

Cross Party Group
on Medical Research
Inquiry Report:
How Medical Research
Benefits the People
of Wales



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This report has been compiled and funded by the British Heart Foundation, which provides the secretariat for the Cross-Party Group on Medical Research.

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Chair's Foreword



Over the past two years the Cross Party Group on Medical Research (CPGMR) has taken evidence from stakeholders across the medical research environment. We have engaged with clinicians, patients, economists, researchers, funders, and industry. From these conversations, one overarching theme emerged; medical research has huge benefits, and the people of Wales agree with an overwhelming 82% believing it is important for medical research to happen in Wales.¹

Throughout this inquiry we have established that not only does medical research save lives, but it also has the potential to save our NHS and our economy. Our findings outline the very real and tangible benefits of a thriving medical research environment to the Wales of now and the Wales of the future.

The Cross Party Group has seen the unquantifiable benefits medical research can provide to patients and their families. Medical breakthroughs save lives. Through research we improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases. This leads to kinder, more effective treatments in all disease areas.

Patients in Wales benefit every day from medical breakthroughs that have happened all over the world. However, Welsh patients also deserve to be a part of these medical breakthroughs. So, we need medical research to happen here, in Wales. The CPG inquiry has shown us that patients who participate in clinical trials receive the best standard of care.

These patients are more likely to have better experiences, better treatment, and better outcomes than patients who do not participate in clinical trials. We also know that hospitals engaged in research are much more likely to have greater knowledge, a culture of innovation and higher standards of patient care.

Our NHS is facing a staffing crisis. Low staffing levels represent one of the most severe and chronic problems facing our health service. Clinicians reported that engaging in medical research supports their career development, their morale and therefore their ability to care for their patients. A culture of innovation and research could make our NHS a more attractive place to work and support Wales to fill critical vacancies across the health service.

If we as a nation are to access all the benefits of medical research. Wales needs proper investment in medical research, equitable patient access to clinical trials, and an NHS with an embedded culture of research.

With special thanks to Hannah Peeler and Gemma Roberts at the British Heart Foundation for their efforts to support the work of the CPG.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Russell George MS
Member of Senedd for Montgomeryshire
Chair of the Cross party Group on Medical Research

Introduction



Over two years the CPG on Medical Research has held four evidence sessions into the benefits of medical research in Wales. We engaged with a range of stakeholder including patients, clinicians, industry leaders, third sector funders, and economists. The aim of the inquiry was to understand why medical research is so important to Wales and the benefits it can have across society, our health service, and our economy.

Since December 2021 the CPG has held four evidence sessions:*

- 1. 1 December 2021:**
Clinical trials and benefits for patients.
- 2. 27 April 2022:**
The economic impact of charity funded medical research.
- 3. 14 December 2022:**
The benefits of medical research to the NHS workforce.
- 4. 17 May 2023:**
Public perceptions of medical research.

From these sessions, the CPG, its Members and attendees have become acutely aware of the wide ranging benefits of medical research and its potential to support the recovery of our economy and our NHS following the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is a sentiment which is shared by the Welsh public. The Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) found that, in Wales, the public see R&D as a relevant tool for solving challenges such as improving the quality of the NHS, whilst more than half of people felt that R&D was either essential or important for addressing the cost of living.²

It is recognised that the Welsh Government has recently published via a Welsh Health Circular to all NHS organisations a new Research and Development Framework,³ in a drive to embed and integrate research into all aspects of health and care services in NHS Wales. The Framework outlines what 'research excellence looks like' within NHS organisations in Wales where research is embraced, integrated into services, and is a core part of the organisation's culture. During the autumn NHS organisations will be outlining how they adhere to the framework and plans for the future, and this will be an important step in refreshing their commitment to R&D as part of patient care.

However, more needs to be done. The CPG has provided seven recommendations which we believe, if implemented, would support Wales to access the benefits medical research can offer.

* See appendix.

1

Medical Research Benefits Patients and the Health Service

Medical research is a catalyst in the evolution and innovation of healthcare. Medical research allows for improved mechanisms of preventing, diagnosing, and treating health conditions. Medical research and clinical trials that happen now will benefit patients in the future with access to newer medications. But research also benefits patients right now. By providing opportunities to engage in research, hospitals improve patient care for those in clinical trials and other patients being cared for in that hospital.

1.1

Participation in clinical trials improves patient experiences and outcomes

Research shows that people participating in clinical trials have better health outcomes than those cared for outside of trials. The best standard of care is regularly represented in clinical trials as patients receive greater monitoring and oversight beyond the usual care. An umbrella study into the benefits of clinical trial participation reviewed 380 comparisons of Randomised Clinical Trials (RCT) participants with non-participants. The study found that 71.6% (264) reported improved outcomes for patients treated within RCTs compared to non RCT participants.⁴

The CPG took evidence from two individuals who participate in and advocate for clinical research due to their own personal experiences with ill-health. Both patients commented on the importance of equitable access to clinical trials, stating it is crucial to improve the outcomes of those living with disease. Both patients discussed the importance of research for contextualising experience, raising awareness, speeding up the process for others and the development of new treatments.

1.2

Patients in Wales don't have equitable access to clinical trials

Cancer Research UK's (CRUK) Bench to Bedside report outlined that there is not equitable access to clinical trials in Wales. Wales has lower participation in clinical trials compared to other parts of the UK. The report outlined that there is lower advertising of clinical trials across Wales and low patient and clinician awareness of clinical trials. There is also concern that clinicians simply don't have time to have research conversations with their patients, and fear that the conversation may lead to further time commitment.⁵

Even within Wales there is limited access to clinical trials and there are concerns over the concentration of research centres in Cardiff, meaning patients in other parts of Wales do not have the same opportunities to partake in research.⁶ Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) has implemented a hub and spoke model for delivering clinical trials in regional settings. However, there is still evidence that more rural parts of Wales continue to face barriers that prevent the efficient delivery of clinical trials. For example, the 2018 CRUK's Cancer Patient Experience Survey found that cancer patients in Cardiff are twice as likely to be offered participation in research than those in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, and Pembrokeshire.⁷ CRUK's 2023 survey also reported that patients in more rural areas of Wales are still struggling to access clinical trials due to bureaucratic difficulties between health boards. The failure of healthboards achieving cross-border contracts has meant patients are unable to travel to neighbouring health boards for trials.⁸

It is imperative that patients across Wales have equitable access to participate in clinical trials. Patients and participants are the foundation of clinical research, and the NHS Executive must ensure patients are empowered to engage in and explore research opportunities which are of relevance to them. Continued variation in access to clinical trials across Wales will result in the widening of health inequalities within Wales, with patients in certain areas not receiving the same standard of care due to the inability to participate in clinical trials.

1.3

Research-active hospitals provide the best care

A growing body of evidence demonstrates that *all* patients receiving care in research active hospitals have better health outcomes and improved survival rates. There are strong links between patient survival and a hospital's active participation in clinical research. A population-based study conducted in England found patients treated in Trusts with high research participation in the year of their colorectal cancer diagnosis were less likely to die after an operation and had improved survival.⁹

In evidence sessions from the Cross-Party Group on Medical Research we have heard from professionals and patients alike about the patient benefits of medical research in Wales. Dr Harris from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) highlighted that research-active trusts better manage the treatment and care of patients; therefore, patients have improved outcomes, improved survival rates and are more informed about their condition and medication. Dr Harris highlighted the importance of embedding clinical research into healthcare to address health inequality and enhance the health and wealth of the nation.

Health boards which are research active may have better outcomes and treatment of patients due to greater accumulated knowledge, developed infrastructure and improved critical care.¹⁰ A research culture can encourage innovation as it creates the ability to implement new methodologies with great ease whilst promoting evidence-based practices and following up to date clinical guidelines.

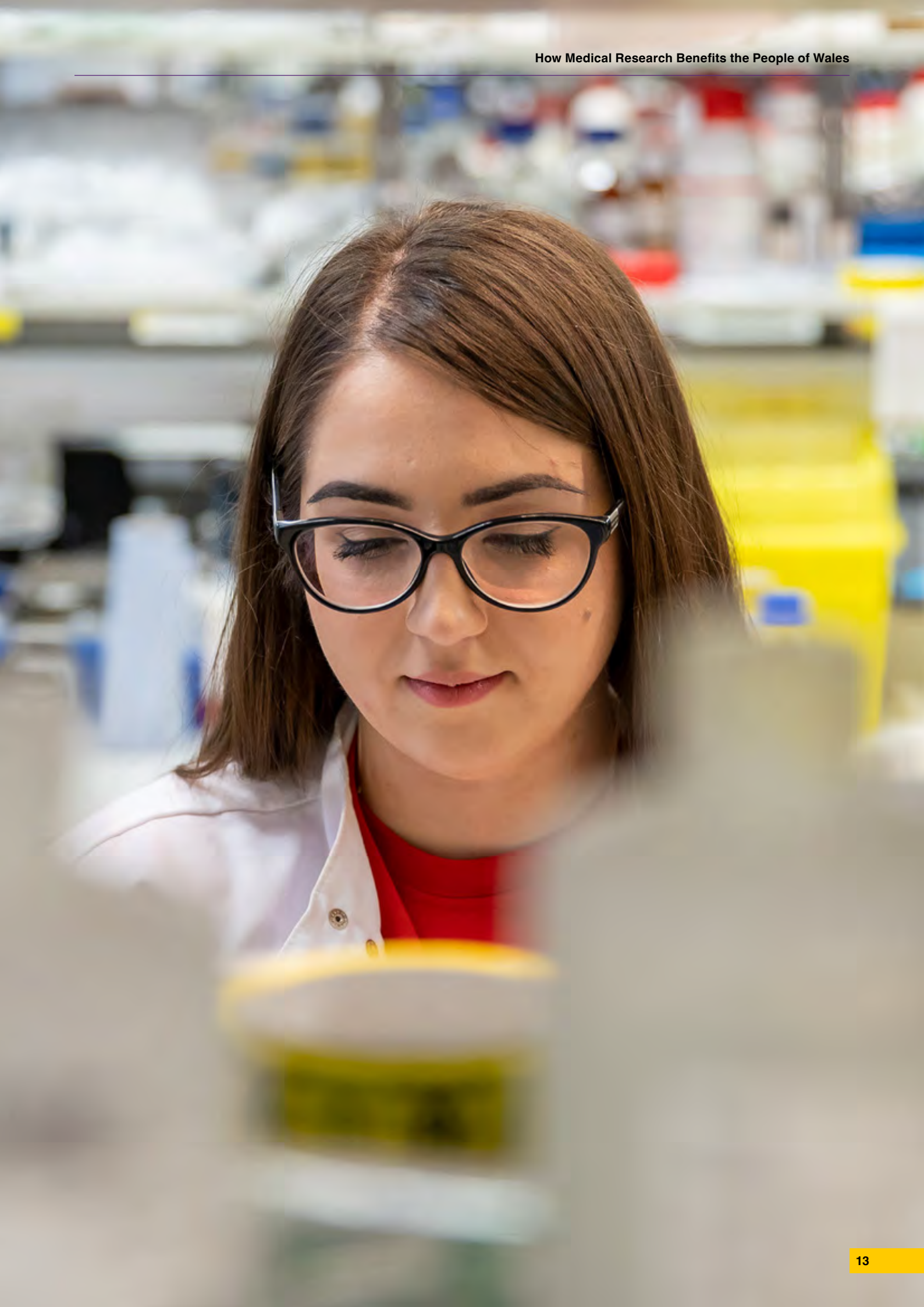
Alongside the physical health benefits emergent from treatment in a research-active hospital, patients are also able to engage with clinicians more closely about their care. This means patients become more informed about their condition and treatment and more able to be involved in decision making about their own health. A retrospective cohort design study conducted in England found patients treated in research active hospitals felt more confident understanding their treatment and care. This particular study involved data from 129 English NHS hospital Trusts which found that patients

felt there was a better quality of information communicated by clinicians, particularly around medicine management. This improved patient experience and empowered patients to be involved in decisions about their own health.¹¹

1.4

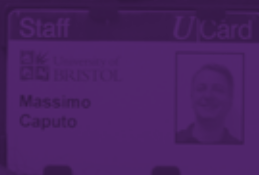
Recommendations

- 1. To ensure that as many clinicians as possible are having research conversations with their patients Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) should offer continuing professional development for clinicians on effectively engaging patients in medical research.**
- 2. HCRW should commit to work with Public Health Wales to deliver regular targeted awareness raising campaigns to allow people to identify and pursue research opportunities that are relevant to them.**
- 3. HCRW should work with the NHS Executive and local health boards to evaluate the effectiveness of local delivery of clinical trials through the hub and spoke model by the end of this Senedd term. This evaluation should be made publicly available.**



2

Medical Research Benefits the NHS Workforce



The health and care system in Wales is currently facing extreme challenges, from building back after the Covid-19 pandemic to addressing the staffing crisis which has seen many clinical posts left vacant. In 2022, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) announced 2,900 registered nurse vacancies in the NHS in Wales, up from 1,719 in 2021.¹² RCN also found that around 76% of nurses work overtime at least once a week, leading to burnout and more staff absences due to sick leave.¹³

Wales must attract more staff to our NHS and retain the staff we do have. Medical research carried out in NHS settings promotes quality improvement, service development and an attractive working environment,¹⁴ meaning that NHS staff experience increased job satisfaction when working in a research-active environment. Improving staff wellbeing and development by offering the opportunity to engage with medical research is vital to ensuring the recruitment and retention of health professionals in Wales, which in turn improves service delivery, patient outcomes, and the effectiveness of our NHS.

“Research participation improves job satisfaction for clinicians, helping them build new transferable skills, preventing burnout and supporting the retention of staff.”

2.1

Medical research improves retention in the NHS

Our NHS, like those across the UK struggle to retain staff. A census published by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London in 2018 showed that 68% of trainees and 53% of consultants frequently experience rota gaps caused by lack of staff.¹⁵

Evidence suggests that including a research element in NHS job roles could improve staff retention. A report from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) states that ‘research participation improves job satisfaction for clinicians, helping them build new transferable skills, preventing burnout and supporting the retention of staff’.¹⁶ Further, The Royal College of Physicians reports that almost two thirds of its members said they want to engage further with medical research.¹⁷ Research could therefore be imbedded into career structures in the NHS, providing development and improving retention.¹⁸

A HCRW report, demonstrates how medical research is beneficial to the NHS workforce. The report outlines that research provides the opportunity for staff to become more innovative and the importance of medical research for the NHS workforce. The report recognised that ‘NHS organisations should work to embed research into their strategies for staff recruitment and retention, and workforce development’.¹⁹ Ultimately, promoting medical research as a key aspect of a career in healthcare will improve staff retention as it provides opportunity for staff to be innovative, developing professional and clinical development.²⁰

According to a study from the GMC, engaging in medical research allowed staff to ‘escape from the pressures of their everyday and reminds them about what they had liked about medicine in the first place’.²¹

Case study:

‘The research effect’ empowering the NHS workforce to innovate

A 2019 report from the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) found that medical research has the potential to drive innovation and promote a well-rounded and engaged workforce, which ultimately improves the retention of NHS staff, this is known as the ‘research effect’.²² The report found that when NHS staff ‘feel empowered to innovate’, for example, when they are involved with medical research, they have increased job satisfaction.²³ The ‘research effect’ demonstrates that research active hospitals have the ability to develop clinicians’ knowledge as they provide an opportunity for medical or clinical research, allowing staff to create more meaning to the work they do.²⁴

Overall, this report found that ‘the research effect’ can improve the wellbeing of NHS staff. Medical research can positively engage the workforce as it provides an opportunity for innovation, it gives staff the space to explore different mechanisms to provide high-quality care.²⁵

“When NHS staff ‘feel empowered to innovate’, for example, when they are involved with medical research, they have increased job satisfaction.”

2.2

Medical research improves recruitment to the NHS

Medical research can play an instrumental role in addressing the challenge of staff recruitment within the NHS. The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) found that hospitals have a more successful recruitment rate for high-quality clinical staff when they offer opportunities to participate in research.²⁶ According to the RCP, the competition ratio for posts in Wales increased from one applicant to two posts, to five applicants per post when the job advert included an academic component.²⁷

During our inquiry, the Cross-Party Group on Medical Research heard from clinicians in Wales who have echoed the RCP’s findings. One junior doctor working at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board commented that being able to undertake a fully funded post-graduate qualification whilst doing clinical work was a huge driver for them to apply for a role in Wales. This demonstrates that the importance of an academic component for a clinical position cannot be underestimated, it is key for attracting high-quality talent into Wales.

Throughout the CPG inquiry evidence sessions, we heard from health care professionals who commented on the importance of development opportunities as a driver for staying within their role. This is particularly true in rural areas where the NHS faces complex challenges in retaining and recruiting staff. Rural Health and Care Wales highlights how healthcare professionals could be put off working in more rural areas as there is a perceived lack of continuous professional development opportunities in these places.²⁸ Having a lack of local educational opportunities in rural areas results in an exodus of talented healthcare workers seeking opportunities elsewhere.

Case study:**The North Wales Clinical Research Facility**²⁹

The North Wales Clinical Research Facility (NWCRF), located in Wrexham, set up in October 2021 by directors Dr Orod Osanlou and Dr. Lynne Grundy, specialises in the delivery of early phase clinical trials.³⁰ Giving evidence to the CPG, Dr Osanlou outlined that the NWCRF has improved the research environment in North Wales and has improved retention and recruitment of NHS staff.

NWCRF focuses on ‘supporting universities and academic institutions in driving translational medicine from bench to bedside’, and ‘providing a supportive environment for staff development.’

These values from the NWCRF display the impact that research can have on improving health and education outcomes in North Wales. Through collaboration between universities, hospitals, and research facilities the NWCRF aims to create an ecosystem that drives innovation and development in North Wales and beyond.

The NWCRF has successfully integrated clinical research with clinical work, meaning that the facility can support the development of NHS staff who have an interest in clinical academia. Alongside this, the NWCRF also creates innovation opportunities in the healthcare system in North Wales, an area which struggles to recruit and retain high-quality NHS staff.

The NWCRF has created a symbiotic relationship with healthcare services and universities. For example, the NWCRF provides educational and research placement opportunities for medical students. This in turn can build capacity for future healthcare professionals in Wales as it creates attractive educational opportunities and the potential for academic publication. Such opportunities improve the recruitment and retention of staff and has increased the number of students enrolled at the North Wales Medical School in Bangor. Ultimately, the NWCRF has provided an environment in North Wales which has attracted more highly skilled consultants to the area as it has created an opportunity to participate in cutting edge clinical research.

2.3**Recommendations**

- 4. Medical research should be a vital part of any workforce planning. HEIW and HCRW should publish a strategy by the end of this Senedd term to work together to ensure that NHS staff are able to access development opportunities in academia alongside their clinical roles.**
- 5. The NHS Executive should outline as a priority how it plans to work with local health boards to ensure clinicians have protected time for research and that this is advertised in new NHS vacancy adverts.**

3

Medical Research Benefits the Welsh Economy

Medical research, at universities or in the NHS makes a vital contribution to the Welsh economy. Recipients of research funding purchase goods and services to undertake their research. This generates activity in their supply chains and across the whole of the Welsh economy.

But Wales is not reaching its potential in Research. Wales makes up around 5% of the UK population³¹ but has just 2.5% of R&D spend in the UK.³² This includes all money spent on R&D in Wales by charities, industry, Welsh Government, and the health service – spending which is less than half of what should be expected of a population Wales' size. Wales also only wins 3% of external competitive funding³³ – significantly lower than its population share.

In 2021, total expenditure on R&D in Wales was £1.6 billion or 1.2% of GVA. Out of the three devolved nations of the UK and each of the 9 regions of England, Wales has the lowest R&D expenditure as a proportion of GVA.³⁴

3.1

Industry funded medical research

Pharmaceutical companies are huge funders of clinical trials and generate enormous economic activity.

Businesses in the UK life sciences industry generated £94.2 billion in turnover in 2021, a 9% increase from the £86.4 billion in 2020. The pharmaceutical industry alone has resulted in a £40.8 billion turnover in 2021.³⁵ The pharmaceutical industry in the UK amounted to £23.4 billion export value and £21.4 billion import value in 2021.³⁶

In Wales, the life sciences sector in Wales employs over 11,000 and contributes over £2 billion in turnover to the Welsh economy.³⁷ Welsh commercial health research activity resulted in £34 million gross value added (GVA) and made £37,053 direct pharmaceutical saving for each patient recruited onto a commercial study, in 2018/19.³⁸ For example, between 2016/17 and 2018/19 NHS England received on average £9,000 per patient recruited to a commercial clinical trial and saved over £5,800 in drug costs for each patient, equating to an income of £355 million in 2018/19.³⁹

Case Study:

Catalonia and the BioRegion; pioneering research in Europe

The Government of Catalonia have worked to create a thriving clinical research environment which now places Catalonia among the top five in Europe in the capture and execution of clinical research trials.⁴⁰ On request from the Department of Health from the Catalonian Government, BioCat was created to develop the BioRegion of Catalonia. The BioRegion is a 'healthcare and life sciences ecosystem in Catalonia' that hosts a wide network of research groups, hospitals, and industry to promote and strategize the sector.⁴¹

The Barcelona Clinical Trials Platform (BCTP) was created within the BioRegion as a 'one-stop' gateway to simplify the process of clinical trials reaching main university hospitals and primary healthcare centres (reaching more than five million patients). The BCTP also 'embeds talent and technology developed in the lab into clinical trials, bridging such trials into personalised medical practice'.⁴²

The outcome of government investment into the BioRegion of Catalonia has resulted in the Barcelona region having one of the world's most effective and high-quality healthcare systems.⁴³ The general population are able to access top-level hospitals and participate in pioneering clinical trials. Overall, the region has attracted international investment from industry to conduct clinical trials and improved patient outcomes.

3.2

Charity funded medical research⁴⁴

Although charities do fund clinical trials, and later stage research, charity funded medical research tends to exist in universities. Charities tend to fund early stage medical research, de-risking the research for future commercial development. Not only does this drive medical advancements, but it also creates significant economic benefits.

The CPG took evidence from the Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) and British Heart Foundation (BHF) Cymru. Modelling commissioned by the BHF suggests that charity-funded medical research plays a vital role in Wales’ economy and has the potential to drive economic growth. Research by the Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) at the University of Strathclyde estimated that charity funding makes up 35% of all third sector and public funding of medical research in Wales, with active research funding of £21 million in 2018.⁴⁵ FAI found that in 2019, medical research funding by charities supported £86 million output† and £55 million gross value added (GVA).

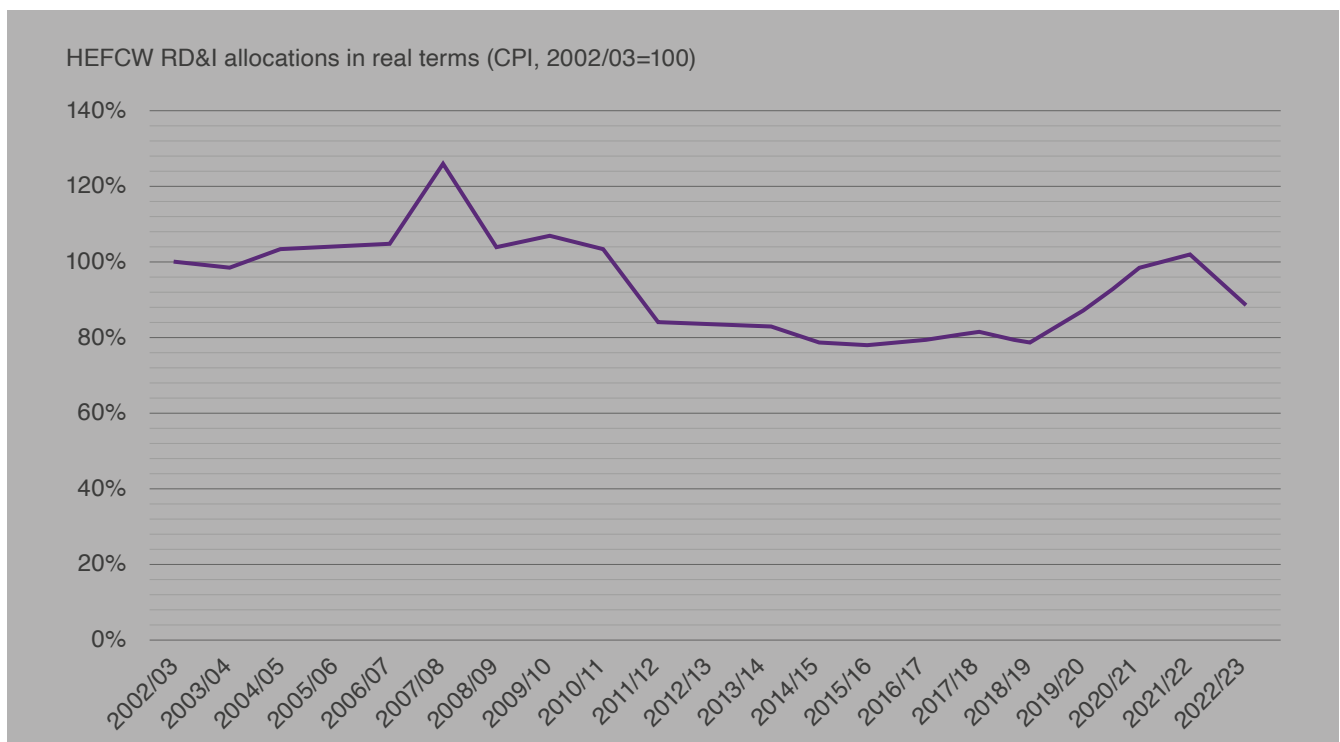
FAI also found that every £1 million spent on medical research by charities likely has significantly larger benefits for the economy than the average investment in Wales. Each £1 million spent on medical research funding in Wales by charities supports £2.3 million output and £1.47 million GVA.

These figures, according to FAI, mean that the multipliers of medical research funding in Wales by charities are likely to be comparable to sectors with some of the highest GVA multipliers in Wales – making investment in attracting charity-funded medical research to Wales excellent value for money.

Increases in government and third sector funded research can also increase private sector funding. Burrige et al. found that increased expenditure in the public sector and third sector by 1% creates nearly the same increase in private sector expenditure within a year.

Charity-funded medical research supports jobs in skilled sectors such as education, research and development, health and social work, and many other sectors.

Figure 1: Quality-related (QR) funding in Wales⁴⁶



† Output is the value of all goods and services produced.

Figure 1 demonstrates how QR funding in Wales is continuing to decrease in real terms as a result of rising inflation. For 2023/24, annual QR funding has stayed at £81.7 million, representing the same funding as 2022/23.⁴⁷

3.2.1 Universities need infrastructure

The CPGMR in the Fifth Senedd found that researchers rely on quality related (QR) funding from Welsh Government to pay for things which other grants don't cover.⁴⁸ Staff, infrastructure and utility bills are examples of things traditionally not covered by research grants. If universities can't pay for these things, then they aren't eligible for many competitive funding streams from both public and private funders.

In 2018, the Reid Review commissioned by Welsh Government placed the highest priority on the role of QR funding in encouraging research and innovation in Wales. Professor Graeme Reid identified that Wales' low levels of hypothecated funding has been a source of structural weakness for two decades and showed that low QR funding is reducing Wales' ability to win external funding.

Research in Wales has historically relied on EU funding, and with UK Government funding not set to match EU funds, Wales' funding future remains uncertain. Professor Reid points out that the historic dependence on EU funding can be replaced with Welsh Government money, which will support success in UK-wide funding competitions, and by attracting higher levels of business investment.⁴⁹

Higher Education Funding Council Wales (HEFCW) administers QR funding to universities. HEFCW's QR budget for 2022/23 is £81.7 million.⁵⁰ Research England has announced £1.789 billion for QR funding for 2022/23.⁵¹ If Welsh universities were supported to compete with England, pro rata QR funding in Wales should be around £100 million.⁵² Welsh universities are therefore suffering from a shortfall of £18 million in funding for vital infrastructure.

This shortfall means that Welsh universities do not have the vital infrastructure they need and are simply unable to compete with other universities across the UK for funding. This dramatically reduces the number of grants coming into Wales, limiting the potential benefits to the Welsh economy from research and development, including medical research.

3.3

Recommendations

6. **Welsh Government should consider the experience in Catalonia and identify whether elements of this approach could be implemented in Wales. This should include increased incentivisation of collaboration between the NHS, Welsh universities, and industry.**
7. **To prioritise medical research within economic development, Welsh universities desperately need to see an uplift to QR funding provided by Welsh Government. Without the same support as the rest of the UK, Welsh universities and Welsh researchers will be unable to compete for UK-wide funding. Welsh Government must address these funding inequalities to allow research in Wales to drive a thriving economy.**

Summary of Recommendations

Given the significant evidence about the wide ranging benefits of medical research, Welsh Government must begin to prioritise a sector that is vital to our health, our society and our economy.

Wales continues to have the opportunity to apply for external competitive funding streams, with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) recently announcing its plan for Devolved Nations to access five further NIHR research programmes from Autumn 2023.⁵³ However, with Welsh universities lacking in initial Welsh Government infrastructure funding, our universities will continue to fall behind and lose out on winning such funding streams.

Although Welsh Government are facing enormous pressures, medical research represents a long term, sustainable solution to drive the health and wealth of our nation. We would therefore urge Welsh Government to consider our recommendations carefully and seek to support and thriving medical research environment in Wales.

Recommendations

- 1. To ensure that as many clinicians as possible are having research conversations with their patients Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) should offer continuing professional development for clinicians on effectively engaging patients in medical research.**
- 2. HCRW should commit to work with Public Health Wales to deliver regular targeted awareness raising campaigns to allow people to identify and pursue research opportunities that are relevant to them.**
- 3. HCRW should work with the NHS Executive and local health boards to evaluate the effectiveness of local delivery of clinical trials through the hub and spoke model by the end of this Senedd term. This evaluation should be made publicly available.**
- 4. Medical research should be a vital part of any workforce planning. HEIW and HCRW should publish a strategy by the end of this Senedd term to work together to ensure that NHS staff are able to access development opportunities in academia alongside their clinical roles.**
- 5. The NHS Executive should outline as a priority how it plans to work with local health boards to ensure clinicians have protected time for research and that this is advertised in new NHS vacancy adverts.**
- 6. Welsh Government should consider the experience in Catalonia and identify whether elements of this approach could be implemented in Wales. This should include increased incentivisation of collaboration between the NHS, Welsh universities, and industry.**
- 7. To prioritise medical research within economic development, Welsh universities desperately need to see an uplift to QR funding provided by Welsh Government. Without the same support as the rest of the UK, Welsh universities and Welsh researchers will be unable to compete for UK-wide funding. Welsh Government must address these funding inequalities to allow research in Wales to drive a thriving economy.**

Appendix 1: About the Cross Party Group on Medical Research

The Cross Party group was re-established in the Sixth Senedd to bring together Senedd members, funding bodies, researchers, universities, the third sector and industry to collect evidence to:

1. Identify the benefits of life saving medical research to the people of Wales and the Welsh economy.
2. Identify the role of medical research in Wales's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. Provide recommendations to the Senedd on how Wales can achieve its potential in medical research.

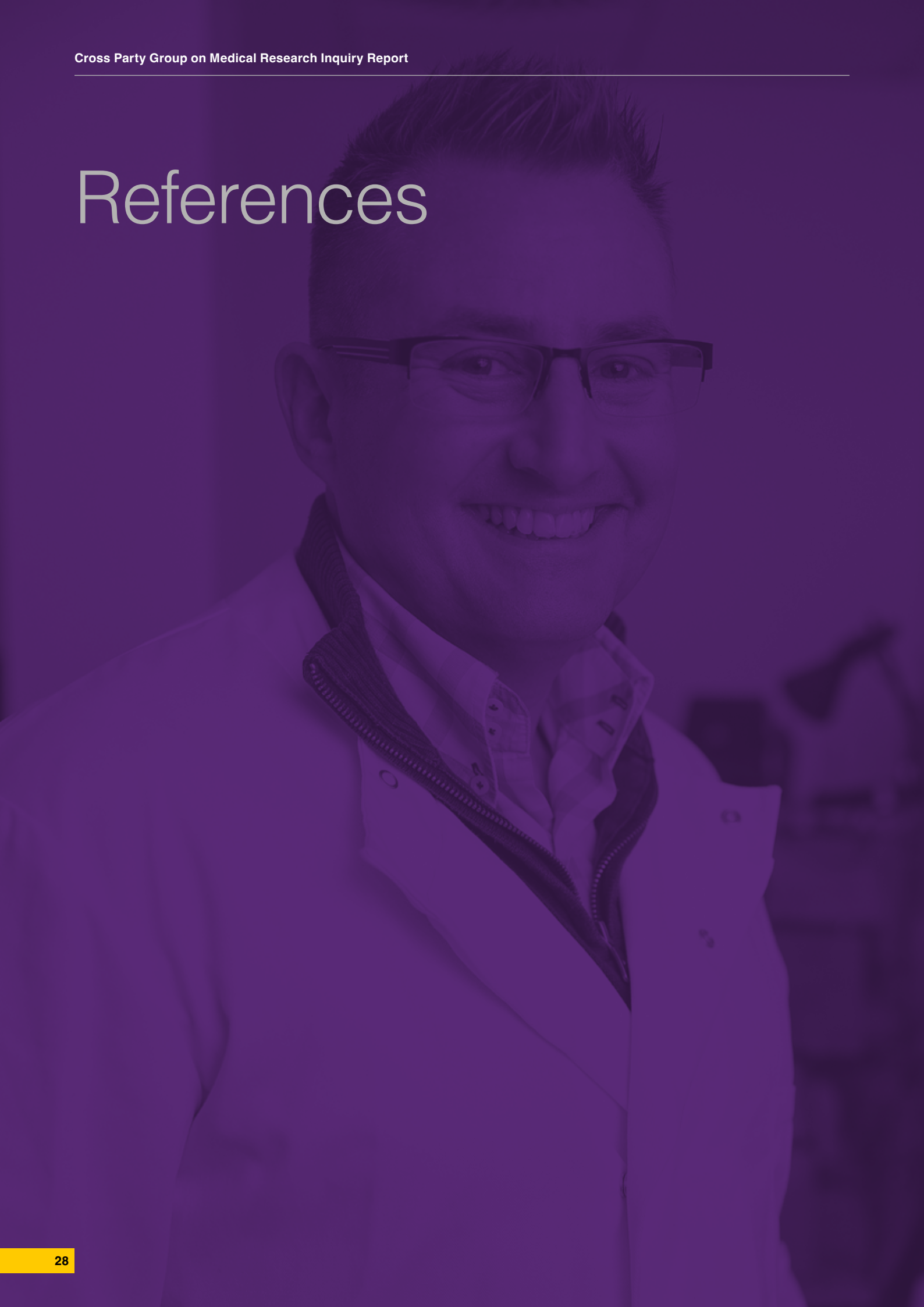
The Cross-Party Group includes Members of the Senedd from all political groups who have an interest in improving the medical research environment in Wales. These MSs are:

- **Russell George MS** (Chair)
- **Jayne Bryant MS**
- **Mike Hedges MS**
- **Sioned Williams MS**
- **BHF Cymru** (Secretariat)

Appendix 2: Evidence Sessions

Date	Theme	Speakers
1 December 2021	<p>Clinical trials: the economic impact of such trials in Wales and the positive impact for patients when presented with the opportunity to engage in clinical research.</p>	<p>Jennifer Harris, PhD, Head of Research Policy, The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry</p> <p>Julie Hepburn, Lead Lay Research Partner, Wales Cancer Research Centre</p> <p>Lucy Dixon, Chair, PCD Support UK</p>
27 April 2022	<p>Economic impact of charity funded medical research in Wales, followed by a discussion with Vaughan Gething, Minister for Economy.</p>	<p>James Black, Knowledge Exchange Fellow, The Fraser of Allander Institute, Strathclyde University</p> <p>Gemma Roberts, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, British Heart Foundation Cymru</p>
14 December 2022	<p>Importance of medical research in Wales for the NHS workforce and the real-life impact of medical research for frontline staff in the NHS.</p>	<p>Dr Orod Osanlou, Director of the North Wales Clinical Research Facility</p> <p>Lowri Jackson, Head of Policy and Campaigns, Royal College of Physicians</p> <p>Dr Sacha Moore, IMT3 doctor, Aneurin Bevan Health Board</p>
17 May 2023	<p>Public perceptions in Wales on medical research and a family and patient perspective on the positive impact that medical research can have.</p>	<p>Rebecca Hill and Ben Bleasdale, Campaign for Science and Engineering</p> <p>Lucy Pattern, Founder of Elliot's Endeavours</p>

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