

Name of Sub-Committee:	Research & Innovation Sub-Committee
Chair of Sub-Committee:	Professor Philip Kloer, Medical Director/Deputy Chief Executive
Reporting Period:	March-May 2023
Key Decisions and Matters Considered by the Sub-Committee:	

The Research & Innovation Sub-Committee (R&ISC) has not met since the last People, Organisational Development and Culture Committee (PODCC) meeting and will next meet on 10 July 2023. Therefore, the purpose of this report is to provide PODCC with an update on Research & Development (R&D), TriTech & Innovation, and University Partnership activities as well as Governance, and the financial position for assurance.

The report is based on meetings and decisions taken at the following:

- Research Quality & Sponsorship Group (3 April, 2 May 2023)
- Research and Development Senior Management Team (17 May 2023)
- TriTech & Innovation Group (11 April, 22 May 2023)
- Senior Innovation & Technology Team Meeting (24 April 2023)
- University Partnership (21 March 2023 Aberystwyth University (AU), 24 March 2023 Swansea University (SU), 17 April 2023 University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD))

Governance

Research & Development

R&ISC Terms of Reference (ToR)

The ToR for R&ISC have been revised in response to action PODCC (23)46 to include the Strategic People Planning and Education Group (SPPEG). Additionally, the ToR were further revised to reflect the name of Senior Management Team (SMT) changing to the R&D Leadership Group (LG) and the establishment of an R&D Delivery Leadership Team (R&D DLT) which will meet bimonthly, alternating with R&D LG. The R&D DLT has wider membership and greater responsibility for local performance management and decision making, particularly at a hospital site level.

Research Quality & Sponsorship Group: the new Sub-Group, formed by the amalgamation of the Research Quality Management Group and Sponsor Review Group was approved by R&ISC on 13 March 2023 and has met on two occasions. The following has been discussed/approved.

Research Quality

Routine Audits	Self/Randomised Audits	Triggered Audits
290374, Digital Pain Management. 1 major – PI GCP training certificate expired, resolved 4 minor – all resolved No CAPA required	0	0

New study approvals and risk reviews for this period 2023-2024

Ref	Title	Acronym	Type
274147	Consensus building a post-partum haemorrhage kit using citizen science	POST-BOX	NC non-CTIMP
293364	COLOSPECT: Phase two prospective observational single blind multi-site performance evaluation trial of serum Raman spectroscopy and supervised machine learning classification in FIT-positive bowel screening population.	COLOSPECT	NC non-CTIMP

TriTech & Innovation

Extra-ordinary Trittech and Innovation Group (TIG) Meetings: Two extra-ordinary meetings were held on the 6 and 15 of March 2023 these meetings were purely for the discussion and decision of 3 new projects; CRUK, Horizon Dynamo & Horizon Invest4Health (see below for a description).

New study approvals: three new projects were brought to TIG for approval:

- i. CRUK - This is a project aimed at developing and evaluating a new Model Prostate Cancer Diagnostic Pathway within Hywel Dda UHB, funded through Cancer Research UK.
- ii. Horizon Dynamo - This is a pre-commercial project across four different countries across Europe. It is a collaboration project involving Hywel Dda will act as one of the partners focussing on modelling and dynamic assessment of integrated health care pathways to enhance response capacity of health systems, in crisis situations. The aim is to deliver powerful solutions for quick data-driven and platform-independent planning of care for crisis situations where health system functions are threatened, allowing health boards across EU to build resilience to public health crisis situations better than currently.
- iii. Horizon Invest4Health- This project involves developing and exploring a novel model for procurement and financing in health systems. The project will involve investigating a smart capacitating investment structure using different ways of financing with the focus on health processes and prevention. The role of Trittech & Hywel Dda will be as a regional test bed with the intention of using the specialised models, with modification, to fit the project.

The CRUK project was approved by TIG on the 6 March with another meeting scheduled for decision on the two Horizon Bids, due to a need for further clarification and more information around the projects (particularly around the tax implications from the EU funded bids). A follow-on meeting was held on 15 March 2023 and the tax implications were resolved as the funding is from UKRI rather than the EU. Both projects were accepted.

University Partnerships

Register of Honorary Positions: At the R&ISC meeting on 13 March 2023 it was agreed to explore the development of a register of academic honorary and joint positions. R&D working with Workforce & Organisational Development/Human Resources to understand the implications

Discussion items

Research & Development

R&D Facilities: Refurbishment works to the Clinical Research Facility at Ty Aeron, Bronglais Hospital (BH) are due for completion by end of May 2023, with an official opening on 1 June 2023. R&ISC have previously agreed risk 1035 relating to the facility at BH be removed from the register. A dedicated space for a clinical research facility has been identified at Witybush Hospital (WH) and costs and a timeline for relocation are being considered. Risk 1036 relates to the research facility at BH and has been increased in view of there not being a clear and timebound plan for the occupation of the new facility. This will be reviewed at the next R&ISC on 10 July 2023.

Freezer-on call: freezer on-call costs are under review as part of the HCRW 'non-pay' costs review and continued funding pressures. A paper was presented to the April 2023 SMT meeting, exploring options for managing the risk of decreased funding and options for revising the current on-call arrangement. A revised plan will be proposed at the June 2023 SMT meeting once all options have been fully costed.

TriTech & Innovation

Risk Management of External Sponsors for Research Studies: At the TIG meeting held on 22 May 2023 a paper was brought for decision around managing external sponsorship of research projects. In late 2022 and early 2023, two projects had been agreed by the Tritech and Innovation Division, with companies taking responsibility as sponsors. A sponsor of a research study takes on the legal responsibility for the initiation and management of the research study, they have overall responsibility for proportionate and effective arrangements are in place for the set up, running and reporting of the project. During set up of these projects, it became apparent that both companies lacked the processes and experience of acting as a sponsor. This raised questions around; A) the project development and contracting processes within Tritech and Innovation and B) how situations of external sponsorship of studies should be handled in the future to ensure companies fully understand and have the capability to sponsor projects. As a result, mitigation and checks have now been developed and added to the process around project development and project contracting within the Tritech and Innovation Division. This includes early consultation with R&D partners, clarity of information provided to partners about the roles and responsibilities of a research sponsor (including direct identification of roles when contracting) and ensuring the correct costing and financial implications around monitoring and sponsorship. The TIG agreed this approach.

Fixed Term Post: At the TIG meeting held on 22 May 2023, a paper was brought for decision around support for a fixed term (2 year) Research Assistant (band 5) within the Tritech and Innovation Division. The fixed term position would be used to support the delivery of several of

the projects across the Tritech and Innovation portfolio, but particularly the two large multi collaborator Horizon Bids (Invest4Health and Dynamo). The TIG were advised that the funding for the fixed term post had been secured through the award of the Horizon bids. TIG agreed to support the addition of the fixed term post, subject to formal confirmation from the Finance Team and following Hywel Dda UHB's HR policies and procedures.

University Partnerships

Nothing to note

Assurance Items

Research & Development

R&D Finance: The 2024/25 Health Care Research Wales (HCRW) 0803 Spending Plan has been received, total, including deferred commercial income, is £1,164,904.00, this is a decrease in funding of £32,756.00 from 2022/2023. Fixed term posts have only been initially funded for six months this year so far, we are expecting an update later this year on continued funding for fixed term staff. The R&D SMT agreed that in the context of ongoing funding uncertainty, there is a need in 23/24 to conduct a review and reduce the dependence on fixed term positions.

BioBank decommissioning process: the planned decommissioning of the BioBank is continuing and on target for closure by September 2023.

R&D Annual Plan & Strategy Objectives Year 3: Six areas have been identified which will be advanced at a Divisional Level, these have been used to guide the R&D Teams objectives. A paper will be brought to the R&ISC 10 July 2023 detailing objectives for approval.

TriTech & Innovation

Tritech and Innovation finance: The 2022/2023 financial position for Tritech and Innovation shows a balance at the end of the year of £316k an excess of £277k over the forecasted £39k predicted in the Tritech 5-year business plan, identifying TriTech's actual position exceeded the plan. The current position shows that taking into account all known income, the expected year end position is £83k. The expected forecast from the business plan for the end of this year was £84k. Therefore, there is a projected £1k shortfall from the agreed business plan and need for the capture and deliver new projects this coming year.

Tritech Project Tracker & KPI's: The project tracker was reported on at each of the TIG (11 March 2023 and 22 May 2023) and at the Senior Innovation & Technology Team (SITOT) on 16 March 2023. There are 10 live projects and 10 other projects currently under development and scoping. No major issues or concerns were raised at any of the meetings for any of the current projects.

University Partnerships

Nothing to note

Information items

Research & Development

Performance data: 2022/2023 end of year HCRW data performance. Key performance indicators (KPIs) targets for HCRW have been consistently met or exceeded.

- 98.41% site level data completeness (above national average)
- % Open Studies Recruiting to Time & Target 69% non-commercial / 60% commercial
- % Closed Studies Recruiting to Time & Target 87% non-commercial
- Number of studies open & recruiting 50 non-commercial / 4 commercial
- Number of participants recruited 1937 non-commercial / 20 commercial
- Current number of portfolio studies – 115 (4 suspended)

Team (Locality) performance reports: April performance reports were submitted to SMT for information and assurance.

TriTech & Innovation

Establishment: Following review of the staffing establishment of Tritech and Innovation via the DITS (your Directorate Improving Together Session) a review was carried out by Tritech. At the TIG meeting on 22 May 2023 the staffing establishment was presented showing no change in WTE (whole time equivalents) in terms of the number of roles designated by the Tritech Institute Business plan and the current WTE staff position within Tritech (although there have been some changes to the role designations etc). The review did highlight the addition of three WTE staff via the integration of the Development team from R&D as the innovation team within the Tritech and Innovation division. In addition, 6.6 WTE fixed term positions were identified, however, this is not an over establishment as many of the posts are fully funded fixed posts.

BSI audit: An audit of the clinical engineering & Tritech and Innovation's Quality management system for ISO13485 is due to take place of the 13 and 15 June 2023.

Tritech ARMED study: A branch of the Technology Enable Care project was discussed at the TIG meeting on the 22 May 2023 and an agreement was made to close the study as there was no engagement from the patients and insufficient data was collected to carry out the evaluation.

NGPOD project completed: at the 11 April 2023 TIG meeting, the fully completed NGPOD real world evaluation report was presented and the project was closed.

Tritech Challenge: in 2022 Tritech held the Tritech challenge event which involved holding a competitive event which provided funding for four projects in Wales. The challenge projects finished in early 2023, and the project final reports were present at the TIG meeting held on the 11 April 2023, which were accepted by TIG. The projects included:

AI Long Covid Chatbot
AI Signposting
Pocket Medic
Eupnoos Patient Survey
Safehouse AI

Following the completion of the Tritech Challenge projects Tritech commissioned the Healthcare Technology Centre at Swansea University to run an independent review of the challenge to

identify any learnings from the process. The project plan for the review was approved at the TIG meeting held on 22 May 2023.

University Partnerships

On Monday 30 January 2023, Executives with a close interest in university partnerships met to take stock of these achievements and agree an approach to setting plans for the university partnership in 2023/24. It was agreed there could be even stronger alignment between University Health Board priorities and the final meetings with each university partner for 2022/23 should be used to set between 3-6 priorities for 2023/24. The meetings took place on the 22 March 2023 (Aberystwyth University), 24 March 2023 (Swansea University) and 17 April 2023 (University of Wales Trinity St David). A separate paper has been submitted to PODCC which provides a brief overview of the priorities for 2023/24.

Matters Requiring People, Organisational Development & Culture Committee Level Consideration or Approval:

N/A

Risks / Matters of Concern:

Research & Development

Risks: No new risks have been added to the risk register over this time period. The following changes to risk scores are noted.

- **Risk 1160** (Lack of research leadership) is the only Directorate level risk scored which reduced from 12 to 9 to reflect ongoing work around job planning
- **Risk 1036** (Lack of research facilities in Withybush Hospital) risk score has increased from 9 to 12 to reflect the uncertainty around the timeline for relocation into the Cardiac Rehab space.
- **Risk 1492** (Research delivery funding) risk score increased from 6 to 9 which reflects the uncertainty around 23/24 HCRW Spending Plan for some fixed term contract posts as a result of the needs-based review

TriTech & Innovation

Risks: No new risks have been added to the Trittech and Innovation risk register over this time period and there have been no changes to risk scores.

Planned Sub-Committee Business for the Next Reporting Period:

Future Reporting:

R&ISC

- R&D Strategy Action Plan 23/24
- BioBank decommissioning close down report
- Intellectual Property Policy
- R&D Facilities update

Date of Next Meeting:

10 July 2023