

**Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar:
Next steps for research and innovation in Wales**

Timing: Afternoon, Tuesday, 24th April 2018

Venue: Central Cardiff



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 12.30 - 13.00 Registration and coffee
- 13.00 - 13.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Councillor Neil Prior, Deputy Spokesperson, Digital & Innovation, WLGA
- 13.05 - 13.20 **The current state of the Welsh research and innovation landscape**
Professor Peter Halligan, Chief Scientific Adviser, Welsh Government
- 13.20 - 13.50 **Government-funded research and innovation in Wales**
Professor Graeme Reid, Professor of Science and Research Policy, University College London and Lead, Reid Review of Government Funded Research and Innovation in Wales
Questions and comments from the floor with **Professor Peter Halligan**, Chief Scientific Adviser, Welsh Government
- 13.50 - 14.00 **Taking forward Wales' innovation agenda**
Professor Sir Mansel Aylward, Chair, The Life Sciences Hub Wales
- 14.00 - 14.50 **Developing the pipeline of research in Wales - talent, attracting investment and the impact of UKRI**
What key further steps should be taken to increase the number of young people - particularly women - studying STEM subjects at A-level, and into Higher Education? What options are there for keeping talent in Wales post-graduation and addressing concerns of 'brain drain' to other parts of the UK and abroad? Will the Welsh Government's current programme to attract world-class researchers need amending to complement the UK-wide scheme and maintain a Welsh competitive advantage? To what extent will Brexit pose a challenge to Wales' high levels of cross-border research collaboration and how should Government respond? How might the new UKRI model affect Wales and what steps can be taken to increase the percentage of grant revenue coming to Welsh institutions? What resources will the new Tertiary Education and Research Commission for Wales need in order to support institutions in improving their quality research output? How can Wales best promote itself as a place to invest in research, and which investors and sectors should Wales be targeting? What further steps can Wales take to make itself an obvious destination for businesses' R&D operations; how can existing sectoral strengths be converted into world-leading 'hubs'?
Professor Richard Davies, Vice-Chancellor, Swansea University
Amanda Wilkinson, Director, Universities Wales
Mike Moran, Chief Executive Officer, Proton Partners International
Dr David Wilkes, Deputy Director, Connect Portfolio, Innovate UK
Emlyn Samuel, Head of Policy Development, Cancer Research UK
Questions and comments from the floor with **Professor Sir Mansel Aylward**, Chair, The Life Sciences Hub Wales
- 14.50 - 14.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Councillor Neil Prior, Deputy Spokesperson, Digital & Innovation, WLGA
- 14.55 - 15.25 Coffee
- 15.25 - 15.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Assembly Member
- 15.30 - 15.40 **Strengthening university-business partnership in Wales**
Dr Drew Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, IQE
- 15.40 - 16.35 **Commercialising Welsh science - intellectual property management, supporting spin-outs and enhancing university-business collaboration**
What steps can Welsh Government take to support universities and businesses to make the most of oft-cited existing fields of cutting-edge research excellence in Wales such as semiconductors, 'buildings as power stations' and hydro-electricity generation; what is the potential for developing world-leading clusters in these fields? What more should be done to identify emerging fields of research with the most potential and support them to develop from basic research to commercialisation in Wales? Are there further opportunities to improve IP management by Welsh universities? How can Wales build on its record - highest of the UK nations - in university spin-outs and what more needs to be done to support university-based start-ups to scale-up successfully? How can Wales ensure ongoing collaboration between businesses and universities to enable businesses to remain at the forefront of cutting-edge research? Are opportunities for research collaboration between universities and public bodies in Wales being under-exploited, if so how might this be addressed and what are the prospective benefits for both sides from developing such partnerships?
Professor Sue Bale, Research and Development Director, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Member, Innovation Advisory Council for Wales
Joe Duran, Director, Analytics, Innovation and Research, Fujitsu
Professor Dylan Jones-Evans, Assistant Pro-Vice Chancellor (Enterprise), University of South Wales and Member, Be The Spark
Councillor Peter Fox, Leader, Monmouthshire County Council
Lee Fisher, Partner, Blake Morgan
Questions and comments from the floor with **Dr Drew Nelson**, Chief Executive Officer, IQE
- 16.35 - 16.55 **Research and innovation in the new regulatory environment**
Bethan Owen, Director of Institutional Engagement, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Questions and comments from the floor
- 16.55 - 17.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Senior Assembly Member
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Wales