

Shortlist: Response to Covid Award

This award will recognise a team or individual that has gone to extraordinary lengths to support their patients and/or adapt to sustain services since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Covid Cancer Analysis – Welsh Cancer Intelligence and surveillance unit & DATA-CAN CCC research group

Who	Summary of nomination
<p>Nominees: Prof Dyfed Wyn Huws – Consultant in Public health medicine/Director Janet Warlow – Head of Cancer Registration and information Giles Greene – Head of population cancer research Dawn Allan – Technical info/project manager (cancer) Dianne 'Dee'Davies – PA to director of WCISU Rebecca Thomas – Senior Statistician Tamsin Long – Senior Public health intelligence Analyst Martin Rolles – Consultant Clinical Oncologist Ronan Lyons – Prof of Public Health Ashley Akbari – Senior Research manager & data scientist Rowena Griffiths – Research officer & data scientist Jun Han – Research officer & data scientist Mark Lawler – Professor and Clinical Director Eva Morris – Professor of Health Data Epidemiology</p> <p>Nominated by: Self nomination Organisation: Public Health Wales</p>	<p>Data analysis to understand the impact of Covid-19 and public health measures on cancer presentation, access and treatment in Wales. Despite many of the WCISU team being redeployed during the crisis, the remaining team transformed data sets and the speed of reporting in order to track cancer patients and outcomes too.</p> <p>This including creating a new research group with partners, sourcing new and near-real time pathology and clinical record data sets to augment existing information, and development of data cleansing algorithms – all to create Wales-specific and comparative data on cancer patients in Wales and sizing the 'missing' cohort. This data was shared as quickly as possible to inform action across NHS Wales and shared with the Welsh Government Covid-19 Technical Advisory Group and Covid-19 Evidence Centre.</p>

2. Protective elective surgery – Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Who	Summary of nomination
<p>Nominees: Christine Baber – Ward Manager Hayley Holloway – Ward Manager Deborah Barry – Unit Manager</p> <p>Nominated by: Sandra Watts – Professional practice development nurse & Joanne Hill, Service Improvement Manager, Organisation: Cardiff and Vale University Health Board</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Nominees: Joanne Hill – Service Improvement Manager, improvement, and implementation Tina Bayliss– Deputy director of operations, surgery clinical board – CVUHB Abrie Theron – Clinical director peri-operative care Clare Wade – Director of nursing, surgery clinical board Mike Bond– director of operations, surgery clinical board Denis Williams – Interim General manager Yvonne Hyde – infection prevention and control Emma Thomas – senior nurse Tony Ward – Head of discretionary and capital compliance Cath Twamley – lead nurse Sarah Maggs – operational services manager Christine Barber – ward manager</p> <p>Nominated by: Joanne Hill, Self Nomination</p>	<p>Development and successful running of 'Green Zones' at Cardiff and Vale UHB in response to the pandemic. The Green Zones or Protective Elective Surgical Unit (PESU) were managed entirely separately to other services to reduce risk of infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing staff were unable to leave the ward area during each 12.5 hour shift. Staff upskilled so they could do venepuncture and cannulation, vastly reducing footfall onto the ward. Throughout, they continued to show the upmost compassion and empathy to patients who had already endured long isolation periods to enable them to attend surgery. • Crucial day surgery continued throughout the pandemic, where other services were halted. • A further ward was established in May 2021 requiring the team to train up a new cohort of colleagues in the demanding procedures. <p>As a result, over 10,000 cancer patients receiving surgery during the pandemic. Since the original Green Zone ward area was established to December 2021, there was just one hospital acquired infections reported in the zones.</p> <p>The model above was the result of meticulous planning and a collaborative problem-solving approach adopted by the Surgery Clinical Board in conjunction with Children & Women, Specialist, Clinical Diagnostics & Therapeutics Clinical Boards, Estates, Infection Prevention Control and Improvement & Implementation colleagues.</p>

3. Covid 19 vaccine and cancer study – Cardiff University, Velindre Wales Cancer Bank

Who	Summary of nomination
<p>Nominees: Prof Mererid Evans – Consultant Oncologist, Cardiff Uni Prof Andrew Godkin – PI and Honorary Consultant, Cardiff University Prof Awen Gallimore – Prof of Immunology, Cardiff University Charlotte Young – Research Nurse, Velindre Amanda Jackson – Research nurse – Velindre Alison Parry-Jones – Wales Cancer Bank Lisa Spary – Wales Cancer Bank</p> <p>Nominated by: Dr James Powell, Consultant Neuro Oncology/Lung</p> <p>Organisation: Cardiff University and Velindre Wales Cancer Bank</p> <p>ALSO</p> <p>Nominees: Prof Awen Gallimore – prof of immunology, Cardiff Uni Prof Mererid Evans – Consultant Oncologist, Cardiff University Prof Andrew Godkin – PI and Honorary consultant, Cardiff University Dr Alison Parry-Jones – Manager Wales Cancer Bank Cardiff University</p>	<p>The COVID IMMUNE research project was a collaborative research study between Cardiff University, Velindre University NHS Trust and the Wales Cancer Bank, which examined the effect of vaccination on both SARS-CoV2-specific T cell and antibody responses in cancer patients. Since cancer, as well as cancer treatments, can impact negatively on immune system function, it was not known whether vaccination would induce robust immune responses in cancer patients.</p> <p>Blood samples were taken prior to volunteer patients' first COVID-19 vaccination at Velindre, with repeat samples taken for immunological measurements following the first and second vaccination. Establishing this study represented a huge logistical challenge and demanded out-of-hours commitment from many in order to be timely, given the pace of the vaccine delivery programme and to ensure that the study outcomes were relevant and valuable as COVID-19 evolved.</p> <p>Results revealed a delay in the generation of SARS-CoV-2-specific immunity in cancer patients compared to people without cancer. For most patients, a second dose was however sufficient to boost immune responses. The study also revealed the importance of measuring immune responses in order to identify individuals at greater need of booster vaccinations.</p> <p>The study was popular with patients and a huge success. It demonstrates how collaborative translational research can be conducted – at extraordinary pace – in Wales.</p>

Dr Martin Scurr – Cancer Research Wales funded researcher, Cardiff University /immunoserv
 Dr Lisa Spary – Researcher Wales cancer bank, Cardiff University/Immunoserv
 Mr Lorenzo Capitani – MRC funded PHD student – Cardiff University
 Dr Stephanie Burnell – Research Associate – Wales cancer research centre, Cardiff University
 Michelle Somerville – Wellcome trust funded technician/PHS student, Cardiff University
 Ms Amanda Jackson – Research Nurse, Velindre
 Ms Charlotte Young – Research nurse, Velindre
 Dr Hannah Reed – WCRC/Moondance funded MD student, Cardiff University
 Dr Rachel Granger – Research contracts manager, Velindre
 Christopher Cotterill–Jones – Research Delivery manager, Velindre
 Sarah Townsend – Head of Research and development, Velindre

Nominated by: Andrew Westwell, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, Cardiff University

Organisation: Cardiff University and Velindre



4. Breast Unit – Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Who	Summary of nomination
<p>Nominees: Kelvin Francis Gomez – Consultant Oncoplastic breast surgeon Rhiannon Foulkes– Consultant Oncoplastic Breast surgeon Christopher Gateley –Consultant Oncoplastic Breast surgeon Valentina Lefemine – Consultant Oncoplastic Breast surgeon Phil Holland – Consultant Oncoplastic Breast surgeon Michael Rees – Consultant Oncoplastic Breast surgeon Karene Lim – Consultant Breast Radiologist Khulood Al-Rawi – Consultant Breast Radiologist Nest Evans – Consultant Breast radiologist Helena Stephens – Consultant Breast Radiographer Michelle Chamerlain – Breast Care specialist Nurse Natalie Clark – Breast Care Specialist nurse Louise Davidson – Breast Care Specialist nurse Caroline Stanger – Breast Care specialist nurse Linda Morris – Breast Care specialist nurse</p>	<p>Rapid restructuring of two Breast Units (at Nevill Hall and Royal Gwent) resulting in ABUHB exiting the lockdown with no diagnosed breast cancer patients waiting for surgery – with the caveat that there were patients who opted for primary endocrine treatment instead of surgery during COVID – and no deaths in the Breast Unit's cohort.</p> <p>The team formulated an admission plan based on accepted expert opinion <i>early</i> in the pandemic (from professional associations and Royal Colleges) aligned with standard infection control principles rather than waiting for formal evidence. Accordingly, the week after the pandemic was formally announced, breast cancers were being safely operated on within ABUHB. The average stay became typically just over one day.</p> <p>Some important elements in the COVID Breast Surgery protocol included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Pre-empting the situation by increasing our workload before the lockdown to reduce the number of patients on our waiting listsb) Creating COVID safe spaces to undertake outpatient clinics.c) Patient flyers to help counteract the communications barrier created by masks, left in waiting rooms so that patients knew who was looking after them that dayd) COVID-19 free (Green) theatres were identified and a green pathway from the ward to theatre was established for patients.e) 14-day pre-operative isolation, swabbing and bloods for patients; screening questionnaires

Sarah Hacker – Breast Care specialist nurse

Nominated by: Kelvin Gomez,
Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon

Organisation: Aneurin Bevan UHB



5. Lung cancer team – Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Who	Summary of nomination
<p>Nominees: Dr Mat Jones – Consultant respiratory physician & lead lung cancer physician Dr Ian Williamson – Consultant respiratory physician & associate medical director for Cancer Sam Williams – lung cancer & mesothelioma clinical nurse specialist Carol Davies – Macmillan lung cancer nurse specialist Becky Weston-Thomas – Lung cancer nurse specialist Emma Williams – lung cancer nurse specialist Cer Ann Maggs – Lung Cancer Specialist Dr Paul Shaw – Consultant oncologist Dr Mike Button – consultant oncologist Dr Andrew Morely – consultant radiologist Dr Majid Rashid – consultant pathologist Mr Ainis Pirtnieks – Consultant thoracic surgeon</p> <p>Nominated by: Self nomination</p> <p>Organisation: Aneurin Bevan UHB</p>	<p>The respiratory medicine team at ABUHB were at the forefront of the response to managing patients with Covid-19 infection whilst also sustaining other core services. Recognising early the challenges of Covid-19 and new merging hospital sites, we adopted wholesale changes to our lung cancer service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Merger of two separate MDTs (Nevill Hall Hospital and Royal Gwent Hospital) and an all-specialty team approach, meeting weekly at least- Widespread rapid change in job plans with adoption of a 'Lung Cancer Physician of the Week' wholly committed to co-ordinating and supporting the lung cancer service on a weekly basis with continuation of face-to-face rapid access clinics throughout and diagnostic services.- Lung cancer nurse specialists in conjunction with oncologists performed online Teams meetings to track patients- Pastoral support to patients was heightened- Access to diagnostic CT images within 48 hours of referral in 'green' hospital sites; faster processing of samples by histo-pathologists- Pathway reforms included embedding of key referral pathways, including solitary pulmonary nodule follow-up and CT first pathways; new pathways for CT guided biopsies with use of outpatient thoracic vent placement to deal with complications <p>As we emerge out of the pandemic, these working practices are deeply embedded. This has allowed the ABUHB lung cancer service to meet the challenges of the All-Wales single cancer pathway and achieve target diagnostic and treatment goals with high level of attainment.</p>

6. Cancer during Covid dashboard – NHS Wales Delivery Unit

Who	Summary of nomination
<p>Nominees: Alun Matthews – Demand and capacity Manager Gareth Lee – Deputy Director</p> <p>Nominated by: Gareth Popham – Assistant Manager of the Wales Cancer Network (on behalf of Prof Tom Crosby, Cancer Clinical Lead for Wales)</p> <p>Organisation: Aneurin Bevan UHB</p>	<p>During April 2020 the Wales Cancer Network setup a weekly operational managers group to discuss and understand what was happening within Health Boards for cancer patients and to address the fluctuating position, challenges and regional approach to delivery of cancer services. The NHS Wales Delivery Unit (Alun and Gareth) led and developed a national resource to answer many of the questions this group had. They repurposed performance reporting data (by agreement) and expertly analysed and discussed the observations weekly so that we could collectively be better informed.</p> <p>The tools and analysis provided by the Delivery Unit enabled NHS Wales to look at demand levels by Health Board and cancer site, plus waiting list volumes as well as the average time. This enabled NHS Wales, Health Boards and clinicians to make decisions with the best intentions for better patient care at the time and focussed the Wales Cancer Network on pertinent and complex issues the arose. Two examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping impact waves that started in Aneurin Bevan and over time spread to Hywel Dda and Betsi Cadwaladr enabled collective monitoring of those developments - Highlighting the trend towards non-surgical oncology modalities owing to the availability of surgical capacity enabled the Cancer Network to trigger discussions about a regional approach. <p>The dashboard continued to be refined and remains a key tool for cancer operational managers.</p>



7. Head and neck cancer services – Hywel Dda UHB

Who	Summary of nomination
<p>Nominees: Karen Howarth – Interim Senior nurse manager/Macmillan head and neck cancer clinical nurse specialist Miriam Brown – Macmillan head and neck/upper GI dietitian Anwen Butten – Macmillan Head and neck cancer clinical nurse specialist Michelle Whittall-Williams – Macmillan head and neck cancer support worker Danna Jones – Macmillan head and neck speech and language therapist Kath Campbell – Macmillan head and neck speech and language therapist Aimee Spencer – Macmillan head and neck cancer support worker Alis Evans – Macmillan Head and neck cancer clinical nurse specialist Vinod Prabhu – consultant ENT/Head and Neck surgeon</p> <p>Nominated by: Karen Howarth (self-nomination)</p> <p>Organisation: Hywel Dda UHB</p>	<p>The members of the team are always willing to go the extra mile for the patients, constantly developing new ways of enabling patients to feel valued, in control and engaged in all decisions about their care. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Development of a new newsletter for past and present patients, offering the psychological support service that the health board provided and advice on COVID, recognising that most of our patients were 'clinically vulnerable' to Covid- Rapid creation of alternatives to face-to-face clinics – initially using, telephone, what's app and facetime on personal phones before a more formal media platform was introduced. These clinics are run weekly, and patients are now able to involve family and friends who live further afield- Our H&N dietitian changed enteral feeding: tube placement moved to OPD with training given at the patient's home the same day- Creation of a monthly virtual support group <p>Despite COVID 19 and its impact on the NHS there has been a lot of positives from this experience, and we are hopeful that as a team we have managed to make a difference to patients having a cancer diagnosis and that they have not felt alone during these difficult times.</p>

[END]