

Blood Health National Oversight Group Conference

'Infected Blood Inquiry – translating policy into practice'

VALE RESORT HOTEL HENSOL, VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Tuesday 23rd June 2026

Hybrid event - Please register for link



09:15	Meeting open to join, 9.30am start
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09:30 – 09:40	Welcome & Introduction to the Conference <i>Dr James Calvert, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Welsh Government</i>
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09:40 – 10:00	BHNOG/BHP Overview <i>Dr Brian Tehan, Chair of the Blood Health National Oversight Group, Consultant Anaesthetist, BCUHB</i>
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10:00 – 10:15	Patient Voice <i>Chris Sotirelis, Chair, UK Thalassaemia Society</i>
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10:15 – 11:00	Enhancing Digital Systems to Improve Patient Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benchmarking, Data and Digital <i>Paul Mason, Head of Information Standards, Digital Health and Care Wales</i>• Pathology Digital Transformation <i>Karin Jackson, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service</i>
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11:00 – 11:20	Break
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11:20 – 11:40	Safe Laboratory, Safe Patient <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity Planning: Building Resilient Transfusion Laboratory Services in Wales <i>Rashmi Rook, Independent Transfusion and Quality Consultant</i>
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11:40 - 12:25	Education (Education Strategy Update) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfusion Education Strategy 2025-2028 <i>Stephanie Ditcham, Blood Health Team Lead, Welsh Blood Service</i>• Leading The Way on Foundation Doctor Education <i>Dr Gethin Pugh, Director of Educational Improvement, Health Education and Improvement Wales</i>
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12:25 – 13:10	SHOT – Transfusion Risk Group Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SHOT and Transfusion Governance <i>Dr Shruthi Narayan, Medical Director, Serious Hazards of Transfusion</i>• Evolution of Transfusion Risk in Wales <i>Rachel Borrell, Blood Health Team Operational Manager, Welsh Blood Service</i>
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13:10 – 14:00	Lunch
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14:00 – 15:10	Patient Blood Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consent – Panel Discussion <i>Dr Brian Tehan, Chair of the Blood Health National Oversight Group, Consultant Anaesthetist, BCUHB</i> <i>Dr Julie Gilles, Consultant Haematologist, Clinical Lead for Transfusion, Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service</i> <i>Dr Rhian Fuge, Consultant Haematologist, Platelet Workstream Lead, HDUHB</i>• Intraoperative Cell Salvage Update <i>Dr Louise Webster, Consultant Anaesthetist, Intraoperative Cell Salvage Clinical Lead, ABUHB</i>• Preoperative Anaemia Management PREMS and PROMS <i>Dr Christopher Whitfield, Consultant Anaesthetist, ABUHB</i>
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15:10 – 15:30	Break
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15:30 – 16:15	Futureproofing the Blood Supply Chain <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donor Pool Sustainability - Meeting the Requirements of the Welsh Population <i>Simon Campbell-Davies, Donor Engagement and Communications Manager, Welsh Blood Service</i>• Reimagining Blood Components: Revival, Reinvention and the Road Ahead <i>Dr Chloe George, Consultant Clinical Scientist, Welsh Blood Service</i>
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16:15 – 16:30	Closing <i>Dr Brian Tehan, Chair of the Blood Health National Oversight Group</i>
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Dr James Calvert

*Deputy Chief Medical Officer
for Wales*

Dr James Calvert is Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Wales. In this role he Chairs the Welsh Infected Blood Inquiry Oversight Group. A consultant respiratory physician by background, he previously served as Medical Director and Deputy Chief Executive at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. He trained at Oxford University and holds a PhD in epidemiology and a Master of Public Health from Harvard, where he was a Fulbright Scholar. His career spans clinical leadership, public health, and national advisory roles, including leading the National Asthma Audit at the Royal College of Physicians.



Dr Brian Tehan

Consultant Anaesthetist

 BHNOC Chair

Consultant Anaesthetist at Glan Clwyd Hospital since 1995, currently specializing in trauma and urology for elderly, frail patients. Dr. Tehan has chaired the BHNOC since March 2020. A Health Foundation Generation Q Fellow with a Master's in Leadership (Quality Improvement), Brian brings extensive experience in clinical management, governance, and patient safety. He is deeply committed to advancing BHNOC's mission, striving to make Wales a UK leader in delivering exceptional, evidence-based blood health outcomes.



Paul Mason

*Head of Information Standards
[DHCW]*

Paul Mason has worked across the NHS in Wales since 1998, developing extensive experience in finance, information, operational performance and national informatics leadership. Having held roles across Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, NHS 111 Wales, and now as Head of Information Standards, Paul has helped lead and implement national-scale system changes across the NHS 111 service in Wales. Passionate about the power of data, he is recognised for championing high-quality information, strong governance and strategic innovation to support safe, consistent and effective digital healthcare delivery.



Karin Jackson

Chief Executive - NIBTS

Karin has been the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service since 2016. Following a manufacturing engineering career with Ford Motor Company in Belfast and Wales, she joined the health service in 2002, undertaking a range of operational roles with responsibility for local and regional adult and paediatric services within Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. She is Senior Responsible Owner for two major regional digital programmes - Core LIMS and Blood Production and Tracking - and Programme Director for the Pathology Blueprint Programme which is developing a single management and governance structure for pathology services in Northern Ireland. She is currently studying for a doctoral programme at the University of Liverpool.



Rashmi Rook

Independent Transfusion & Quality Consultant

Rashmi Rook, is an Independent Transfusion and Quality Consultant and former Chair of the UK Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative (2015–2021). With over 30 years' experience in transfusion, quality management, workforce planning, and patient safety, she has contributed to national standards and service improvement initiatives across the UK. Following a career as a Transfusion Laboratory Manager, she now provides consultancy in governance, workforce resilience, quality systems, and capacity planning. She recently led and delivered the independent All-Wales Transfusion Capacity Review commissioned by the Welsh Blood Service in response to recommendations arising from the Infected Blood Inquiry.



Stephanie Ditcham

Blood Health Team Lead

Stephanie leads the Blood Health Team within the Welsh Blood Service, driving improvements in blood health across Wales. Based in North Wales, they collaborate with clinical leaders to enhance patient outcomes and optimise transfusion practices. As Head of BHT and a key member of the Blood Health National Oversight Group, Stephanie provides strategic leadership on initiatives such as anaemia management and best practices in transfusion medicine. They ensure alignment with national standards and support safe, patient-centred care. Through strong collaboration across NHS Wales and UK partners, Stephanie fosters innovation, influences policy, and is recognised for translating clinical evidence into effective national strategy.



Dr Gethin Pugh

Director of Educational Improvement

Dr. Gethin Pugh is a Consultant in Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Medicine in Wales. Gethin is Director of Educational Improvement for Health Education & Improvement Wales (HEIW) and the lead for Quality Improvement at HEIW. He has been Lead Faculty for the Wales Advanced QI Advisor Cymru Programme, formerly Scottish Improvement Leader, delivered in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland and NHS Wales Executive, Quality Safety and Improvement Directorate (2022-2025). Gethin is also the Immediate Past-Chair of the Royal College of Anaesthetists Anaesthetic Curriculum Development Group. Prior to this he was Chair and Deputy-Chair of the Curriculum Development Group between 2021-2024. Gethin is an Improvement Advisor with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI).



Dr Shruthi Narayan

Medical Director - SHOT

Dr Shruthi Narayan is Medical Director of Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT), the UK's independent professionally led haemovigilance scheme. She also works within the Donor Medical Team at NHS Blood and Transplant. Shruthi chairs the Royal College of Pathologists Transfusion Specialty Advisory Committee and contributes internationally through the International Society of Blood Transfusion Haemovigilance Working Party and as President of the International Haemovigilance Network. She is committed to improving transfusion safety through education, quality improvement, and collaboration. Shruthi is especially passionate about working with patients, promoting transparency, shared understanding, and partnership to strengthen safer, more effective care across healthcare systems.



Rachel Borrell

*Blood Health Team
Operational Manager*

Rachel Borrell is Blood Health Team Operational Manager at the Welsh Blood Service, with over 24 years' NHS experience in transfusion science, quality management, and laboratory leadership. She has led service improvements, regulatory compliance, and complex operational programmes, and currently chairs the All Wales Transfusion Risk Group. Rachel contributes to BHNOG and national strategy groups and is passionate about patient blood management, staff development, and embedding human factors into safer transfusion practice.



Dr Louise Webster

Consultant Anaesthetist

Dr Louise Webster is a Consultant Anaesthetist in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board specialising in paediatric anaesthesia and the care of patients with additional needs. Louise is currently the intraoperative cell salvage (ICS) lead for ABUHB, and is the BHNOG ICS workstream lead and chair of the All Wales ICS Network, as well as being the representative for Wales on the UK Cell Salvage Action Group. Louise also works as a consultant with the Emergency Medical Retrieval & Transfer Service (EMRTS) Cymru.



Dr Julie Gillies

Consultant Haematologist

Julie Gillies was a haemato-oncology consultant in Scotland for 18 years. In 2023, Julie joined the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service. Julie has a patient facing role and provides clinical support for the transfusion laboratory team, the clinical apheresis unit and the transfusion practitioners. Julie is the clinical lead for the transfusion team, is the co-chair of the Haematology and Transfusion Scotland Committee, is the haematology representative for the National Plasma Product Expert Advisory Group and is the Scottish Clinical lead for the UK& Ireland Blood Transfusion Network. Julie sits on many of the UK and Scottish committees set up to implement the recommendations of the Infected blood Inquiry.



Dr Rhian Fuge

Consultant Haematologist

Dr Rhian Fuge is a consultant haematologist in Hywel Dda University Health Board where she is the clinical lead for haematology. She is based at Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli and specialises in treating patients with myeloma and lymphoma. She has an interest in transfusion medicine and is a member of the BHNOC contributing to the platelet workstream. Rhian has recently completed the Dragon bike ride raising money for Macmillan and is aiming to cycle from Llandudno to Cardiff on RideCymru in September this year.



Dr Christopher Whitfield

Consultant Anaesthetist

A Consultant Anaesthetist working in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, with specialist interests in obstetric anaesthesia, perioperative medicine and regional anaesthesia. I also have several roles in education and have been the lead for a primary FRCA preparation course. I have a strong focus on improving perioperative patient care and outcomes through service innovation and multidisciplinary collaboration. I have worked collaboratively in our MDT team to establish a pre-operative intravenous iron clinic within ABUHB to optimise patients before surgery and reduce anaemia.



Simon Campbell-Davies

Donor Engagement & Communications Manager

Simon Campbell-Davies is an award-winning communications, marketing and business development professional with nearly 30 years' experience across public, private and voluntary sectors. As Donor Engagement and Communications Manager at the Welsh Blood Service, he leads strategic campaigns that inspire donor support and underpin vital NHS services. His career spans healthcare, professional services, housing and commercial industries, with expertise in brand strategy, stakeholder engagement and integrated marketing. Simon has held senior leadership, advisory and board roles within housing associations and professional bodies, and has a strong track record of delivering impactful campaigns, driving growth, building partnerships, and using communications to achieve meaningful social impact.



Dr Chloë George

Consultant Clinical Scientist

Dr Chloë George is a Consultant Clinical Scientist and Head of Blood Component Development and Research at the Welsh Blood Service, with over 20 years' experience in transfusion medicine. Beginning her career as a Biomedical Scientist, she progressed through scientific and operational leadership roles before establishing the WBS research facility in 2021. Chloë holds a Doctorate in Clinical Science and specialises in cold-stored platelets for trauma and major haemorrhage. She leads research into platelet function and pre-hospital transfusion, collaborating with military partners. Chloë is a member of SACBC, the European Blood Alliance New Products Group, and the international BEST research group.



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