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Hywel Dda
University Health Board

Research and Innovation (R&I) Context Setting



Department Overview

- Three Divisions: **R&D, TriTech and Innovation**, Value Based Healthcare (VBHC) + **University Partnerships**.
- All aim to **enable** R&I benefits including:
 - accurate and earlier disease diagnosis
 - developing effective treatments
 - developing and understanding preventative approaches
 - improving care delivery, health outcomes and quality of life
 - improving workforce satisfaction and retention
 - delivering better patient and carer experience, lower mortality, and improved financial performance.



R&D Division



Three functions and teams:

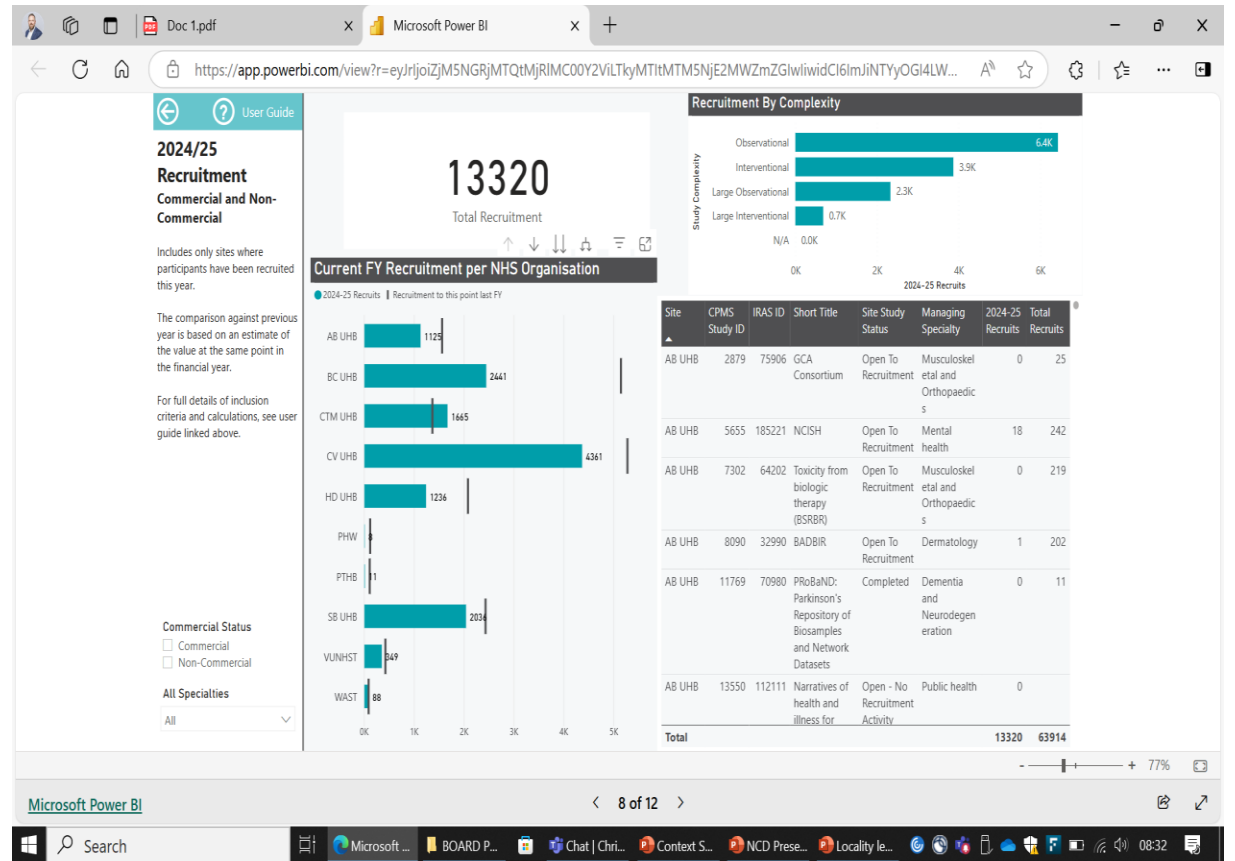
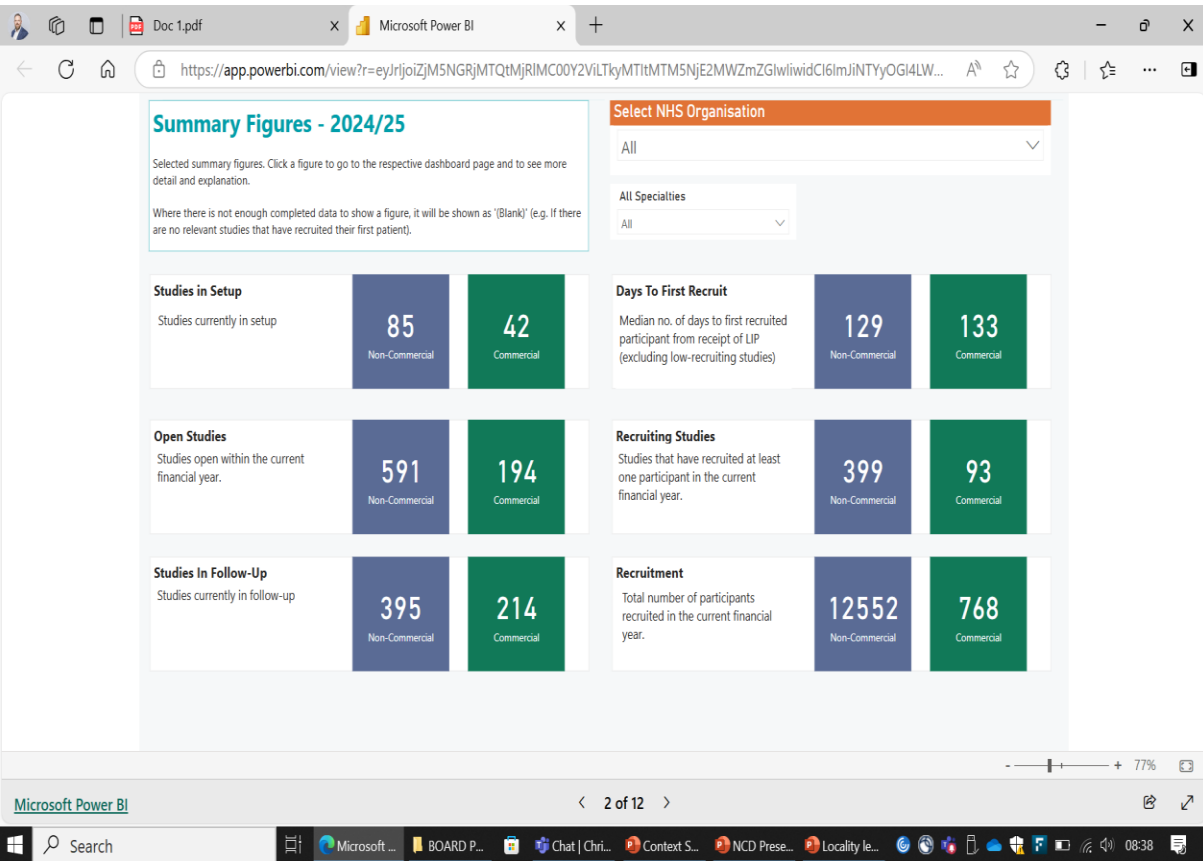
- Research Delivery – observational/interventional; sponsored/hosted; commercial/publicly funded.
- Study Set Up & Quality Assurance.
- Researcher Development – ‘growing our own’ (women’s health, metabolomics, respiratory, endocrine, orthopaedics, primary care). Securing grants.

Research facilities at all four hospital sites, with a responsibility for wider outreach. Support functions at Dura Park, Llanelli, with plans to relocate at Pentre Awel.

Funding predominantly Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW), supplemented with public grants and commercial – can restrict.

Performance includes HCRW Key Indicators – can restrict.

R&D Division



Reality Check

Robot-enabled hip and knee surgery clinical trial at Hywel Dda



CONSCOP2

A randomised controlled trial of contrast enhanced colonoscopy in the reduction of right sided bowel cancer.

Background

People testing positive on a bowel cancer screening stool test are offered colonoscopy (bowel camera examination).

About half of those have cancers or polyps (small abnormal growths that might lead to cancer in the future) found on colonoscopy. Studies have shown that screening reduces cancer development (through removing polyps found) and deaths from cancer in the lower bowel.

Giant PANDA Trial

Pregnancy ANtihypertensive Drugs: which Agent is best?

The Giant PANDA Trial is a pregnancy trial looking at evaluating the effect of different antihypertensive drugs in women with pregnancy hypertension on maternal and fetal/neonatal outcomes.



TriTech and Innovation Division



Three functions and one multidisciplinary team:

- Research to support regulatory approval of devices (ISO13485)
- Real world evaluation of innovations and services
- Advising and supporting non-clinical collaborations, research and innovation (e.g. with the EU, Health Board initiatives)

Located at Dura Park in Llanelli, with plans to relocate to Pentre Awel.

Board approved Business Plan in 2021. Operates on a **cost recovery** basis.

Funding sources include Industry, NHS Executive, European Union – can restrict.
Other key indicators set by board.

New business plan informed by peer review in 2025/2026.

TriTech and Innovation Division

Projects have included:

- Evaluation of ICST (NHS Executive)
- Evaluation of IAN service (AstraZeneca)
- CVD Risk Assessment and Management (AMGEN)
- Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Evaluation (Tunstall) – COPD and Heart Failure
- AI for prostate cancer diagnosis (JIVA and Moondance)
- G:Data Game for early MCI-AD Screening/Diagnostics (Innovate)
- Nurse led triage for lung cancer diagnosis (Moondance)
- Invest4Health - Mobilising novel finance models for health promotion & disease prevention (EU)
- Evaluation of new model prostate cancer diagnosis pathway (CRUK)
- Evaluation of TMS for drug resistant depression (Life Science Hub)
- DYNAMO - modelling & dynamic assessment of integrated health & care pathways enhancing response capacity of Health systems (EU)
- Can Sense – an accurate, non-invasive, inexpensive blood test to diagnose bowel cancer early
- Long COVID App
- AI Signposting
- AI falls sensor

University Partnership

Hywel Dda **University** Health Board. Three domains of partnership:

- Research and Development
- Enterprise and Innovation
- Workforce, Education and Learning

Partner wherever there is aligned interest and potential benefits. Strategically managed partnerships with three **proximal** universities (Swansea, Aberystwyth and University of Wales Trinity Saint David).

No dedicated team. Incorporated into jobs. Partnerships with proximal universities managed and governed:

- MoUs (due for renewal) – Exec to Exec discussion
- Bilateral annual ‘agenda setting’ meeting and ‘performance review’
- Annual university partnership forum
- Research & Innovation Sub-Committee (R&ISC) and Strategic People Planning And
- Education Group (SPPEG) monitor.

University Partnership

MoU extract:

- Use of specialist facilities
- Clinical and non-clinical trial sponsorship
- Collaborative research projects
- Developing and managing an active trial portfolio, spanning health and social care
- Knowledge mobilisation
- Research income capture
- Industry collaborations
- Managing joint innovation assets, through intellectual property and commercialisation
- Managed placement activities in clinical and non-clinical settings
- Honorary posts
- Fellowships and studentships
- Managed graduate and undergraduate training opportunities
- New educational programme developments
- Joint posts
- Continuing professional development
- Workforce planning and commissioning, linked to national processes, including those overseen by Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Many Successes





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Research and Innovation Strategic Plan

2025-2030



Vision and Aims



Improving access to high quality research and innovation that improves services, health and wellbeing.



Creating an environment and culture that develops and enables competent and empowered researchers and innovators to flourish.



Developing and sustaining partnerships that maximise and accelerate research and innovation access and impact.



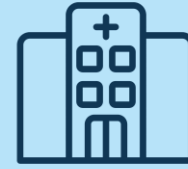
Access and Impact



Priorities Include:

- Increasing number of commercial studies (VPAG opportunity)
- Developing the next phase of the TriTech Initiative
- Strengthening regional/cross organisational approaches to R&I
- Improving access to oncology studies
- Sustaining and growing in areas of research strength, including establishing thematic groups
- Developing R&I capacity in new areas, incl digital and primary care
- Operational alignment – leveraging the wider benefits R&I can offer

Environment and Culture



Priorities Include:

- Improving how we communicate and engage around research and innovation
- Strengthening our researcher development capabilities
- Developing new TriTech business plan
- Playing our part in overcoming the common reasons for not advancing research and innovation, including constraints in wider corporate services
- Strengthening commercialisation expertise
- Research and innovation around the wider social determinants
- Increase the number of professionals with ongoing dedicated time for research (in areas linked to 'new research groups' or designed to strengthen service areas)

Partnerships



Priorities Include:

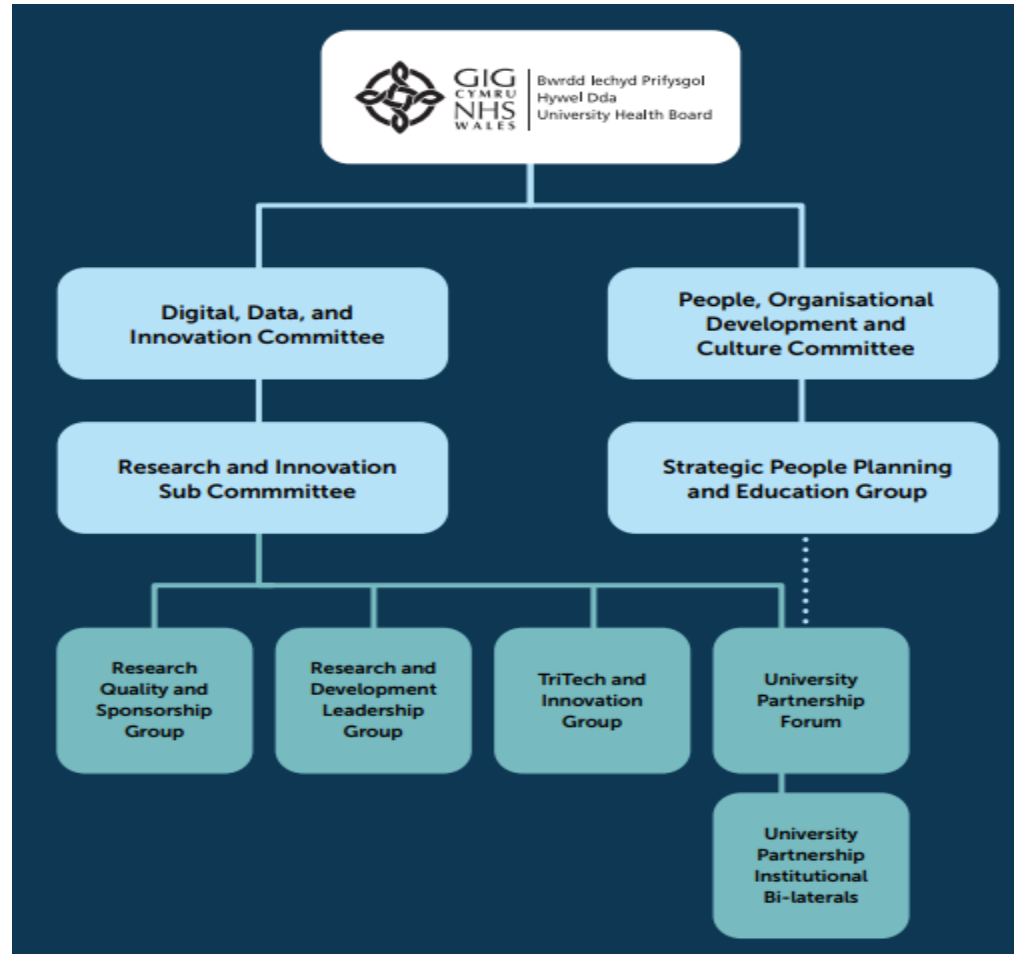
- Refreshing and re-purposing university partnership arrangements
- Increasing co-funded posts, in areas including public health research
- Securing new long term industry collaborations, linked to the TriTech initiative
- Advancing research and innovation proposals through regional partnership arrangements
- Identifying new collaborations with the NHS Executive



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Governance



Challenges

- Aligning Health Board and Funder (HCRW, Grant, and Industry) priorities
- Being responsive to requests that are not financially supported
- Overcoming wider organisational constraints to advancing research and innovation, which will ultimately take place in pressurised service delivery environments
- Finding ways of demonstrating how research and innovation is part of the solution – sharper communications and engagement
- Addressing longstanding inequitable access to research and innovation and the issues that underpin the same
- Attracting and retaining research and innovation talent – departmental and wider organisation



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Diolch / Thank You



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BD BioResource

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