating jobs, supporting economic growth, as well as delivering obvious health benefits for patients.

Welcoming the new Centre, Dr Rick Greville said: *“We are delighted to have been able to support the team at Swansea University in establishing the new Respiratory*

*Innovation Centre, which will provide an important new facility for clinical research in South West Wales. This re-affirms the ‘can do, together’ attitude.”*

In the Welsh Government's announcement of the new Centre, Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, said:

*“Improving the respiratory health of the people of Wales is a major challenge for our healthcare services. In 2016-17, 8% of the Welsh population reported having a respiratory condition, and respiratory diseases caused just over 15% of deaths in 2016. This new centre will identify promising new*

*ideas to prevent, diagnose and treat respiratory disease and help develop them into products and services that can be used by the health service.”*

Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport, Ken Skates, added:

*“Wales’ life sciences sector is punching well above its weight on a global stage and we have a wealth of academic and entrepreneurial talent here. This investment will help bring together the academic and business world to create new products and services to help tackle respiratory disease. In the long term this will help create highly skilled jobs and grow an industry that is already worth around £2bn to the Welsh economy.”*

## Who we are

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) represents innovative research-based biopharmaceutical companies, large, medium and small, leading an exciting new era of biosciences in the UK.

Our industry, a major contributor to the economy of the UK, brings life-saving and life-enhancing medicines to patients. We represent companies who supply more than 80 per cent of all branded medicines used by the NHS and who are researching and developing the majority of the current

medicines pipeline, ensuring that the UK remains at the forefront of helping patients prevent and overcome diseases.

Globally our industry is researching and developing more than 7,000 new medicines.

The ABPI is recognised by government as the industry body negotiating on behalf of the branded pharmaceutical industry for statutory consultation requirements including the pricing scheme for medicines in the UK.

For further information about any of the issues in this Bulletin or about ABPI Cymru Wales, please contact:

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