

Health and Care Research Wales Conference 2024

Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

10 October 2024

Research matters Programme

08:30 Registration, refreshments, exhibition and networking

09:30 Welcome

Owain Clarke, Health Correspondent, BBC Wales News

09:35 Plenary

Sir Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer, Welsh Government

09:45 Keynote speaker

Dr David Price, Honorary Consultant Physician, Swansea Bay University Health Board

10:15 TED-style talks – Research matters

- **Don't just chuck them in the bin, Dr Heidi Seage**, Principal Lecturer in Health Psychology, Cardiff Metropolitan University
- **Out of the journal and into social care, Liza Turton**, Consultant Social Worker, Neath Port-Talbot County Borough Council
- **To transform autism research, ask autistic people, Dr Aimee Grant**, Senior Lecturer in Public Health and Wellcome Trust Career Development Fellow, Swansea University

10:45 Refreshments, exhibition and networking

11:15 Parallel sessions

Amber Lounge **Improving Women's Health: advancing sex and gender equity in health and social care research.**

Facilitator:

Michael Bowdery, Head of Programmes, Health and Care Research Wales

Speakers:

Alice Witt, Research and Policy Fellow, The George Institute for Global Health

Dr Kate Womersley, Co-Principal Investigator of MESSAGE, The George Institute for Global Health

Women and girls make up just over 50% of the population in Wales. Despite this, medicine and healthcare services have not necessarily met their needs, and significant disparities in health and care outcomes have been reported between men and women.

While poorly designed research has contributed to this problem, well-designed research can contribute to its solution. Sex and gender characteristics can make a big difference to health and illness, influencing the conditions a person develops and the effectiveness, side-effects and outcomes of the treatments they receive, so it is vital that research adequately recognises and accounts for relevant sex and gender differences.

To stimulate positive change, Health and Care Research Wales is supporting the Medical Science Sex and Gender Equity (MESSAGE) project. MESSAGE has brought together stakeholders from across the UK to co-design a 'policy framework' to enhance the practice of research funders and other organisations and improve the integration of sex and gender considerations across research design, data collection, analysis and reporting.

This session will provide an overview of MESSAGE, explaining its need, describing the co-produced policy framework, and setting out both the implications for funders and the benefits for the way research addresses women's health needs in particular.

How research can help tackle the grand challenges in adult social care

Chair:

Helen Grindell, Head of Research Support and Operations, Health and Care Research Wales

Speakers:

Alwyn Jones, Chief Officer for Social Care, Wrexham County Borough Council

Professor Mark Llewellyn, Director, Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care and Professor of Health and Care Policy, University of South Wales

Rachel Scourfield, Knowledge Mobilisation Manager, Social Care Wales

Professor Paul Willis, Director, Centre for Adult Social Care Research (CARE)

Improving social care services using evidence-based approaches is fundamental to enhancing quality of care. It is widely known that research makes a real difference to improving outcomes and to the lives of people in our communities.

The social care sector is experiencing difficult times, with a greater demand on services, limited funding and a workforce crisis. However, it is exciting time for social care research with greater funding opportunities available and new developments underway.

Chaired by, Helen Grindell, the lead for the support and delivery service provision for social care research across Wales, this session will hear from representatives from the new adult social care research centre, academia, local authorities and practice discussing some of the challenges currently facing the adult social care sector and how research can be part of the solution by identifying new and better ways of delivering social care.

Each of the four speakers will speak for 10 minutes with an opportunity for questions and discussion following their presentations.

Climate change impacts on health and social care, what are the implications for researchers, and research funders?

Chair:

Dr Josie Jackson, Head of Research Prioritisation, Commissioning and Knowledge Mobilisation, Research and Development Division, Welsh Government

Speakers:

Dr Sara MacBride-Stewart, Reader in Health Medicine and Society, Cardiff University

Rebecca Masters, Consultant in Public Health, Public Health Wales

Samantha Turner, Senior Researcher, Swansea University

Lisa Wise, Climate Change and Environmental Public Health, Welsh Government

The dual crises of climate change and the biodiversity loss have far reaching impacts on our health and wellbeing. For example, relating to energy use, natural disasters, food production and consumption and healthcare systems themselves.

These crises are exacerbating existing disparities, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations such as low-income communities and marginalised groups.

In Wales, some communities are already having to consider the possibility of displacement in the near future due to flooding, erosion, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events.

As a health and social care research funder, these crises have broad implications for us in our identification of priority research areas, and are of high policy interest.

This session will introduce the topic, highlight ongoing research in this area, and aims to spark cross disciplinary interest from researchers and research users.

Partnerships: How can collaboration across different sectors drive investment in research and bring greater benefits for patients?

Chair:

Carys Thomas, Head of Policy, Health and Care Research Wales

Panel:

Louise Davies, Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Professor Liam Gray, Professor of Functional Neurosurgery and Director of the Brain Repair and Intracranial Neurotherapeutics (BRAIN) Unit

Dr Paul Hole, Programme Manager/Acting Head of Research, Imophoron

Dr Leighton Phillips, Director of Research, Innovation and Value, Hywel Dda University Health Board

Rachel Savery, Head of Programme, Advanced Therapies Wales

One of the stand-out lessons from COVID-19 was that we need to collaborate to innovate and work together to deliver.

Building a culture of cross-sector collaboration brings many essential benefits including shared learning, collective expertise, as well as building capacity and capability in research. Forming strong relationships can lead to research outputs that ultimately accelerate public benefits. But progressing partnerships on paper into collaborations that deliver tangible outcomes is a challenge faced by many organisations.

This session will hear from senior leaders in Wales from the NHS, academia, local government and industry on the role they are playing in fostering meaningful collaborations that are demonstrating the impact of research and tackling some of our biggest health and social care challenges.

Each of the five speakers will speak for five minutes with an opportunity for questions and discussion following their presentations.

12:15 Lunch, exhibition and networking

13:15 Women's health panel

Chair: Owain Clarke

Panel:

Professor Amy Brown, Professor Maternal and Child Public Health, Swansea University

Dr Ceryl Davies, Social Care Economist, Bangor University

Rebecca Jones, Director of Research and Development Policy, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)

Dr Helen Munro, Clinical Lead, Women's Health Strategic Clinical Network, NHS Executive

13:55 TED-style talks – Research matters

- **Our responsibility: harnessing Artificial Intelligence for suicide prevention, Dr Marcos Del Pozo Banos**, Senior Lecturer, Swansea University
- **Unheard to empowered: endometriosis and the space for change, Rachel Joseph**, PhD Student, Cardiff University
- **Nothing about us, without us, Dr Mayara Silveira Bianchim**, Research Officer and Patient and Public Involvement Lead, Bangor University with **Georgina Ferguson-Glover** and **Debs Smith**, Patient and Public Involvement representatives

14:25 Sophie Pierce – personal story

14:55 Plenary

Professor Kieran Walshe, Director, Health and Care Research Wales

15:15 Awards

Presented by Professor Kieran Walshe

15:30 Close

Owain Clarke