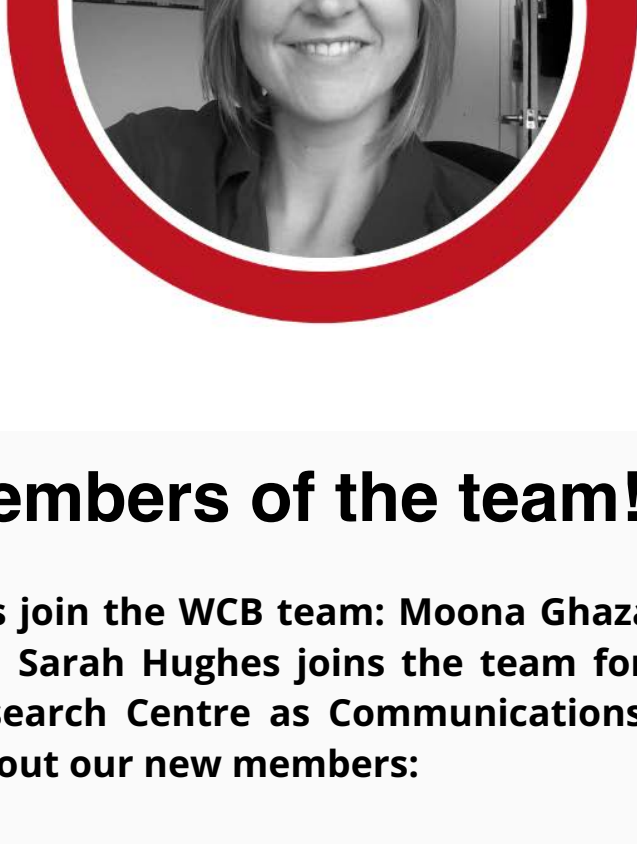
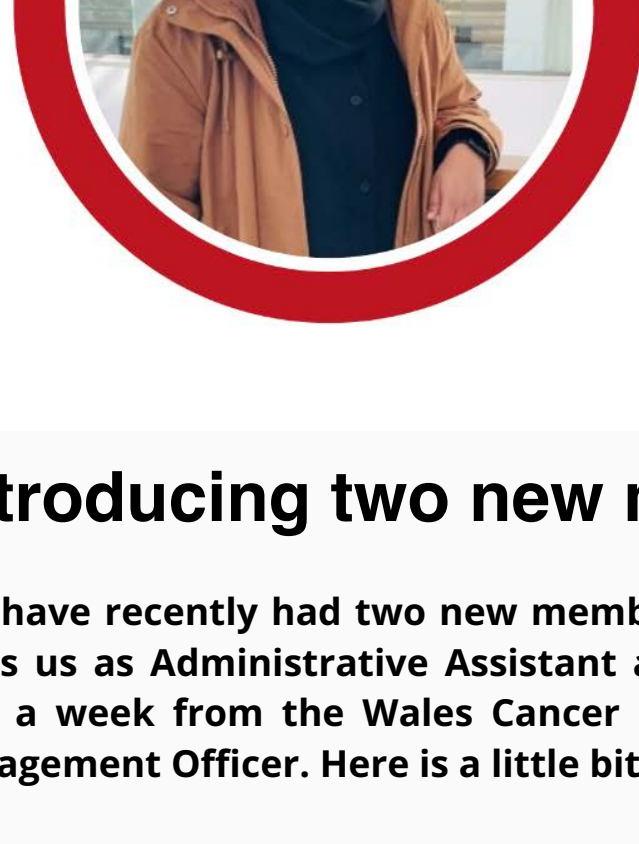




WALES CANCER BIOBANK
BIOFANC CANCER CYMRU

Latest news



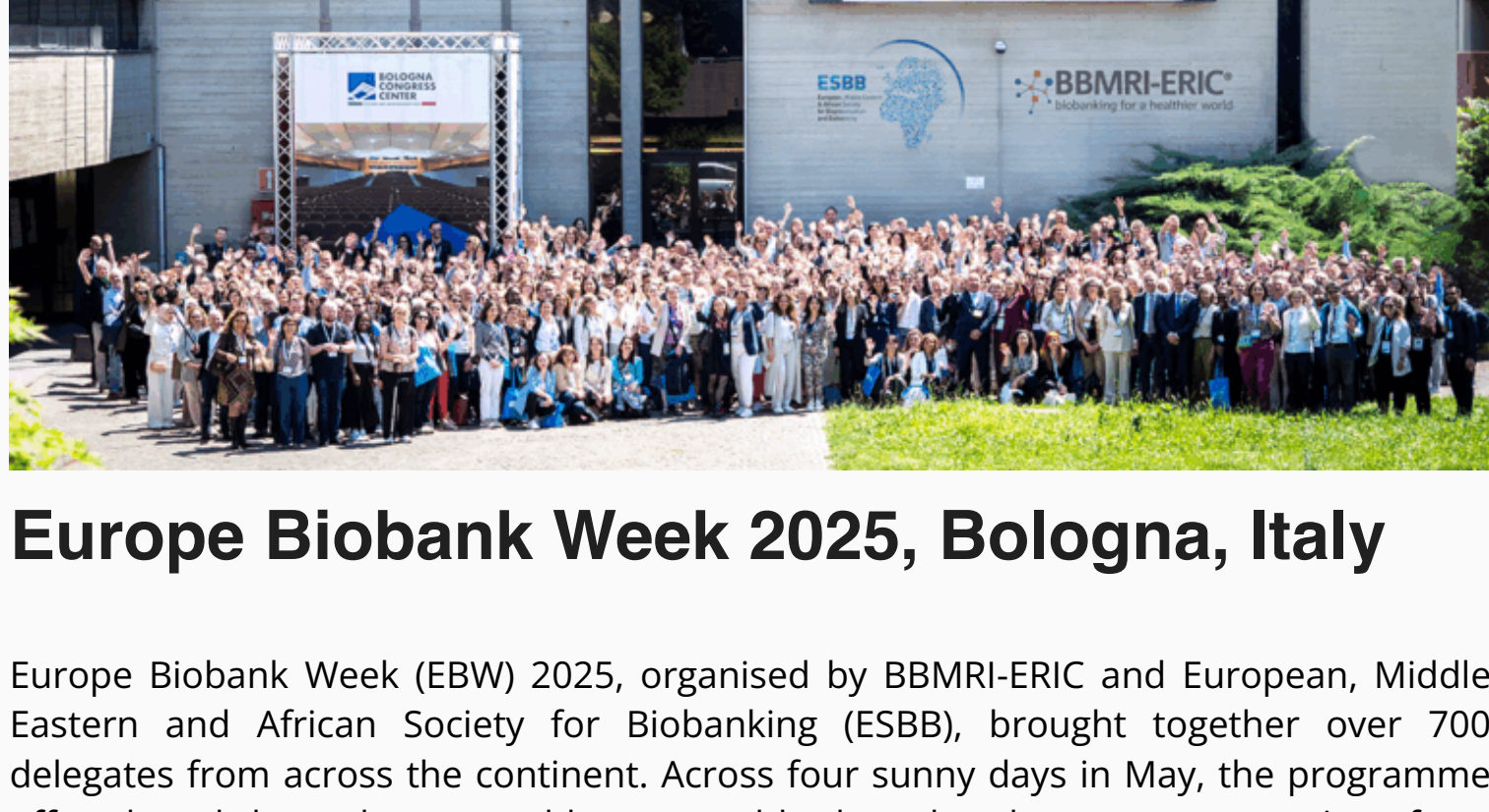
Introducing two new members of the team!

We have recently had two new members join the WCB team: Moona Ghazanfar joins us as Administrative Assistant and Sarah Hughes joins the team for one day a week from the Wales Cancer Research Centre as Communications and Engagement Officer. Here is a little bit about our new members:

*pictured left - right: Moona Ghazanfar, Sarah Hughes

"Hello, I am Moona Ghazanfar, I recently joined Wales Cancer Biobank as an Administrative Assistant. Although my professional background lies in marketing and customer service, I am driven to bring my organisational skills, communication abilities and proactive approach to support the dedicated WCB team. In my role, I am responsible for managing key administrative duties, including coordinating meetings, supporting smooth operations, and assisting with a variety of operational tasks that keep WCB running smoothly. I am truly inspired by WCB's important mission to advance cancer research, and I am motivated to contribute meaningfully to this vital work that has the potential to impact countless lives. Joining WCB represents a unique opportunity for me to be part of team making a real difference in healthcare, and I look forward to growing and learning in this role."

"Hello, I'm Sarah Hughes, and I'm delighted to be joining the Wales Cancer Biobank team one day a week as a Communications and Engagement Officer. I am based at the Wales Cancer Research Centre, where I've been involved in sharing the work of cancer researchers with the wider public and supporting meaningful engagement between researchers, patients and the community. In my role with WCB, I'll be helping to enhance visibility of the biobank's work, sharing stories that highlight the impact of tissue donation, and supporting communication efforts across various platforms. I am passionate about making research accessible and understandable, and I'm excited to contribute to WCB's mission of supporting cancer research that improves lives. I'm really looking forward to collaborating with the team and helping to raise awareness of the valuable work being done here."



Europe Biobank Week 2025, Bologna, Italy

Europe Biobank Week (EBW) 2025, organised by BBMRI-ERIC and European, Middle Eastern and African Society for Biobanking (ESBB), brought together over 700 delegates from across the continent. Across four sunny days in May, the programme offered workshops, keynote addresses and both oral and poster presentations from high-level and respected members of the biobanking community.

Highlights of the conference include engagement with experts in sustainable biobanking and Artificial Intelligence (AI); as well as a strong representation of excellence in data capture, storage and management.

EBW 2025 blended science, collaboration and social exchange – reinforcing the importance of biobanks in shaping research across Europe.

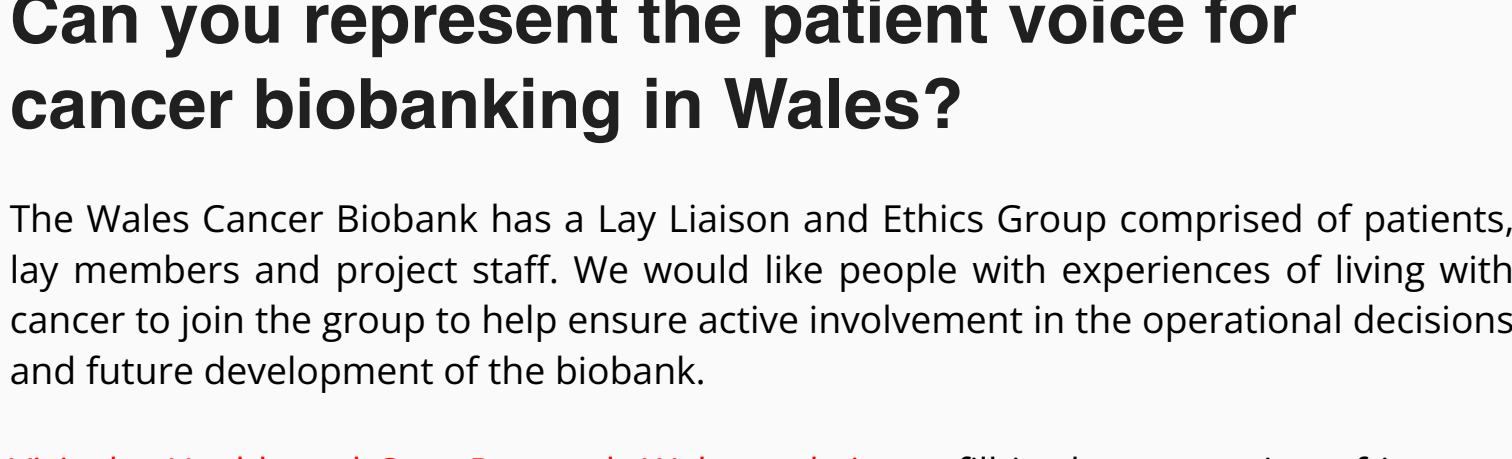


From lab coats to litter picks: WCB hits Barry beach

On 25 July, staff and volunteers from Wales Cancer Bank came together for a successful beach clean at Barry beach, demonstrating our commitment to sustainability and community engagement.

Armed with litter pickers, gloves, and bin bags, the team collected bags of rubbish, helping to protect marine life and improve the local environment. The event was not only a great way to give back, but also a reflection of our sustainability policy, which encourages eco-conscious choices in all aspects of our work. In fact, by choosing to travel by train instead of car, the WCB team saved 14.9 kg of CO₂ emissions - enough to power a standard house for a full day!

Thank you to everyone who took part, your efforts made a real difference!



Can you represent the patient voice for cancer biobanking in Wales?

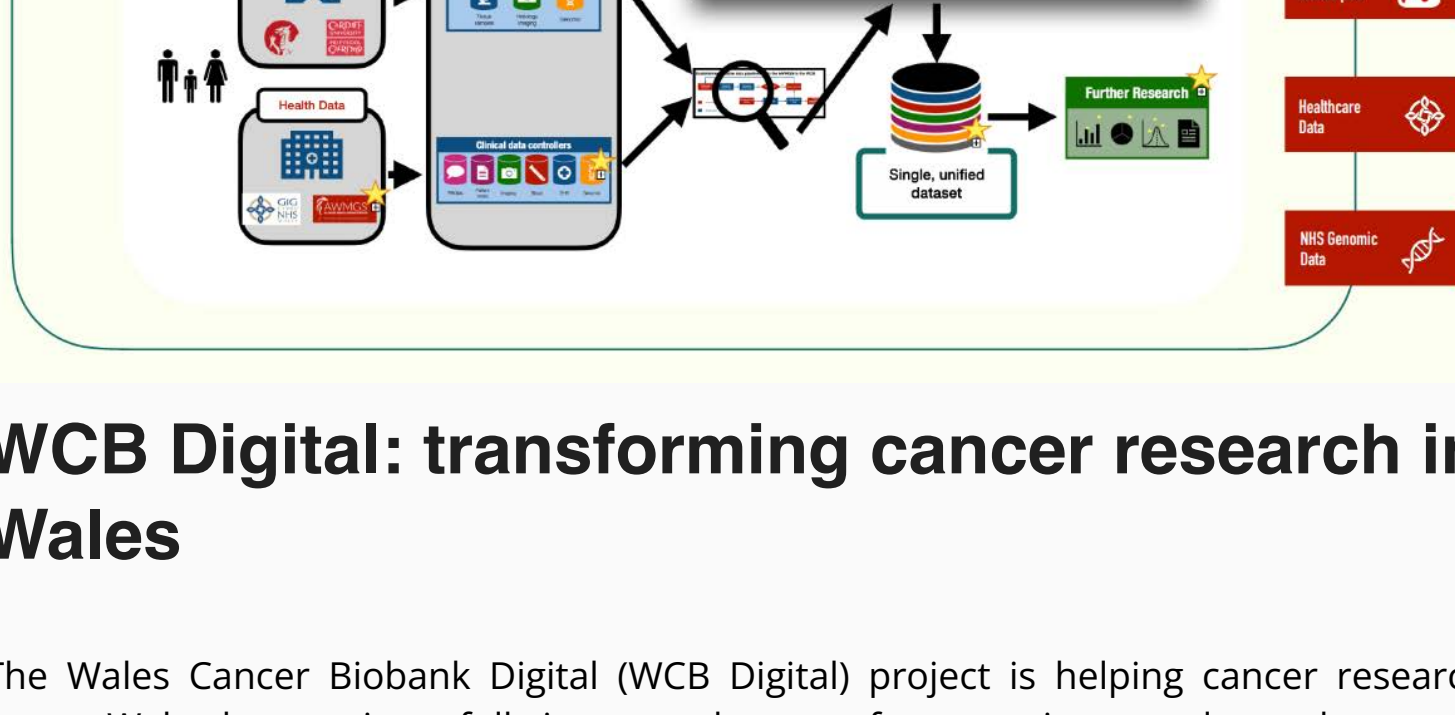
The Wales Cancer Biobank has a Lay Liaison and Ethics Group comprised of patients, lay members and project staff. We would like people with experiences of living with cancer to join the group to help ensure active involvement in the operational decisions and future development of the biobank.

[Visit the Health and Care Research Wales website](#) to fill in the expression of interest form.

Deadline: 1 September 2025

Spotlight on Research

Establishing Pipelines for genomic dataflow



WCB Digital: transforming cancer research in Wales

The Wales Cancer Biobank Digital (WCB Digital) project is helping cancer research across Wales by creating a fully integrated system for accessing samples and genomic data. This national collaboration brings together the Wales Cancer Biobank, Genomics Partnership Wales, Wales Gene Park, AWMGS, and Cardiff University's ARCCA team to streamline access to vital research data.

Led by Liz Merrifield and Peter Giles, WCB Digital supports the Genomics Delivery Plan for Wales and CRESt strategies by establishing a unique pathway that links NHS data, including patient samples, genomic profiles, diagnostic results, and treatment outcomes, for major cancers such as breast, lung, prostate, and colorectal.

A key innovation is WCB's new eConsent platform, enabling paperless, clinic-based consent with automatic data integration. This sustainable, patient-focussed approach has already attracted international interest and is shaping future models for biobanking. With ongoing input from patients and NHS partners, WCB is exploring even more streamlined, individual-led consenting pathways.

Patient & Public Involvement News



Goodbye Sue

Bob Hall, WCB LLEG Chair

Let's say goodbye to Sue someone we all knew
She will always be missed for ever thing she tried to do
She was such a lady one of a kind
Someone to keep in mind
Her heart was good and she would always help if she thought she could
It's so sad she has gone and we could not say so long
We didn't know she was unwell
So there was no one we could tell
So rest in peace my dear friend
And be assured although you have gone
You will never be forgotten
The memories of who you where will always last
Even though you have passed
We will always be your friends
And remember to the end
The good times we all had
And to lose you is so sad

In loving memory of Sue Campbell 1939-2025

Sue Campbell, who has died aged 85, was a force of nature. As a PPI representative, her reputation was such that her involvement, which started with the Wales Cancer Bank, expanded both in remit and geography to include the National Cancer Research Institute, University College London, and most recently the EU. Sue's views, often forthright, on medical research and on healthcare provision were forged from her academic background in zoology, her experiences as a cancer patient herself, and as her late husband, Bill faced his own battle with prostate cancer. She knew from personal experience how good the NHS had been - although even in the halcyon days in the 1990's there were things to criticise; this made it all the harder for her to see the (as she saw it) decline in so many aspects, despite the many obvious advances in oncology research and practice.

She was a staunch supporter of cancer research, from laboratory to clinical trials, and her enormous contribution as a PPI representative encompassed this whole spectrum. Some cancer research infrastructures in Wales, particularly the Wales Cancer Biobank, might not have survived at all without Sue's expressions of unreserved support, and she robustly defended the causes in which she believed. Indeed, she often expressed the view that, as the saying goes, too many funders and administrators "knew the price of everything but the value of nothing". For us, as researchers and medical practitioners, Sue encompassed the reasons why we come to work every day. She grounded us in the fundamentals of what matters to the patients of today and what matters for the patients of tomorrow. Her contribution was immense; we were so lucky to have her, and she will be sorely missed.

Written by Professor Malcolm Mason, former Director of the Wales Cancer Bank

Biobank Activity

17,340

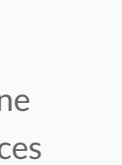
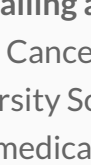
Patients
Consented

184

Projects
Supported

10

Countries
Used In



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