

Spring 2017



WCB newsletter

Director: Dr Richard Adams

Manager: Dr Alison Parry-Jones

WCB on the world biobanking stage!

Biobanking is a global enterprise. There are biobanks in all parts of the world and the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) is a global organisation which creates opportunities for sharing ideas and innovations in biobanking and harmonises approaches to evolving challenges in the field. The promotion of best practices through collaboration and education and training opportunities cuts across a broad range of member biobanks and individuals. Animal, environmental, microorganism, plant/seeds and museum collections are all represented in ISBER, along with the human specimen biobanks.



Every year ISBER holds an annual meeting to bring together this variety of biobanking professionals to share ideas and learn from each other. In 2017 the meeting is being held in Toronto, Canada and the Scientific Program Committee is being co-chaired by Dr Alison Parry-Jones from the Wales Cancer Bank (WCB). This gives WCB a unique chance to shape a major conference programme and puts WCB firmly on the world biobanking stage.

ISBER (www.isber.org) is governed by a Board of Directors elected by its membership and all areas of the world have representation on the Board, split by four regions. WCB falls in the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region and Dr Parry-Jones (right) has just been elected to become the regional Director, with her 3-year term starting at the meeting in Toronto. This role helps to set the strategic direction of the society and leads and directs the organisation's advancement of biobanking science and management. Key to the EMEA region is the joint venture with the European and Middle Eastern Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB) and the Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure (BBMRI) to hold a combined conference.



This conference, Global Biobank Week, takes place in Stockholm in September and is the first time the three biobanking organisations have collaborated in such a venture. Dr Parry-Jones is looking forward to playing an active role in developing relationships for future exciting collaborations between ISBER, ESBB and BBMRI.

Team Working at WCB...

New Recruits

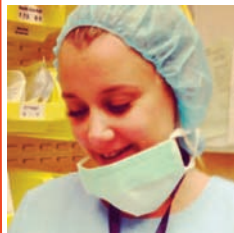
2016 saw two new additions to the WCB research team; Christine Morris at Llandough and Katie De-Loyde at UHW.

They introduce themselves below.



Christine Morris

I worked with the Cardiff and Vale breast team in Llandough in a very interesting and fulfilling role as a research nurse for ten years before focusing on consenting patients for the Wales Cancer Bank in 2016. The breast team are very research active and they regularly participate in UK, European and world wide studies. One study, with Cardiff University researchers, involved establishing a new pathway to collect fresh tissue from biopsy samples from patients in the breast clinic for the researchers to try and develop a new method of treatment delivery. This involved great collaboration with the theatre staff and wider team to make sure the tissue could be sourced and transferred to the research team in a timely manner, and in the correct way, so that it could be used in the project. We successfully recruited over 250 patients for the study and we are now continuing the pathway to bank the biopsy samples with WCB. This will mean future research projects can benefit from the work done to set up this process. Huge thanks are due to the Llandough Red and Blue theatre teams (pictured below), who make this sample collection possible.



Katie De-Loyde

My main role is recruiting colorectal cancer patients to the Wales Cancer Bank at the University Hospital of Wales site, but I also have a firm interest in data analysis. I am very excited to be part of a national organisation and work on such a hugely beneficial project.

I have an undergraduate degree in Biology and a postgraduate degree in Public Health and Epidemiology. Previously, I have spent the last eight years living and working in Sydney, Australia. My employers in Sydney consisted of a mixture of large teaching hospitals and the University of Sydney. My role throughout my time there was of 'Research Officer / Bio-Statistician' which involved design and implementation of research studies, patient recruitment, study management, writing of academic papers and data analysis. Although I very much enjoyed my time in Sydney I have now moved back to the UK to spend some more time with my family.

Volunteer Consenting

Plans are well underway for WCB volunteer consenting to expand at clinics in Velindre Cancer Centre during 2017.

Four new recruits have successfully completed the classroom stage of the WCB consentor training programme.

Two volunteers, Jean Hopkins and Marion Harris, are currently shadowing nurses in clinic and will shortly be starting to consent patients under supervision. WCB would like to thank them for their time and enthusiasm!

Goodbye and Good Luck

We bid a fond farewell to research nurses: Cheryl Worsey, Alison Edwards and Mandy Hewitt, who sadly leave us for pastures new. WCB extends immense gratitude to them for all their hard work and dedication and wishes them every success in their new roles.

News Bites

Lay Liaison and Ethics Group (LLEG)

The Wales Cancer Bank believes strongly in the value of involving patients and lay people in the structure of research projects and WCB has had a lay advisory group (LLEG) from the inception of the project. The LLEG members have been very active in; consulting on new initiatives and implementation of new processes, reviewing lay summaries in research applications and raising awareness of WCB to patient groups and the wider public. In November 2016 Bob Hall and Pam Parkhouse stepped down as LLEG Chair and Vice-Chair respectively and WCB would like to thank them for all their hard work and valued input over the last few years.



We welcome Sue Campbell and Roy Norris as the incoming Chair and Vice-Chair and look forward to

working with them. For more information on the activities of LLEG or on the new Chair and Vice-Chair, please visit the WCB website:

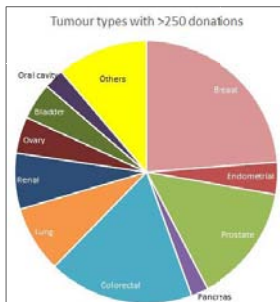
<http://www.walescancerbank.com/become-a-lay-volunteer.htm>



2016 MediWales Innovation Competition

Our congratulations go to the All Wales Genetics Laboratory who received the NHS Judges Award at the 2016 MediWales Innovation Awards on 13th December, and also to ABMU's Department of Colorectal Surgery who, in partnership with Swansea University's Centre for NanoHealth and its Department of Physics received the MediWales Innovation Research Excellence in the NHS Award at the awards ceremony held in Cardiff's National Museum of Wales.

Activity Update



13,500 patients have now consented to donate samples to the Wales Cancer Bank. The pie chart on the left shows the proportion of consents by tumour type, for tissue types with more than 250 donations. For scale, the purple portion (pancreas) = 253 donors.

During 2016, 121 of the patients consented also had their samples used in the Cancer Research UK Stratified Medicine Programme (SMP) (www.cancerresearchuk.org/funding-for-researchers/how-we-deliver-research/our-research-partnerships/stratified-medicine-programme)

Tumour samples from patients with non small cell lung cancer are investigated using Next Generation Sequencing to identify genetic changes in the tissue samples. The Wales Cancer Bank has been facilitating the consenting to this research project since 2011 and patients in Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Merthyr have all contributed samples.

Since the beginning of 2016, an exciting new clinical trial, the Lung Matrix trial has been recruiting patients with eligible genetic mutations from the SMP programme, and who are also clinically eligible for the trial. The Matrix trial is a new design of clinical trial with multiple treatments available dependent upon the genetic make up of the patients' tumour. Each treatment group is small and there is flexibility to increase successful arms or halt unsuccessful ones. The trial is being co-ordinated locally from Velindre Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) and WCB is proud to be working with clinical teams, pathology departments, the All Wales Genetics laboratory and Velindre CTU to make this trial available to patients in south Wales.



Official Events - Cancer Research Wales

For the Just Giving link and for more information on organised events visit their website: [www. cancerresearchwales.co.uk](http://www.cancerresearchwales.co.uk)

15 June 2017
Annual Golf Day

9 July 2017
Velathon Wales

28 July 2017
Altitude - The National 3 Peaks

30 July 2017
Prudential Ride London

1 October 2017
Cardiff Half Marathon

1 December 2017
Annual Christmas Ball

21 September 2018
Machu Picchu—Inca Trail Trek

Get in Touch.....

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The Wales Cancer Bank project is extremely grateful to all its funders, collaborators and host:

