



Womenspire 2019

The ABPI was pleased to once again partner with Chwarae Teg on their annual Womenspire Awards, held at the award-winning St Fagans National Museum of History in Cardiff on Thursday 4 July.

Awards were made across a range of categories to those who are making a difference in their communities, thriving in sport or working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) – the award which the ABPI sponsors.

The finalists for the STEM award in 2019 included:

- Professor Yamni Nigam from Swansea, who – during a lectureship in Biomedical Science at Swansea University – came across the use of living maggots to help clear up chronic wounds and has developed the “Love a maggot!” project. She is also a trained STEM ambassador.
- Gemma Hallet from Llantwit Fardre, who is on a mission to mobilise 100,000 young people into prosperity and employability. Following an international rugby career, a teaching

role led Gemma to develop the miFuture app, which will showcase female role models to inspire future leaders.

- Ellie-May Bettinson from Blackwood, who is in her final year as an engineering apprentice at General Dynamics Mission Systems in the UK. Ellie has become a leading example for apprentices and particularly women in engineering.



Dr Sheuli Porkess and the Womenspire 2019 STEM winner Sarah Morgan from EcoExplore Education.

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Against this stiff competition, the winner was Sarah Morgan from Abertillery. Sarah has a passion for science and runs EcoExplore Education, providing science sessions for schools in areas of economic deprivation in South Wales. Together with studying for her PhD in Parasite Ecology, she creates opportunities for girls to engage with science and highlights careers in STEM. She has also created the @EcoExploreEdu Twitter campaign to connect schools with inspirational women in STEM.

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 STEM award is an important collaboration for the ABPI. It is vital for our members to research, develop and deliver life-changing medicines for patients and it is important to us all 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



Sarah Morgan – Chwarae Teg’s 2019 Womenspire STEM Award Winner

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. 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 has been influential in opening up new and exciting careers for women across Wales. The ABPI was delighted to be able once again to recognise the importance of this work and Chwarae Teg’s ongoing journey.”

A video showing more about the finalists’ work is available on the Chwarae Teg YouTube channel.



Dr Sheuli Porkess (ABPI), Cath O’Brien (Velindre NHS Trust), Joe Ferris (ABPI Cymru Wales), Lowri Griffiths (Bowel Cancer UK) and Lee-Ann Farrell (Janssen-Cilag) at the Womenspire Awards 2019.



Advanced Therapies Roundtable

Following publication of the recent Welsh Government **Statement of Intent for Advanced Therapies**, ABPI Cymru Wales arranged a roundtable meeting to bring together interested stakeholders, including ABPI members and colleagues from Welsh Government and NHS Wales to participate in an open and interactive discussion on the new advanced therapies coming through the medicines development pipeline.

As part of the meeting, Andrew Miniuks (Value and Access Manager, ABPI) and Dr Bryan Deane (New Medicines & Data Policy Director, ABPI) summarised recent engagement with NHS England regarding some of the challenges posed by the advanced treatments, and enabled attendees to identify relevant lines of enquiry which might be of value to Wales.

It was recognised that similar challenges would be faced by each of the health systems across the UK, and therefore a collective and co-ordinated approach could be taken, including the:

- development of a roadmap for timely and effective engagement between companies and the NHS across the UK,
- importance of horizon scanning to anticipate and plan for those treatments forecast to receive marketing authorisation licences, and

- challenge of developing commissioning models and payment structures which balance patient/economic benefit with health service costs.

An initial analysis of the development horizon commissioned by the ABPI was shared and a commitment was made to progress further work to understand disease incidence and prevalence, to usefully inform NHS commissioning plans.

It was recognised that the ambition from a health and wealth perspective would be for Wales to close the loop in the creation of a virtuous circle – research, development and usage. Such an ambition would require expansion in the academic/clinician base, additional facilities, supportive infrastructure and functional databases, with an eye to monitoring the ‘value’ of treatments in a real-world or service setting.

Despite the clear challenges, all

participants were keen to remain engaged with future related initiatives and workshops.

Further information on the work that the ABPI is progressing in this space is available via the ABPI Cymru Wales office – please get in touch!



Andrew Miniuks and Bryan Deane (ABPI) speaking at the Advanced Therapies Roundtable in Cardiff



Cardiff University Biobank

Since first meeting at the National Assembly for Wales Cross-Party Group on Medical Research, the ABPI has made several visits to Cardiff University’s Biobank, situated in a new, purpose-built facility on the University Hospital of Wales site. Both Dr Richard Greville, ABPI Director for Wales and Distribution & Supply Chain and ABPI’s Deputy Chief Scientific Officer, Dr Sheuli Porkess have visited the facility, opened in October 2018, to discuss its ambition of attracting commercial research to Wales.

Led by Professor Phil Stephens, the Biobank provides high-quality storage for samples including blood, urine, tissue and saliva and has the capacity to hold up to a million biological samples for medical research.

Patients and healthy volunteers kindly donate the samples, which are crucial in allowing researchers to find better ways to diagnose, prevent and treat a wide range of serious and life-threatening illnesses. It is fully

equipped with a range of storage facilities, including ultra-low minus 80°C freezers and vapour-phase liquid nitrogen cryostores. It uses a continuous temperature monitoring system and an advanced laboratory information management system for complete sample traceability as well as dedicated laboratory space for sample processing and a phlebotomy suite for blood sample collection.

Speaking about the biobank, its Manager, Kate Shires, said:

“The biobank has robust procedures and policies in place for all the activities it undertakes. We have recently been awarded certification to ISO 9001:2015 for the biobank’s quality management system, which has been designed in line with



The biobank’s storage facilities include vapour-phase liquid nitrogen cryostores.

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our vision of driving a culture of continuous improvement and risk-based thinking. This certification and alignment allow the biobank to demonstrate its commitment to supply consistent, high-quality samples, with customer requirements at the centre of operations.

As an organisation, we welcome applications from commercial enterprises, and the biobank has a large range of samples that are suitable for commercial use. We can undertake custom-made collections of samples, specific to organisational requirements, working directly to develop bespoke procedures to ensure that the samples provided meet specific needs. The biobank

can also supply blood, saliva and urine from healthy volunteer donors, with sample access facilitated through a simple application process, which is reviewed and approved by an experienced independent committee. This ensures that samples are used in high-quality medical research with far-reaching impact. As part of the application process, we assure confidentiality and, with our commitment to quality, a full application turnaround time of 30 working days is guaranteed. The biobank can offer a number of additional services including sample hosting, in the secure HTA licensed facility, and – through our close relationship with the ISO 9001:2015

and GCLP accredited Central Biotechnological Services at Cardiff University – we can provide additional services such as cell analysis and imaging, genomics and bioinformatics, proteins and diagnostics. The biobank can facilitate both analysis and biobanking services as part of one efficient process."

Kate concluded: "The Cardiff University Biobank has been established to facilitate high-quality research in all industries for public and patient benefit, so if we can support your organisation, we would like to hear from you!"

For more information on the Cardiff University Biobank, please visit the [website](#).



Medicines Knowledge Base

ABPI Cymru Wales held the latest in its Medicines Knowledge Base series at the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff last week, chaired by Shadow Health Minister Angela Burns AM and sponsored by David Rees AM.

Describing the work done to date to address the global issue of Acquired Microbial Resistance, Andrew Miniuks and Bryan Deane updated attendees on the UK proposal to develop and test the potential of a new funding model for the valuation and reimbursement of novel antibiotics, delinked from volume of use.

The audience included Assembly Members, their researchers, patient organisations and health professionals with an interest in the area. Welsh Government confirmed its commitment as part of the UK National Action Plan for tackling antimicrobial resistance, and a lively debate ensued on the

opportunities and challenges of introducing a delinked model of funding and how best to ensure Welsh patients have access to novel antibiotics when required.



Bryan Deane (ABPI) speaking at the ABPI Cymru Wales Medicines Knowledge Base meeting at National Assembly for Wales on 3 July 2019.

Andrew Miniuks (ABPI) discussing the proposed new model for the valuation and reimbursement of novel antibiotics – part of the UK National Action Plan for tackling antimicrobial resistance.



New Deputy Chair of the ABPI Cymru Wales Industry Group

Steven Lister (BMS)



Steven Lister, Deputy Chair of the ABPI Cymru Wales Industry Group

Steven Lister is Senior Health Economist in the Health Economics & Outcomes Research Department at BMS (UK & Ireland), who are working to rapidly bring innovative medicines to patients.

As an experienced health economics professional with a thorough understanding of health technology appraisal and market access, he has strong technical skills, an excellent understanding of data and evidence, and wide experience of influencing decision-making through the application of robust evidence synthesis and modelling. Steven is particularly experienced at translating complex clinical and

economic data into meaningful and relevant messages for health service colleagues.

Steven has been an active member of the ABPI Cymru Wales Industry Group for many years and was previously Chair of the Wales Value Group. He represents ABPI members on the Therapeutic Development Assessment (TDA) Partnership Group. This group, first established in 2003, discusses improvements

and monitors the implementation of the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) TDA process on behalf of both AWMSG and the pharmaceutical industry. Steven is also one of the ABPI members who sit on the AWMSG's New Medicines Group (NMG). The NMG is an advisory group, whose role is to provide advice in relation to the clinical and cost effectiveness of newly introduced medicines to AWMSG.

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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