



COVID-19 – Update from the ABPI

COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on 12 March 2020.

As a critical part of the healthcare community in the UK, the pharmaceutical industry wants to play the biggest possible role in the response to this outbreak. The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) is working closely with UK Governments and the NHS on how our members can best support them as plans evolve and we adapt to an ever-changing situation.

We represent companies at the cutting edge of science whose mission is to tackle the world's healthcare challenges. Our members are in a unique position to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and are already turning their knowledge, resources and experience to developing diagnostics and treatments for the disease. Pharmaceutical companies have worked to combat a range of infectious diseases such as MERS, SARS, Ebola and influenza. COVID-19 is a new challenge, but as of March 2020 there are already a number of therapeutics currently in clinical trials and more than twenty vaccines in development.

Richard Torbett, Chief Executive of the ABPI, said:

"As part of the health community, pharmaceutical

companies want to play as big a role as possible in the response to COVID-19.

"We are working closely with the Departments of Health and the NHS on how our members can best support UK Governments as plans evolve and adapt to the changing situation."

Given the fluid nature of the challenge we are all facing, we are keeping our website updated with the very latest information: <https://www.abpi.org.uk/medicine-discovery/covid-19/>

If you have any specific queries that you feel we can help with, please contact the ABPI office in Wales by email: wales@abpi.org.uk



Dr Rick Greville and Darren Hughes launch the new joint-working toolkit

New toolkit for Welsh NHS and industry to work together for patients

Following work over the last twelve months, the Welsh NHS Confederation and ABPI Cymru Wales have developed a toolkit to support joint working between the pharmaceutical industry and NHS Wales. The toolkit was launched at the 21st Welsh NHS Confederation Annual Conference and Exhibition, Working Together Towards A Healthier Wales and is available in English and in Welsh.

The Conference offered a unique opportunity for colleagues from all sectors of the health and care system to come together, share ideas, reflect, learn and network. An eminent programme of speakers shared their experiences and learning in a wide range of areas in the health and care community, including representatives from the pharmaceutical industry during a workshop session.

The joint-working toolkit aims to deliver 'triple wins' in the form of benefits to patients, the NHS and the pharmaceutical company or companies involved.

Darren Hughes, Director of the Welsh NHS Confederation, said:

"Our annual conference, Working Together Towards A Healthier Wales, brought leaders from all aspects of health and social care together to drive forward improvements in how we work together. The conference was the perfect time to launch this initiative to support joint working between the pharmaceutical industry and the NHS in Wales.

"This toolkit will help to deliver on the aims set out in the Welsh Government's

long-term plan for health and social care, A Healthier Wales, bringing care closer to home and fewer hospital admissions. We also believe this toolkit will help to provide higher quality care and better health outcomes for patients."

Launching the guidance, Dr Richard Greville, Director ABPI Cymru Wales, said:

"When the industry and NHS work together, the benefits are significant for all concerned – higher quality care, lower hospital admissions and more appropriate use of medicines. We want to help more people in Wales benefit from this triple win. That's why we were delighted to launch this toolkit at the Welsh NHS Confederation's Conference.

"I hope this guidance will give people in companies and the NHS the confidence to work together in new ways, and kickstart many successful new joint working projects."

Joint working is already set to bring benefits to patients in Wales. In one project, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, the

Welsh Government, NHS Wales and Myeloma UK have partnered to co-create an 'All Wales Haematological Malignancy Data Solution'. This will capture real-world evidence to help deliver improved outcomes for patients with myeloma, while facilitating a value-based healthcare environment.

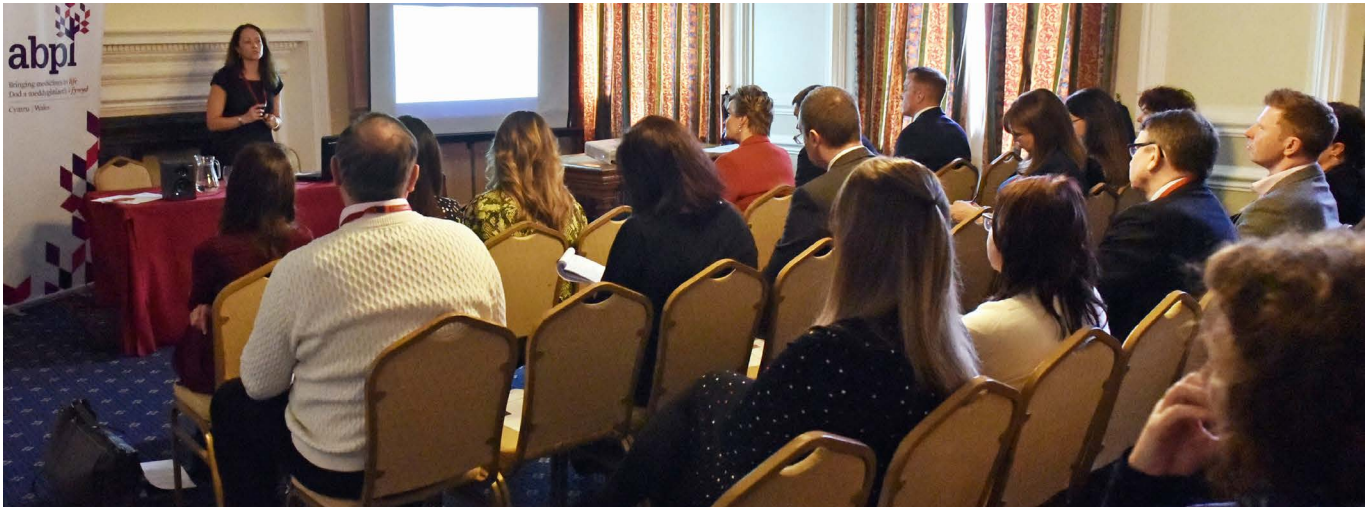
"At Janssen, we are always looking for opportunities to build partnerships that can make a difference to patients' lives, and the Haem Base Cymru initiative is a really strong example of this," said Gaëtan Leblay, Managing Director, Janssen UK & Ireland.

"Through our collaboration with NHS Wales, the Welsh Government and patient organisations, we have together created a data solution that will help to identify the treatments, interventions and pathways that deliver the best outcomes for cancer patients in Wales."

More information on Janssen's project in Wales is available [here](#).

For more information and copies of the toolkit – in English and Welsh.

ABPI Cymru Wales Workshop on Joint Working



A packed room hearing from ABPI Members about joint working

Alongside the launch of the new toolkit to support joint working between the pharmaceutical industry and NHS Wales, ABPI Cymru Wales took the opportunity offered by the Welsh NHS Confederation Conference to host a workshop showcasing work already underway between our members and healthcare organisations in Wales.

Three member companies – GSK, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson and MSD – shared joint working as diverse as:

- A respiratory programme in three health boards, working with multiple stakeholders, supporting the delivery of inhaler reviews by community pharmacy for patients with asthma and COPD from GSK
- An all-Wales data solution for haematological malignancies, Haem Base Cymru, that accurately gathers data during a patient's cancer treatment, which is being developed by NHS Wales, the Wales Cancer Network, Welsh Government and Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson
- A suite of initiatives in multiple therapy areas being implemented across



l-r Darren Hughes (Welsh NHS Confederation), Judith Paget (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board), Dr Ceri Bygrave (Haem Base Cymru), Lee-Ann Farrell (The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson), Nick Jones (MSD) and Chrissie Gallimore (GSK)

individual health boards in Wales, including in diabetes and hepatitis C, from MSD.

Chaired by Judith Paget, Chief Executive of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, the session was very well attended, with the discussion lasting into the lunch break.

Assembly Members learn more about joint working

Following the successful publication of the Welsh NHS Confederation and ABPI Cymru Wales toolkit, a drop-in session was organised at the National Assembly for Wales, to update Assembly Members and their staff on the new publication. Fifteen Assembly Members attended, as well as numerous staff members.



Celebrating a decade of collaborative working between ABPI Cymru Wales and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Drug and Therapeutics Group

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) Drug and Therapeutics Group (DTG) and ABPI Cymru Wales are celebrating ten years of collaborative working. In 2010, the ABPI joined the membership of the BCUHB DTG, and an ABPI representative attends the DTG meetings held every month.

The pharmaceutical industry is also represented by the ABPI at meetings of the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG), New Medicines Group (NMG) and All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG), but the BCUHB DTG is currently the only Drug and Therapeutics committee in Wales – or the rest of the UK – to include an industry representative from the ABPI. The BCUHB DTG membership also includes medical and pharmacy representation from primary and secondary care teams, medicines management nurses, finance, non-medical prescribers and a patient representative.

One of the main roles of the BCUHB DTG is to ensure that new medicines are introduced into the Health Board in a timely and safe manner, thus ensuring patients across North Wales have access to evidence-based medicines. There has been a rapid therapeutic advancement in the treatment of diseases in recent years,

which has improved patient outcomes. However, due to their complex nature, the introduction of some innovative therapies needs careful planning, to ensure patient safety, appropriate measurement of health outcomes and effective links by the healthcare system to the Welsh Government's A Healthier Wales. Collaboration between the pharmaceutical industry and the BCUHB DTG enables the two sectors to work together constructively and focus on delivering the best possible outcomes for people in North Wales.

This partnership has shown a commitment to transparency – including the sharing of BCUHB DTG minutes, on request, via ABPI Cymru Wales – and has given both sides an insightful understanding of each other's organisations. Being a member of DTG enables the ABPI representative to update the ABPI Wales Industry Group on the way in which BCUHB DTG functions, its

processes, and the BCUHB's Medicines Formulary. The ABPI representatives contribute constructively and knowledgeably, where appropriate, to the DTG work programme and help other DTG members to understand the role the pharmaceutical industry can play in working jointly with the NHS in Wales.

Stuart Robertson, Consultant Nephrologist, BCUHB and Vice-Chair of the DTG said:

"Having ABPI and patient representation on the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee helps ensure that we work in an open and transparent way for the benefit of all patients treated in BCUHB and that the very latest treatments are available, while recognising that we have a responsibility to the community of North Wales to be financially responsible. Only the widest representation on the DTG can achieve this."



Members of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Drug and Therapeutics Group, including Melanie Prytherch (GSK), one of our ABPI Cymru Wales representatives

2021 Manifesto for Medicine - ABPI Cymru Wales Key Asks

With the elections to the Welsh Parliament / Senedd Cymru currently due to take place in May 2021, ABPI Cymru Wales recently published their key asks from their 2021 Manifesto for Medicine. The key asks cover the following areas:

- Patient access to medicines, including:
 - Asking for a continuation and regularisation of the ground-breaking New Treatment Fund in Wales,
 - Supporting collaborative working between the Welsh Government, NHS Wales and the pharmaceutical industry, to reap the clear patient and health system benefits this brings,
 - Ensuring that any changes to AWMSG and NICE do not disadvantage patients in Wales accessing clinical and cost-effective medicines, and
 - Building on current strategies to support and enable data and Value-Based Healthcare to become a central tenet for NHS Wales to deliver the best possible patient outcomes.
- Developing new medicines and vaccines, including:
 - Supporting the adoption and implementation of a framework for key innovations, which include



advanced therapies; targeting year-on-year increases in both the commercially sponsored collaborations and studies attracted to Wales.

- Prioritising patients and health security in the future UK-EU relationship, including:
 - Asking the next Welsh Government to support the building of a new partnership with the European Union that puts patients first and allows Wales to be a world leader in the delivery of new and innovative treatments.

The full documents are available to download from the ABPI website, in English and in Welsh.

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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