

## Womenspire 2023

The Chwarae Teg Womenspire Awards 2023 took place in Cardiff early in October and, for the sixth year, ABPI Cymru Wales supported the Woman in STEM category. As always, Womenspire showcased the achievements of its finalists – remarkable women from all walks of life, who have made incredible differences to their own lives and the lives of others. You can learn more about the finalists from the Woman in STEM category on YouTube<sup>1</sup>.

Drawn from education, fintech, cyber-security, and aviation, the STEM category was as broad as any that have been seen over the last six-years of the Award. The stories of co-operation, perseverance, enthusiasm, and diligence, however, echoed our 24 finalists over the lifetime of the Award – each of whom brought a story which moved the judges and inspired women across Wales.



Patricia Mawuli Porter greeted by her daughter after winning the Womenspire Champion 2023

The big winner on the night was Patricia Mawuli Porter from Haverfordwest – a pilot, engineer, entrepreneur, and role model. As well as receiving the Woman in STEM Award she took the overall title of Womenspire Champion 2023 having impressed the judges with her boundless energy, resolve, passion for her work, and her ability to release the potential in others. As she said when collecting her award, "... every day is a learning day..."



Womenspire 2023

Patricia grew up in rural Ghana and had the daily task of cutting down trees for firewood after she had left school. Originally fearing the airplanes overhead, one day she decided to find the airfield and ask for a job. She was told in no uncertain terms that there were no jobs for women, however, her persistence paid off and eventually she undertook an apprenticeship and was added to the payroll.

Fast forward some years and Patricia's drive has led her on a path to becoming an aviation and technology expert who has founded Metal Seagulls in Haverfordwest – building and servicing airplanes. She also takes every opportunity to inspire young people, particularly girls, to see that nothing is impossible to achieve.

YouTube has highlights from the night<sup>2</sup> and the full Awards Ceremony<sup>3</sup>, for anyone unable to join at the time.



Elin Pavli-Hinde and Andrea Byrne (presenters of Womenspire 2023) join the Winner of Woman in STEM, Patricia Mawuli Porter, and Joe Ferris of ABPI

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yQ9sqzWlGA>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1gqzfQ6aq8>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_dFUJlvAh0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_dFUJlvAh0)

# Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance – Securing Effective Antibiotics

In October, ABPI Cymru Wales hosted a drop-in session at the Welsh Parliament, sponsored by Mabon ap Gwynfor MS, on tackling antimicrobial resistance – securing effective antibiotics. We were pleased that so many Senedd Members – and their teams – could join us.

Antimicrobials are a category of medicines used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals, and plants. They include antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics. The drop-in focused on antibiotics, which are a major category of antimicrobials and are the cornerstone of modern medicine. Not only are they pivotal in the treatment of common bacterial infections, but they are also essential to supporting therapies for many routine healthcare procedures and treatments – including major surgery (such as hip replacement, transplants), caesarean sections, and chemotherapy<sup>4</sup>.

Resistance to antimicrobials occurs naturally. However, human factors have accelerated the development of this resistance, including decades of overuse and misuse of antibiotics. It is important to note that the bacteria (not the people) become resistant to antibiotics.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is an issue for everyone and spans across every part of healthcare.

- The number of bacteria resistant to antibiotics is on the rise across the globe, and it is predicted that they will cause 10 million deaths per year by 2050<sup>5</sup> – which far surpasses estimated deaths by 2050 from cancer (8.2 million) and diabetes (1.5 million)<sup>6</sup>.
- Even though steps have been taken in Wales to reduce inappropriate antibiotic use, resistant infections continue to rise.
- Resistant infections are outpacing the development of new antibiotics to treat them, partly because there are very few new antibiotics in development – just 43 compounds in clinical trials in 2021<sup>7</sup>, compared to 1,800 immuno-oncology products in 2020<sup>8</sup>. This is because:
  - Developing new antibiotics is very technical, carrying a high cost and high risk of failure.
  - The use of new antibiotics is low because of strict stewardship controls to reduce the risk of further AMR developing.
  - The 'value' of the new treatment is compared to a highly genericised market.
- Companies are, therefore, unlikely to make back what they invest in researching and developing new antimicrobials, which discourages overall investment.
- A major policy challenge has been incentivising the development of new antibiotics to treat the resistant infections. One way to incentivise development is via 'subscription models' where a flat rate is paid annually based on the value of the antibiotic to society, as opposed to the amount used (supporting responsible use and providing developers some kind of return). A subscription model has been successfully piloted in England<sup>9</sup>. Wales is now involved in turning this into a world-leading, UK-wide scheme.
- Wales is committed to achieving the 5-year ambitions outlined in the UK National Action Plan 2019-2024<sup>10</sup> and is working with the other three nations of the UK to develop the next 5-year AMR National Action Plan from 2024. In a statement made in July, the Welsh Government Minister for Health and Social Services highlighted Wales' part in these two policy measures<sup>11</sup>.



Dr Rick Greville, ABPI, speaking with Peredur Owen Griffiths MS



Darren Millar MS speaking with ABPI at the AMR Drop-In Session



Dr Rick Greville, ABPI, speaking with John Griffiths MS

As we enter turbulent political times both at home and abroad, it is vital that policymakers continue to recognise the risks associated with AMR, ensuring it remains on the national policy agenda and that Wales fulfils its responsibilities in this area.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.reactgroup.org/news-and-views/news-and-opinions/year-2020/new-react-policy-brief-successful-cancer-treatment-relies-on-effective-antibiotics/#:~:text=Antibiotics%20are%20instrumental%20for%20patients,is%20seriously%20threatening%20patient%20outcomespatient%20outcomes>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-04-2019-new-report-calls-for-urgent-action-to-avert-antimicrobial-resistance-crisis>

<sup>6</sup> [https://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/160525\\_Final%20paper\\_with%20cover.pdf](https://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/160525_Final%20paper_with%20cover.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issuebriefs/2021/03/tracking-the-global-pipeline-of-antibiotics-in-development>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cancerresearch.org/immuno-oncology-landscape>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/life-sciences/nice-advice-service/models-for-the-evaluation-and-purchase-of-antimicrobials>

<sup>10</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6261392d8fa8f523bf22ab9e/UK\\_AMR\\_5\\_year\\_national\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6261392d8fa8f523bf22ab9e/UK_AMR_5_year_national_action_plan.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-tackling-antimicrobial-resistance>

# Landmark medicines deal to boost nation's health, save NHS £14 billion, and support research investment

A landmark deal has been agreed that is set to save the NHS across the UK £14 billion over five years in medicines costs, enable patients to access the latest lifesaving treatments more consistently, and boost the UK's position as a global superpower in advanced healthcare, technology, and clinical research.



Richard Torbett  
Chief Executive, ABPI

The new deal secures savings for the taxpayer-funded health service that are double those under the current medicine pricing agreement, which expires at the end of this year.

The Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth (VPAG) has been agreed by the government, NHS England, and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) and will run for five years until 31 December 2028.

As well as helping to keep the price of vital branded medicines affordable for the NHS and fair for taxpayers, the deal will help to ensure the NHS can continue to improve the speed it secures and adopts the newest treatments.

An additional £400 million of life sciences investment by industry will accelerate work on clinical trials, manufacturing, and in health technology assessments agencies, encouraging UK economic growth, collaboration, and innovation in the sector.

Richard Torbett, Chief Executive at the ABPI, said: "This is a tough deal which underlines the essential role innovative medicines and vaccines will play in addressing the health challenges of the future. The industry supports this agreement, despite its restrictions, as it provides important support for patients and the NHS and commits to giving them access to the transformative treatments they need.

"Allowing the sector to grow faster than it has under the previous scheme should increase the UK's international competitiveness over time. Importantly, it also recognises the pressing need to invest more in building NHS capacity to partner with industry on science and research to support innovation and economic growth."

The deal includes exciting commitments that will see NHS England establish a data-driven approach to the use of medicines across the NHS, ensuring the latest medicines are reaching patients with the highest need as quickly as possible and supporting wider commitments to reduce health inequalities. The development of a Local Formulary National Minimum Dataset will provide a tool to address variation in the implementation of NICE guidance to improve equity in access to clinically and cost-effective treatments.

The agreement also details how NHS England will work with companies to create a new Patient Support Programme (PSP) database to encourage local NHS services to partner with manufacturers and encourage the wider use of novel approaches to patient support post treatment.

- Deal agreed by government, NHS England and pharmaceutical industry will improve access to cutting-edge treatments for NHS patients, support financial sustainability of the health service and advance UK life sciences sector.
- Pro-innovation and pro-competition agreement will introduce a new mechanism to support lower industry payment rates for more innovative and pioneering branded medicines.
- Significant industry investment in UK clinical trials, manufacturing, and health technology assessments strengthens UK's global competitiveness.

# How AWMSG and AWTTTC support equality, diversity and inclusion

The All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre update on their work on equality, diversity and inclusion.

## The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) and the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTTC) work to improve the safe use of medicines in Wales, and to make sure that people in Wales can access clinically effective and cost effective medicines when they need them.

AWMSG and AWTTTC also work to achieve the seven well-being goals of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)<sup>12</sup>, and follow the Act's five ways of working, including collaboration, and involvement. AWTTTC involves lay people, patients and carers in its work, and must also make sure it involves people who reflect the diversity of the area that AWMSG and AWTTTC serve.

### AWMSG and AWTTTC aim to reduce inequalities and improve inclusion by:

- Ensuring the AWTTTC website, and all published documents, are accessible.
- Holding virtual meetings of our Patient and Public Interest Group<sup>13</sup>.
- Completing equality and health impact assessments.
- Publishing AWTTTC's work in Welsh and English; with staff commended<sup>14</sup> for their high-quality work to meet Welsh language standards.
- Producing patient information leaflets in plain language and easy read formats.

### Listening to the public voice

Members of the public are invited to attend virtual meetings of AWTTTC's Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG)<sup>15</sup>. Attendees can hear about AWTTTC's work and that of other NHS Wales organisations, ask questions, and find out how they can get involved.

AWMSG and its sub-committees include lay members. Lay members have highlighted the importance of making sure that documents published on the AWTTTC website are accessible to all. This includes publishing easy read formats of patient information leaflets. Easy read patient information leaflets are helpful for people with learning disabilities and also for people who don't identify as having a learning disability but for whom some technical documents would be inaccessible.

### Working with Learning Disability Wales

People with a learning disability have a right to information they can understand so they can make informed choices, speak up, and take part in their communities.

Learning Disability Wales take complex documents and turn them into high standard easy read versions<sup>16</sup>, so that people with learning disabilities can understand them.

In 2023, several AWTTTC staff attended Learning Disability Wales' training course on making information easy to read and understand. Learning Disability Wales also presented at a PAPIG meeting in July 2023, on the importance of making information accessible and inclusive.

In partnership with Learning Disability Wales, AWTTTC developed an easy-read leaflet on Tramadol.

## AWTTTC Pinboard

- **Programme Director:** Dr Andy Champion has joined AWTTTC as Programme Director. Andy has a wealth of experience having worked within the NHS for around 30 years and joins us from the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC).
- **AWMSG Strategy:** AWTTTC have been supporting AWMSG to define their next five-year strategy. The strategy will form the foundation to AWMSG's pursuit of its vision, to get the best outcomes from medicines to improve the health and well-being of all people in Wales. Working in partnership with patients, the public, healthcare professionals and the pharmaceutical industry has and will continue to underpin the work undertaken and considered by AWMSG. A consultation held in the Autumn with key stakeholders and partner organisations, including representatives of ABPI, welcomed feedback on the draft document with a finalised strategy to be launched early in 2024.

The easy read format was adapted from the patient information leaflet that accompanied the Tramadol educational resources<sup>17</sup>. This pilot easy read leaflet was published in July 2023, and a second leaflet on 'Understanding Unlicensed Medicines'<sup>18</sup> was published in October 2023.

AWTTTC will continue working with Learning Disability Wales and other organisations in Wales, to develop easy read formats for all AWMSG-endorsed patient information leaflets.



Images show pages from the new easy to read and understand documentation

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/well-being-future-generations#content>

<sup>13</sup> <https://awttc.nhs.wales/news-meetings-and-events/meetings/papig-meetings/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://awttc.nhs.wales/news-meetings-and-events/news1/awtttc-member-of-staff-receives-welsh-language-award-from-cardiff-and-vale-university-health-board/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://awttc.nhs.wales/news-meetings-and-events/meetings/papig-meetings/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ldw.org.uk/easy-read-wales/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://awttc.nhs.wales/medicines-optimisation-and-safety/medicines-optimisation-guidance-resources-and-data/prescribing-guidance/tramadol-educational-resources-2021-review/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://awttc.nhs.wales/medicines-optimisation-and-safety/medicines-optimisation-guidance-resources-and-data/prescribing-guidance/understanding-unlicensed-medicines/>

# Welsh Schools celebrate science quiz success!

Cardiff University update on their work engaging young people in STEM.

The Life Sciences Challenge (LSC)/Her Gwyddorau Bywyd (HGB) is an all-Wales bilingual inter-school competition for year 10 pupils, designed and delivered by undergraduate and postgraduate students, early career researchers and staff scientists from within Cardiff University School of Medicine. The fun, interactive and challenging quiz was created to share an enthusiasm for trying to understand the natural world and to inspire pupils to consider the extensive possibilities of future careers involving

science. It is one of a suite of school engagement initiatives within the highly successful Science in Health programme<sup>19</sup> established in 1994. As always, we are hugely grateful to our LSC/HGB prize sponsors - The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) Cymru Wales.

Now in its eleventh consecutive year, the LSC/HGB has evolved considerably and continues to attract participation from a growing number of schools across Wales. In February and March 2023, over 700 pupils from 40 schools across Wales entered the preliminary stages of the competition, which takes place online. The quiz is run for both English and Welsh medium schools in parallel competitions.

Each team comprises four members who have an interest in maths, science and the world around them. The eight top scoring English and Welsh medium schools took part in the live online quarter and semi-finals held in the summer term.

This year's finals were hosted in mid-September in the School of Medicine, University Hospital of Wales. The finalists vying for the title of 2023 Life Sciences Challenge winners were The Cathedral School, Llandaff, Cardiff v Cardiff High School (English speaking version) and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Barry v Ysgol Glan Clwyd, St Asaph, Denbighshire (Welsh speaking version). Both finals were closely contested; with the teams battling across seven rounds including



General Science, Connect 4, Data Analysis, Beat That, and Scientific Pictionary. After some very tough competition the 2023 winners were The Cathedral School and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. Both schools were presented with a trophy and a cheque for £150 to be spent on science within the school.

Ms Cari Ormerod, teacher at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, stated that: *"The team thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the quiz. Their competitive streak was clear to see from the onset! They relished putting the work they'd learnt in class to good use and have asked to take part in other challenges. Thank you for organising!"*



## Your Medicines, Your Health

The Cwm Taf UHB Your Medicines, Your Health team update on some of their recent work.

The team at Your Medicines, Your Health (YMYH) in Cwm Taf University Health Board were delighted to take delivery of 2,000 reusable tote bags, following funding by the ABPI Cymru Wales.

Using behavioural science, YMYH have developed a highly successful public education campaign. They use simple actions and messages to help

people understand how to use, store, and dispose of medicines safely and effectively. Having reusable bags to help carry prescription medicines home or return unneeded ones fits with their key aim; to reduce waste and help medicine users.

Your Medicines, Your Health launched the distribution of the bags with their annual 'Spring Clean Your Medicines Cupboard' events. There

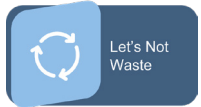
are many reasons why medicines are not used as intended, including:

- The belief that they are being prescribed too many.
- Forgetting how, why, and when to take the medicine.
- Suffering side effects/bad reactions.
- Unable to open the packaging.
- Changing items prescribed.

- Repeats dispensed when not required.

Tackling these issues and helping people to take control and manage their own health and medication use is in everyone's interest. From experience reciprocity is a principle human behaviour, if you give a free bag, it is very likely to be used as requested! YMYH are grateful to the ABPI for continued support.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/medicine/about-us/engagement/science-in-health>



*The Bevan Commission update on their work on Let's Not Waste.*

Let's Not Waste have been collating ideas and successes on waste reduction practices and initiatives within Health and Social Care to form a virtual compendium of resources, to facilitate exchange of knowledge and good practice to inspire others in the sector to adopt similar strategies. This resource hub is open for all to access through the Let's Not Waste webpage<sup>20</sup>.

By sharing and promoting waste reduction solutions, a culture of prudent and sustainable behaviour can be encouraged. The compendium will continue to grow

over the coming months, and The Bevan Commission are keen to showcase work on reducing waste. If you would like to share your ideas and innovations, please get in contact: [Bevan\\_commission@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:Bevan_commission@swansea.ac.uk)

Let's unite our efforts, collaborate, and work together to make a meaningful impact on waste reduction within Health and Social Care in Wales. Everyone can play a part in helping to reduce waste.

To get involved, sign up to the Let's Not Waste network<sup>21</sup>.

For further information contact: [Carolyn.j.thomas@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:Carolyn.j.thomas@swansea.ac.uk)

# People-centred Clinical Research

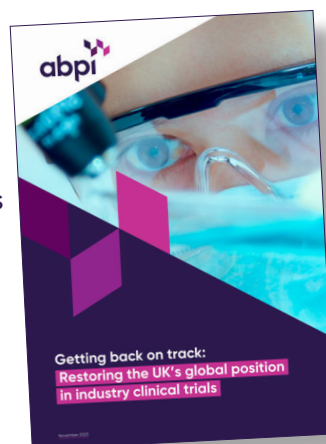
**The ABPI believes that every eligible patient should have the opportunity to participate in a relevant research study regardless of their background or where they live.**

There is a significant lack of diversity amongst those participating in research studies in the UK. Many groups are under-served by research<sup>22</sup>, and people can be part of multiple under-served groups, meaning they can face multiple barriers to participating in research:

- As part of our EDI Strategy<sup>23</sup>, the ABPI is working with its members and the Government to help overcome these barriers and make research in the UK more diverse and inclusive.
- As part of our Patient Engagement Strategy<sup>24</sup>, the ABPI is fostering a patient-centred culture within our organisation and supporting our members to do the same.
- And through the ABPI Code of Practice<sup>25</sup>, the ABPI supports research transparency, in-line with the IFPMA's global position<sup>26</sup> on disclosure and publication of clinical trial information and results.

The ABPI's People-centred Research Hub features a collection of member case studies that promote industry best practices in diversity and inclusion, patient and public involvement, and research transparency. This Hub will be expanded further with additional case studies as part of the ABPI's ongoing commitment to increase diversity and inclusion in research.

You can read more about clinical trials in the latest ABPI annual report on industry clinical trial performance, 'Getting back on track: restoring the UK's global position in industry clinical trials.'<sup>27</sup> In the report, the ABPI welcomed ongoing efforts to address the decline in UK industry clinical trials and called for continued government focus to ensure sustainable long-term recovery in UK clinical trial performance.



The ABPI called for continued cross-government focus on speeding up clinical trial approvals and set-up, expanding UK capacity to deliver clinical trials, and improving visibility and accountability for clinical trial performance. On trial capacity, it is important to boost the workforce, facilities and infrastructure available for research. ABPI data shows that the total number of industry clinical trials initiated in the UK per year rose marginally by 4.3%, from 394 trials in 2021 to 411 in 2022, although this remains well below the 2015 peak of 690<sup>28</sup>.

If you are interested in taking part in clinical research here in Wales, you can find out more from the Health and Care Research Wales website<sup>29</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> <https://bevancommission.org/lets-not-waste/>  
<sup>21</sup> <https://bevancommission.org/lets-not-waste/>  
<sup>22</sup> <https://sites.google.com/nihf.ac.uk/include/home/guidance>  
<sup>23</sup> <https://www.abpi.org.uk/about-the-abpi/abpi-s-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy>  
<sup>24</sup> <https://www.abpi.org.uk/partnerships/working-with-patient-organisations/abpi-patient-engagement-strategy/>  
<sup>25</sup> <https://www.abpi.org.uk/reputation/abpi-2021-code-of-practice/>  
<sup>26</sup> <https://www.ifpma.org/publications/clinical-trials-position-papers/>  
<sup>27</sup> <https://www.abpi.org.uk/publications/getting-back-on-track-restoring-the-uk-s-global-position-in-industry-clinical-trials/>  
<sup>28</sup> Clarivate data, included in the ABPI's report, see table at <https://www.abpi.org.uk/media/news/2023/november/uk-industry-clinical-trial-performance-shows-signs-of-improvement-says-abpi-report/>  
<sup>29</sup> <https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/public>