

Health and Care Research Wales

Research Funding Scheme: Health Research Grant (HRG)

Funding Board Meeting

Public minutes

Date

Thursday 24 June 2021

Venue

Virtual meeting

Chairs

Professor Tim Peters (Chair), Bristol University.

Professor Jane Noyes (Deputy Chair), Bangor University.

Board members present

Joanna Charles, Bangor University.

Ivor Chestnutt, Cardiff University.

Nathan Davies, Public and Patient Involvement Representative.

Jorg Huber, University of Brighton.

Jan Lecouturier, Newcastle University.

Ruth Northway, University of South Wales.

Sarah Peddle, Public and Patient Involvement Representative.

Julius Sim, Keele University.

Phil Stephens, Cardiff University.

Alex Tonks, Cardiff University.

James White, Cardiff University.

Venkateswarlu Kanamarlapudi, Swansea University.

Xianghua Xie, Swansea University.

Reyer Zwiggelaar, Aberystwyth University.

Health and Care Research Wales secretariat

Michael Bowdery, Research & Development Division, Welsh Government.

Marc Boggett, Research & Development Division, Welsh Government.

Jaydene Davies, Research & Development Division, Welsh Government.

Emma Small, Research & Development Division, Welsh Government.

Eleri Quayzin, Research & Development Division, Welsh Government.

Consultant advisors

Jason Horsley, Consultant Advisor, Wessex Institute.

Technical support and hosting

Rachel Corbett, Wessex Institute.

Tina Moody, Wessex Institute.

Apologies

Kerry (Kerenza) Hood, Cardiff University.

Observers

Emily Holmes, Bangor University, Research Design Conduct Service (RDCS).
Gail Holland, Swansea University / Trials Unit / Research Design Conduct Service (RDCS).
Liz Tremain, Open Innovation Hub, University of Southampton.

Introductory summary

Following remit and eligibility checks, a policy prioritisation process and external peer and public review, the Health Research Grants Funding Board considered **14** applications. A summary of the funding recommendations can be found below.

Nine applications were initially recommended for funding, all of which were subsequently approved for funding by Health and Care Research Wales, with a total lifetime value of **£1,935,227**.

Five of the successful applicants were Early Career Researchers (ECR). **Eight** of the nine successful applications addressed the priority areas. Applications that addressed priority areas have a '(P)' in their reference. The priority areas were:

- the impact of COVID-19 on non-COVID health and care service provision;
- learning from the COVID-19 pandemic that can be applied to other conditions or the organisation and delivery of non-COVID health and social care services.

In line with the Health and Care Research Wales Conflicts of Interest policy, individuals with conflicts left the meeting during discussions of the relevant application and did not score those applications.

The Board Secretariat also marked Tim Peters' final meeting as Chair, and thanked him for his work over the last decade.

Summary of funding recommendations

Project reference: HRG-20-1779(P)

Project title: The epidemiology and impact of bacterial secondary infections and antimicrobial resistance on Intensive Care during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

Lead applicant: Lim Jones

Institution: Public Health Wales

Cost: £175,517

Project reference: HRG-20-1725(P)

Project title: The impact of COVID-19 on health equality and mortality in people with epilepsy in Wales

Lead applicant: William Pickrell (ECR)

Institution: Swansea University

Cost: £158,810

Project reference: HRG-20-1766(P)

Project title: Precision Oncology: A novel approach to modelling neuroblastoma and specific treatment as its underlying genetic abnormalities changes during a patient's treatment

Lead applicant: Rachel Errington

Institution: Cardiff University

Cost: £135,374

Project reference: HRG-20-1760

Project title: Using machine learning to predict subclone evolution and response during chemotherapy

Lead applicant: Mark Davies

Institution: Swansea Bay University Health Board

Cost: £249,074

Project reference: HRG-20-1781(P)

Project title: Learning from the national management of the pandemic: The health economic impact of COVID-19 on care and support for people over 65 years old

Lead applicant: Mari Jones (ECR)

Institution: Swansea University

Cost: £249,997

Project reference: HRG-20-1708(P)

Project title: Sunproofed: A mixed methods evaluation of sun safety policies in primary schools in Wales

Lead applicant: Julie Peconi (ECR)

Institution: Swansea University

Cost: £249,786

Project reference: HRG-20-1755(P)

Project title: Mapping service cold spots from COVID-19 lockdowns

Lead applicant: Richard Fry

Institution: Swansea University

Cost: £252,015

Project reference: HRG-20-1724(P)

Project title: Investigating Immune cell fitness to determine patient response to Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR)T-Cell therapy

Lead applicant: Joanna Zabkiewicz (ECR)

Institution: Cardiff University

Cost: £256,675

Project reference: HRG-20-1776(P)

Project title: The impact of cessation of screening for diabetic eye disease on people with diabetes during the COVID-19 pandemic

Lead applicant: Rebecca Thomas (ECR)

Institution: Swansea University

Cost: £207,979

Further information

Further details of the projects are available on the Health and Care Research Wales [Our funded projects](#) tool.