



WALES CANCER BIOBANK
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Latest news



Celebrating 20 years of Wales Cancer Biobank

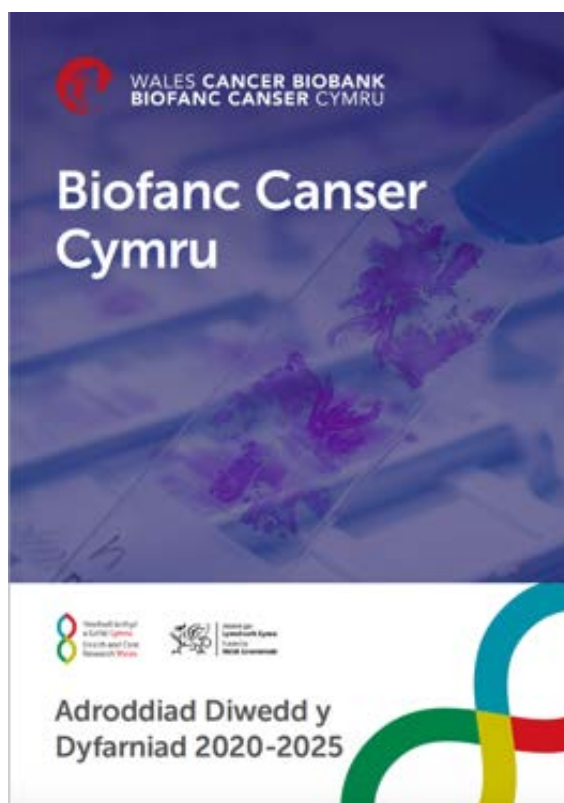
The Wales Cancer Biobank (WCB) is celebrating a major milestone this year: 20 years of collecting, curating and sharing samples and data that drive world-leading cancer research.

Established in 2005, WCB has grown into a foundation of cancer research infrastructure in Wales, supporting scientists locally, nationally and internationally.

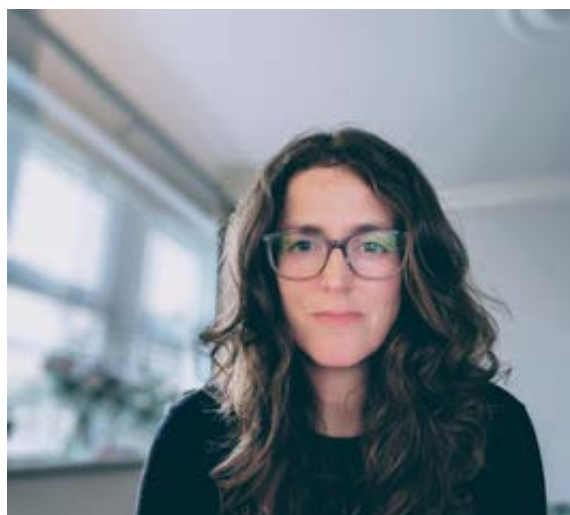
Over two decades, it has collected and managed 17,340 high-quality samples and consents, enabling 184 research projects that have improved our understanding of cancer biology, diagnosis, and treatment.

[Read more](#)

Wales Cancer Biobank publishes End of Award Report 2020-2025:



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Welcoming Liz Merrifield and Dr Valerie Meniel to the team!

Meet Liz Merrifield (photo left), our new data governance lead for the Wales Cancer Biobank (WCB). Liz has a background in data governance and clinical research, having worked within clinical research for almost two decades. Throughout the last year, Liz, along with her colleague Peter Giles, has been working closely with the team here in WCB to establish new pipelines of dataflow from the All Wales Medical Genomics Service through the WCB Digital Project. This project will enable researcher access to genomic healthcare data in addition to other clinical data relevant to the diagnosis and treatment of a patient's cancer, providing a truly multimodal dataset for future research. In addition to working with the team here at WCB, Liz is also involved with working with colleagues in both the Wales Gene Park, Genomics Partnership Wales, Cardiff ECMC and more widely with the Cardiff Cancer Research Partnership as well as being involved with national data strategies.

Dr Valerie Meniel (photo right) has joined the WCB as a Technical Specialist. Originally from Paris, Valerie studied at Université Paris VI and completed her PhD in DNA repair at the Curie Institute. She moved to Wales to continue her research at Swansea University, investigating DNA damage caused by UV and oxidative stress. In 2001, Valerie joined Cardiff University in Professor Alan Clarke's laboratory, exploring the role of the APC gene in colorectal, breast and liver cancers, and later moved with the team to the European Cancer Stem Cell Research Institute (ECSCRI) to study the Wnt signalling pathway. She went on to work with Dr Toby Phesse on gastric cancer and Professor Richard Clarkson on targeting the BCL3 protein in cancer. Valerie joined WCB in spring 2025, where she provides expert advice on sample collection and processing, conducts audits, and ensures the highest standards in biobanking practice. "I find the WCB team amazing - passionate about helping cancer research and improving patient outcomes. I hope my experience as a cancer researcher will be a great asset to WCB, and I look forward to contributing to future progress in cancer research."



Northern Lights: Impact of the Global Biobanking Spectrum: ISBER 2025 Annual Meeting

The ISBER 2025 Annual Meeting, themed “Northern Lights: Impact of the Global Biobanking Spectrum”, was held from May 12–16, 2025, in Montreal, Canada.

The conference celebrated ISBER’s 25th anniversary as the leading global forum for biobanking leadership and the theme “Northern Lights” was chosen to reflect how biobanking illuminates the understanding of human and environmental health through global collaboration and expertise.

The programme consisted of keynote addresses, abstract-driven oral presentations and educational workshops focussing on sustainability, advance biobanking science and repository management.

WCB presented a poster ‘Making a greener consent model’ during the poster presentation sessions. This was received very well with various interactions with other biobankers fostering global collaboration across academia, industry, and pharma.



WCB engages with people across Wales

Over the past few months, the Wales Cancer Biobank (WCB) team has been actively engaging with the research and healthcare community through a series of key events across the country. These have included the launch of the **Cardiff Cancer Research Hub (CCRP)**, the **Cross Party Group for Medical Research at the Senedd**, the **Brain Tumour Conference**, the **MediWales Members Showcase**, the **WCRC Researcher Networking Day**, and the **Health and Care Research Wales Conference**.

These events have provided valuable opportunities to connect with researchers, clinicians, patients, and policy makers, showcasing the crucial role WCB plays in supporting cancer research in Wales. By sharing updates on our work and collaborating with partners across the research landscape, we continue to strengthen our mission of enabling high-quality, impactful cancer research to improve outcomes for patients in Wales and beyond.



Wales Cancer Biobank 'Wears It Pink' for Breast Cancer Now campaign

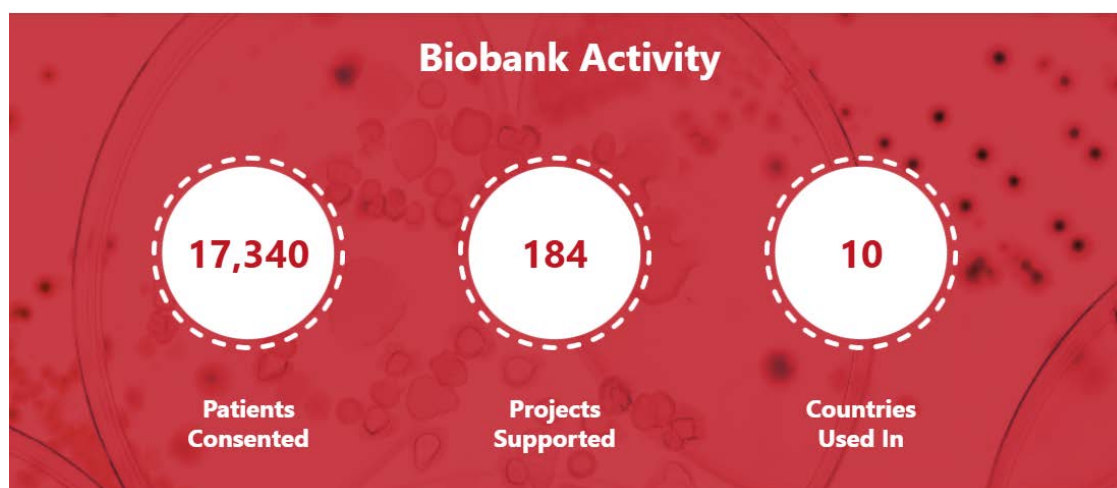
The Wales Cancer Biobank (WCB) proudly took part in [Breast Cancer Now's 'Wear It Pink'](#) campaign, adding a splash of colour to our recent management meeting in support of breast cancer research.

Team members joined thousands across the UK by wearing pink to raise awareness and funds for Breast Cancer Now, one of the UK's leading breast cancer charities. A team photo captured the spirit of the day, showcasing WCB's solidarity with those affected by breast cancer.

This year's event also celebrated WCB's formal partnership with Breast Cancer Now, a key example of the WCB's evolving strategic direction. As part of this

collaboration, Breast Cancer Now will fund a full-time WCB post for five years to collect, process, and share breast cancer samples with the Breast Cancer Now Biobank, while maintaining and expanding the WCB archive.

This partnership strengthens the sustainability of the archive and promotes the sharing of Wales-based patient samples for research, supporting progress in breast cancer research across the UK and beyond.



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