



## Bevan Commission Conference – Challenging, Finding and Creating

As part of its Sustainable Healthcare programme, AbbVie sponsored the Bevan Commission's annual conference in Swansea on the 14th September, 2017.

The conference was themed around “challenging current practice and finding solutions with others to create a healthcare system fit for the future” whilst remaining true to the Prudent Healthcare Principles set out by the Commission.

This is the second Bevan Commission conference supported by AbbVie. In 2016, the company held a conference in Cardiff entitled “How Wales is getting it right with Prudent Healthcare” and this year's conference demonstrated how leadership and innovation can deliver the transformation needed to make NHS Wales sustainable for the longer term.

Head of AbbVie's Sustainable Healthcare Initiative, Zoe Horwich, said:

*“As a pharmaceutical company that produces medicines for patients living with long-term conditions, we see ourselves as genuine partners in developing healthcare policy. Working in collaboration with the service, we can be part of the change process to create new patient pathways, which support the*

*use of innovative treatments and which place the individual at the centre - an approach, which is intrinsically linked to the Prudent Healthcare Principles.*

*“Prudent Healthcare is about getting the best value of every pound spent in the NHS in Wales, and medicines should not always be seen as a cost, but as a means to deliver best value for patients.”*



Dr Philip Schwab (AbbVie) addressing the Bevan Commission Conference

Main image: Cabinet Secretary, Vaughan Gething, AM at the Bevan Commission Conference



Thomas Allvin and Professor Trevor Jones at the Bevan Commission Conference, ABPI Cymru Wales MicroLab

# Bevan Commission Conference - Innovation of Medicines - What's coming over the hill?

At the recent Bevan Commission Conference held in Swansea, ABPI Cymru Wales hosted a MicroLab on the medicines pipeline, which was led by Thomas Allvin of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).

Thomas, who is Director for Healthcare Systems at EFPIA, highlighted the exciting opportunities offered by the medicines of tomorrow, as well as some of the challenges.

The session, which was facilitated by Professor Trevor Jones (Bevan Commission Member and internationally recognised for his activities in clinical research, drug discovery and development in the pharmaceutical industry) was well attended and highly interactive, with participants considering the exciting new wave of medical innovation being discussed.

With over 7,000 drugs in development, medicines will play a key role in addressing the challenges faced by patients – and healthcare systems – across all therapeutic areas, as shown below.

Thomas was able to expand on a number of areas where EFPIA have

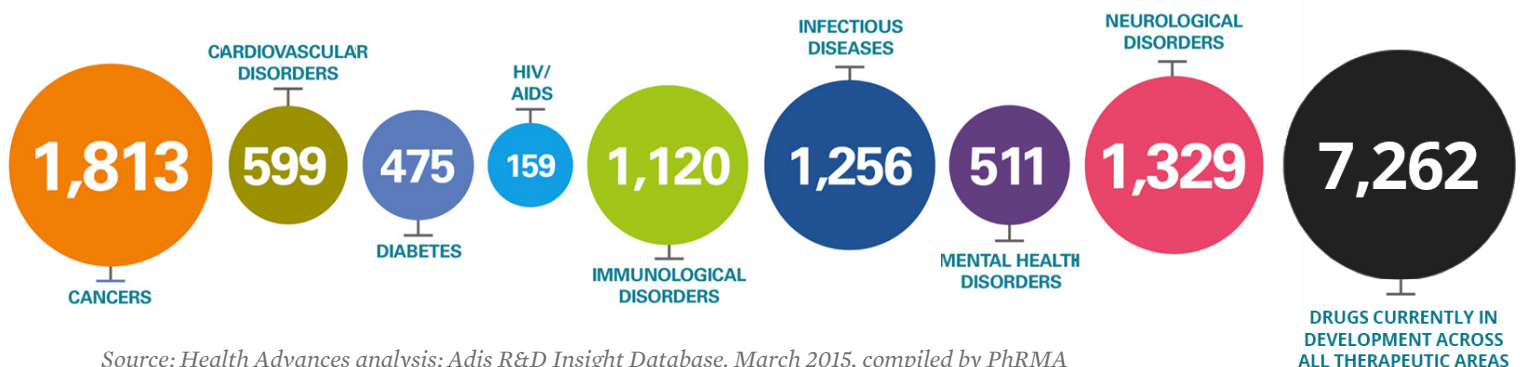
undertaken further research on transformational innovative product classes and platforms, to assess the impact of innovation on current treatment. This included case studies looking at developments in both Alzheimer's therapies and CAR-Ts. The latter are T-cells that have been genetically modified to express Chimeric Antigen Receptors (CARs) that target a particular disease-associated antigen for the treatment of cancer that affects the blood, bone marrow or lymphatic system, usually sub-grouped into leukaemia's, myelomas and lymphomas.

As with all work still in clinical trial phase, there are still uncertainties about when treatments will become available to patients and their clinicians.

Whilst Thomas was able to provide good news on the acceleration of some CAR-T trials, unfortunately, the news in Alzheimer's – where a

number of trials had been terminated – was not, currently, so promising. This re-emphasised the need for healthcare systems, including NHS Wales, to be aware of these developments in order to effectively plan for sustainable services.

ABPI Cymru Wales continues to work with NHS Wales, with the support of the Welsh Government, to support sustainable access to innovative medicines. We look forward to sharing some of this work in the next Bulletin.





# Welsh NHS Confederation – A View of Medicines Management

Dr Rick Greville opened the Welsh NHS Confederation seminar, “*A View of Medicines Management*”, at the end of September 2017, with an overview of the ABPI and its work in Wales.

Rick’s presentation expanded on ABPI’s work in regulation, transparency in partnership with NHS professionals, clinical trial transparency and the pipeline of innovative treatments, amongst other topics.

The Welsh NHS Confederation produced a briefing to accompany the seminar, which is available from them directly at [info@welshconfed.org](mailto:info@welshconfed.org)

The seminar, which was well-attended by NHS Wales, including chief pharmacists, patient organisations and the pharmaceutical industry, also heard from those working in secondary and primary care prescribing roles, along with community pharmacy.



Dr Rick Greville, ABPI Cymru Wales speaking at the Welsh NHS Confederation “*A View of Medicines Management*”

## £21m investment in research to increase opportunities for patients and develop the treatments of tomorrow

**The Welsh Government will invest more than £21m during the next year in high-quality research in the Welsh NHS to help researchers develop the treatments of tomorrow.**

Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport, made the announcement during a visit in July to the Clinical Research and Innovation Centre at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

Last year, over 17,000 patients participated in almost 480 clinical research studies across a broad range of disease areas – including dementia, stroke, cancer, diabetes and mental health - all of which will help to maximise the international competitiveness of Wales as a destination for research.

Announcing the funding, Vaughan Gething said:

*“We recognise the significant role research plays in improving health outcomes, which is why the Welsh Government has committed more than £21m as part of a package of*

*support to strengthen the research environment in the Welsh NHS.*

*Facilities such as the Clinical Research and Innovation Centre at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board play an important role in increasing research opportunities for patients to join national and international high-quality research studies within their locality.*

*“We want to make Wales one of the most attractive places in the world for academic and clinical research. As part of this package, we are continuing to invest significantly in health and social care research which will help attract the best talent to Wales.”*



# Future scientists of Wales took up the “challenge”

The Life Sciences Challenge, this year sponsored for the first time by ABPI Cymru Wales, is an inter-school competition for Year 10 pupils designed and delivered by PhD students, medical students, scientists and early-career researchers within the School of Medicine at Cardiff University.

The fun, interactive and challenging quiz was created to share an enthusiasm for trying to understand the natural world and to inspire pupils to consider the extensive possibilities of careers involving science.

In February, nearly 250 pupils, from 27 schools across both English and Welsh mediums in Wales, entered the preliminary stages of the competition which takes place online. Each team comprises four members who have an interest in maths, science and the world around them. The eight top-scoring English and Welsh medium schools took part in the quarter-finals and semi-finals held at the start of the summer in schools across Wales.



Winning teams from Swansea and Ysgol Tryfan, Bangor

The finalists vying for the title of 2017 Life Sciences Challenge/Her Gwyddorau Bywyd quiz teams of the year were; Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Barry versus Ysgol Tryfan, Bangor and Whitchurch High School, Cardiff versus Bishop Vaughan Catholic School, Swansea.

This year’s worthy winners were Bishop Vaughan Catholic School (English medium quiz) and Ysgol Tryfan (Welsh medium quiz), and both schools were presented with a trophy and a cheque for £150 to be spent on science within the school, thanks to the sponsors, ABPI Cymru Wales.

Dr James Matthews, quiz organiser, said:

*“It is particularly rewarding that in its fifth year the ‘Life Sciences Challenge/Her Gwyddorau Bywyd’ has for the first time become a national competition across the breadth of Wales. Pupils have traditionally had the opportunity to achieve for their schools in the domains of music, sport and drama so it is fantastic that we now have a school team competition that rewards and recognises those who excel in maths and science. The quiz is all about inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers and doctors in Wales.”*

Main image: Winning teams from Bishop Vaughan Catholic School.



# New Treatment Fund – Update from the Welsh Government

Before the National Assembly for Wales broke for the summer recess, the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport made a statement to the plenary session, updating Assembly Members on the implementation of the New Treatment Fund across Wales.

**Welcoming the progress made so far, Vaughan Gething, said prior to his statement:**

*“I’m pleased that our New Treatment Fund is working, delivering swift access to innovative new medicines to support people with life-threatening conditions in Wales. In January, when I launched the New Treatment Fund, I said a concerted, joint effort was needed between the*

*pharmaceutical industry, NHS Wales and Welsh Government to deliver a sustainable and responsive approach to the introduction of new medicines.*

*“This was illustrated effectively just last month when the new breast cancer treatment, Kadcyla™, was made available quickly because the manufacturer engaged with NHS Wales to secure an early agreement.*

*It’s good to see we are making good progress, but I expect to see this continue over the five-year period of the fund.”*

Sharing figures from June, when there were 17 applicable medicines available under the New Treatment Fund Mr Gething added:

*“In the first two months, Health Board compliance showed some variation in the availability of recommended medicines. I am glad to see that has now been rectified and positive progress has been made so people in Wales can benefit from this potentially life-changing policy.”*

ABPI Cymru Wales continues to work with its Members to support early discussions with NHS Wales to ensure that medicines are made available quickly, and equitably, across Wales.



# Medicines Knowledge Base – Access to Medicines in Wales

**In October 2017, ABPI Cymru Wales held the latest in its series of Medicines Knowledge Base sessions at the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff. This is the third meeting of the Medicines Knowledge Base during the Fifth Assembly – and follows on the heels of 23 meetings held over the course of Assemblies Three and Four, starting back in 2007.**

At the last meeting, held in May 2017, the secretariat to the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) – the All Wales Toxicology and Therapeutics Centre – talked about the latest developments in Wales around Health Technology Appraisals (HTA), cohort and individual funding of medicines. At this session, Mr Warren Cowell (Janssen Cilag) presented an update on some of the current key changes to HTA in England.

During discussions following the presentation, of particular interest were the implications for Wales of the new Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) since its relaunch in June 2016. This followed a consultation hosted by NICE and NHS England, which resulted in a changed process integrated within NICE HTA. Medicines entering the “Recommended for use within the CDF” route at NICE will be made available in Wales, as long as the same commercial arrangements are put in place.

Assembly Members, researchers and members of the Assembly Commission attended the update, which was sponsored and chaired by Welsh Conservative Assembly Member, Suzy Davies.

## Who we are

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) represents innovative research-based biopharmaceutical companies, large, medium and small, leading an exciting new era of biosciences in the UK.

Our industry, a major contributor to the economy of the UK, brings life-saving and life-enhancing medicines to patients. We represent companies who supply more than 80 per cent of all branded medicines used by the NHS and who are researching and developing the majority of the current

medicines pipeline, ensuring that the UK remains at the forefront of helping patients prevent and overcome diseases.

Globally our industry is researching and developing more than 7,000 new medicines.

The ABPI is recognised by government as the industry body negotiating on behalf of the branded pharmaceutical industry for statutory consultation requirements including the pricing scheme for medicines in the UK.

For further information about any of the issues in this Bulletin or about ABPI Cymru Wales, please contact:

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