Wales REC Member Conference
9 November 2021
Speaker Biographies

Dr Nicola Williams

Nicola has worked for Health and Care Research Wales for the last eight years. Prior to her role in Wales, Nicola was Deputy Director of Research & Development in a large acute trust in England and in parallel, worked as a policy and change advisor to the Welsh and UK Governments, and the Health Research Authority.

She was an active researcher for over 20 years, initially delivering research programmes in primary care and public health and subsequently leading a public health research unit. More recently has overseen the COVID-19 vaccine trial delivery programme in Wales. Nicola is also an experienced leadership coach, coach supervisor.

Mrs Ann Tunley

Ann is the Head of Approvals Support at the Health Research Authority and was previously the Head of the Research Ethics Service in England. Ann leads the Support Division which is responsible for the recruitment and support of REC members and is the Appointing Authority Lead on behalf of the HRA. Ann's team is responsible for overseeing quality assurance activities and outcomes within the Approvals Directorate and for working with colleagues across the UK to maintain UK wide frameworks for ethics review.

Ann has considerable experience in research ethics having worked in this sphere for over 30 years in a number of support and management roles both prior to the establishment of the HRA and within the HRA.

Dr Martin O'Kane

Martin O'Kane PhD MRPharmS is Unit Manager of the Clinical Trials Unit in the medicines Licensing Division of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). He studied pharmacy at University of Aston and after completing a PhD in pharmacology and post-doctorate neuroscience research project at the University of Glasgow, moved to Japan to work within the pharmaceutical industry.

He joined the MHRA in 2005 as a Pharmacopoeial Scientist within the British Pharmacopoeia and moved to the MHRA Clinical Trials Unit as a Pharmaceutical Assessor in 2007. He became Unit Manager of the Clinical Trials Unit in November 2015 and has been actively involved in development of new clinical trials policy, systems and procedures to facilitate robust, pragmatic and proportionate trials as well as maintaining the attractiveness of the UK as a trial destination following exit from the EU.

Most recently he has been involved in supporting expedited approval of, and guidance for, clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics and supporting the recovery and resilience of non-COVID trials. He is a member of the UK-wide Clinical Research, Recovery, Resilience and Growth (RRG) programme delivering the recent ambitious vision for the future of clinical research delivery in the UK.

Dr Chris Subbe

Chris is an Improvement Science Fellow and Consultant in Acute, Respiratory and Intensive Care Medicine, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. He is a graduate of the University of Cologne, Germany, where he studied respiratory pathophysiology to become a doctor of medicine by thesis in 1994.

After working in the UK and Germany and volunteering for Médecins sans Frontières in Angola, he joined Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in 2006 as a Consultant in Acute, Respiratory and Intensive Care Medicine. In 2009, he also became an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at the School of Medical Sciences at Bangor University. Chris is actively involved in research on the identification and safety of critically ill patients on general wards. “The development that I am most proud of is bringing clinicians and researchers together in a number of sustained national and international collaborations.”

Most recently, his research group has developed a visual toolkit to identify patients at risk and a set of crisis checklists for health care team interactions, as well as developing feedback systems for acute medical units and rapid response systems. He recently received the Patient Impact Award at the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board’s Research and Innovation Excellence Awards 2021.

Tom Fairman

Tom Fairman has worked for the HRA since 2011 in a variety of roles supporting ethics committee’s and undertaking governance reviews for the purposes of HRA/Health and Care Research Wales Approval. Between 2014 and 2016 he worked for Cardiff and Vale NHS Foundation Trust in their R&D department liaising between researchers, the R&D office, relevant support departments and others to facilitate study submission and site set up. Tom moved into his current role, as Research Regulation Specialist at the beginning of 2021 and now works to develop future systems and processes to support research.

Dr Sion Williams

Sion Williams is Reader in Health Research in the School of Medical and Health Sciences at Bangor University. He is currently the lead for the School’s postgraduate research degree programme and for teaching research methods across the post graduate teaching programme, as well as directing the teaching programme in Ageing & Dementia at Bangor. He has a particular interest in seeking to understand life with long-term conditions through participatory approaches, grounded theory and case study research. His book ‘Participatory Case Study Work: Approaches, Authenticity and Application in Ageing Studies’ Williams, S. and Keady, J. (Eds) (2021) is available to buy now.

Cynhadledd Aelodau REC Cymru
9 Tachwedd 2021
Bywgraffiadau Siaradwyr

Dr Nicola Williams

Mae Nicola wedi gweithio i Ymchwil Iechyd a Gofal Cymru dros yr wyth mlynedd ddiwethaf. Cyn ei rôl yng Nghymru, roedd Nicola yn Ddirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Ymchwil a Datblygu mewn ymddiriedolaeth acíwt fawr yn Lloegr ac yn gyfochrog â hynny, bu'n gweithio fel cynghorydd polisi a newid i Lywodraethau Cymru a'r DU, a'r Awdurdod Ymchwil Iechyd.

Roedd hi'n ymchwilydd gweithredol am dros 20 mlynedd, gan ddarparu rhaglenni ymchwil ym maes gofal sylfaenol ac iechyd cyhoeddus i ddechrau ac wedi hynny arwain uned ymchwil iechyd cyhoeddus. Yn fwy diweddar mae wedi goruchwylio rhaglen cyflenwi treialon brechlyn COVID-19 yng Nghymru. Mae Nicola hefyd yn hyfforddwr arweinyddiaeth profiadol, ac yn oruchwyliwr hyfforddwyr.

Mrs Ann Tunley

Ann yw Pennaeth Cymorth Cymeradwyaethau'r Awdurdod Ymchwil Iechyd a chyn hynny roedd yn Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Moeseg Ymchwil yn Lloegr. Ann sy'n arwain yr Adran Gymorth sy'n gyfrifol am recriwtio a chefnogi aelodau REC a hefyd yn Arweinydd yr Awdurdod Penodi ar ran yr HRA. Mae tîm Ann yn gyfrifol am oruchwylio gweithgareddau a chanlyniadau sicrhau ansawdd o fewn y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gymeradwyaethau ac am weithio gyda chydweithwyr ledled y DU i gynnal fframweithiau'r DU gyfan ar gyfer adolygu moeseg.

Mae gan Ann gryn brofiad mewn moeseg ymchwil ar ôl gweithio yn y maes hwn ers dros 30 mlynedd mewn nifer o rolau cymorth a rheoli cyn sefydlu'r HRA ac o fewn yr HRA.

Dr Martin O'Kane

Martin O'Kane PhD MRPharmS yw Rheolwr yr Uned Treialon Clinigol yn Is-adran Trwyddedu Meddyginiaethau'r Asiantaeth Rheoleiddio Meddyginiaethau a Chynhyrchion Gofal Iechyd (MHRA). Astudiodd fferylliaeth ym Mhrifysgol Aston ac ar ôl cwblhau PhD mewn prosiect ymchwil ffarmacoleg ac ôl-ddoethuriaeth ym Mhrifysgol Glasgow, symudodd i Japan i weithio yn y diwydiant fferyllol.

Ymunodd â'r MHRA yn 2005 fel Gwyddonydd Ffarmacopoeial yn Pharmacopoeia Prydain a symudodd i Uned Treialon Clinigol MHRA fel Asesydd Fferyllol yn 2007. Daeth yn Rheolwr yr Uned Treialon Clinigol ym mis Tachwedd 2015 ac mae wedi chwarae rhan weithredol yn natblygiad newydd polisi, systemau a gweithdrefnau treialon clinigol i hwyluso treialon cadarn, pragmatig a chymesur yn ogystal â chynnal atyniad y DU fel cyrchfan treialon ar ôl gadael yr UE.

Yn fwyaf diweddar, bu'n ymwneud â chefnogi cymeradwyaeth gyflym i dreialon clinigol ar frechlynnau a therapiwteg COVID-19, a chanllawiau ar eu cyfer, a chefnogi adferiad a gwytnwch treialon nad ydynt yn rhai COVID. Mae'n aelod o'r rhaglen Ymchwil Clinigol, Adferiad, Gwydnwch a

Thwf ledled y DU, sy'n cyflwyno'r weledigaeth uchelgeisiol ddiweddar ar gyfer dyfodol cyflwyno ymchwil clinigol yn y DU.

Dr Chris Subbe

Mae Chris yn Gymrawd Gwyddoniaeth Gwella ac yn Ymgynghorydd mewn Meddygaeth Gofal Acíwt, Anadlol a Dwys, Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr. Graddiodd ym Mhrifysgol Cologne, yr Almaen, lle astudiodd pathoffisioleg resbiradol i ddod yn feddyg meddygaeth trwy draethawd ymchwil ym 1994.

Ar ôl gweithio yn y DU a'r Almaen a gwirfoddoli i Médecins sans Frontières yn Angola, ymunodd â Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr yn 2006 fel Ymgynghorydd mewn Meddygaeth Gofal Acíwt, Anadlol a Dwys. Yn 2009, daeth hefyd yn Uwch Ddarlithydd Clinigol Anrhydeddus yn yr Ysgol Gwyddorau Meddygol ym Mhrifysgol Bangor. Mae Chris yn cymryd rhan weithredol mewn ymchwil ar adnabod a diogelwch cleifion sy'n ddifrifol wael ar wardiau cyffredinol. "Y datblygiad yr wyf yn fwyaf balch ohono yw dod â chlinigwyr ac ymchwilwyr ynghyd mewn nifer o gydweithrediadau cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol parhaus."

Yn fwyaf diweddar, mae ei grŵp ymchwil wedi datblygu pecyn cymorth gweledol i nodi cleifion sydd mewn perygl, a set o restrau gwirio argyfwng ar gyfer rhyngweithiadau tîm gofal iechyd, ynghyd â datblygu systemau adborth ar gyfer unedau meddygol acíwt a systemau ymateb cyflym. Yn ddiweddar, derbyniodd y Wobr Effaith ar Gleifion yng Ngwobrau Rhagoriaeth Ymchwil ac Arloesi Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr 2021.

Tom Fairman

Mae Tom Fairman wedi gweithio i'r Awdurdod Ymchwil Iechyd HRA ers 2011 mewn amryw o rolau yn cefnogi pwyllgor moeseg ac yn cynnal adolygiadau llywodraethu at ddibenion Cymeradwyaeth HRA/ Ymchwil Iechyd a Gofal Cymru. Rhwng 2014 a 2016 bu'n gweithio i Ymddiriedolaeth Sefydledig GIG Caerdydd a'r Fro yn eu hadran Ymchwil a Datblygu gan gysylltu rhwng ymchwilwyr, y swyddfa Ymchwil a Datblygu, adrannau cymorth perthnasol ac eraill i hwyluso cyflwyno astudiaeth a sefydlu safleoedd. Symudodd Tom i'w rôl bresennol fel Arbenigwr Rheoleiddio Ymchwil ar ddechrau 2021, ac mae bellach yn gweithio i ddatblygu systemau a phrosesau yn y dyfodol i gefnogi ymchwil.

Dr Sion Williams

Mae Sion Williams yn Ddarllenydd mewn Ymchwil Iechyd yn Ysgol y Gwyddorau Meddygol ac Iechyd ym Mhrifysgol Bangor. Ar hyn o bryd, ef yw arweinydd rhaglen gradd ymchwil ôl-raddedig yr Ysgol ac mae'n dysgu dulliau ymchwil ar draws y rhaglen addysgu ôl-raddedig, yn ogystal â chyfarwyddo'r rhaglen addysgu mewn Heneiddio a Dementia ym Mangor. Mae ganddo ddiddordeb arbennig mewn ceisio deall bywyd â chyflyrau tymor hir trwy ddulliau cyfranogol, theori sylfaen ac ymchwil astudiaeth achos. Mae ei lyfr 'Participatory Case Study Work: Approaches, Authenticity and Application in Aging Studies' Williams, S. a Keady, J. (Eds) (2021) ar gael i'w brynu nawr.