

## Sent on behalf of Professor Perumal Nithiarasu, Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Impact

Dear Colleagues,

Please read below about some of the Faculty's most recent success stories. We would particularly like to see more from our Professional Services staff for the next email!

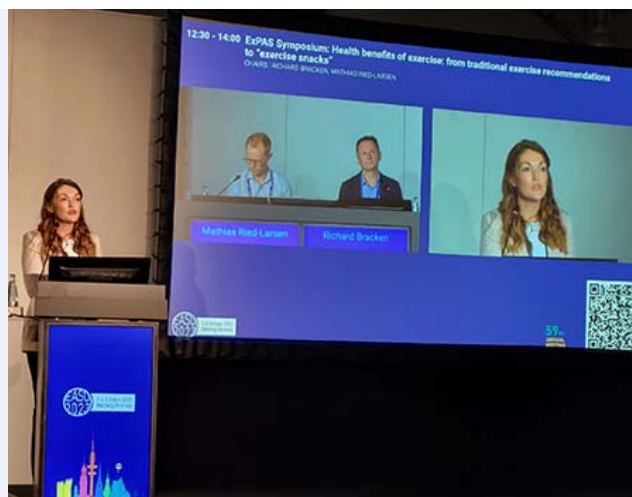
### STAFF NEWS

#### Researchers attend Diabetes Conference

Researchers from the Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences recently attended the European Association for the Study of Diabetes Conference in Hamburg - Europe's largest organisation for research in diabetes.

Senior Lecturer [Dr Rachel Churm](#) delivered a keynote lecture on *'the impact of physical activity and diet on the cardiovascular disease risk in post-menopausal women'* and [Professor Richard Bracken](#) launched a free, online educational resource to better support healthcare professionals to include physical activity as a supplementary therapy in the management of diabetes. Richard is Vice Chair of the Exercise and Physical Activity Study group and member of Sports and Exercise Sciences.

The conference event was a tremendous success and highlighted Swansea's reputation on a European diabetes stage.



#### All-Party Parliamentary Group for Menopause Awareness

[Dr Rachel Churm](#), Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences, was recently invited to attend the UK cross-party group at Parliament to provide evidence for the menopause report.

The group discussed the potential benefits of integrative therapies like exercise, reflexology, and mindfulness for women experiencing menopause, as well as the broader associated healthcare issues such as health awareness and inequalities.

The APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) was founded to tackle the lack of understanding around menopause amongst policymakers, the public and employers.

#### Supercomputer could reveal the origins of dark matter

A proposal led by [Dr Ed Bennett](#) from the Swansea Academy of Advanced Computing has been approved to run on Fugaku, the world's fastest computer. This

collaborative project, involving Professors [Biagio Lucini](#) and [Maurizio Piai](#), and PhD student David Mason from FSE, as well as researchers from Plymouth University and RIKEN in Japan, aims to investigate the Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) phase transition and its impact on gravitational wave spectra in the early universe. Understanding this may offer insights into the origin of dark matter, a mysterious substance that constitutes a significant portion of the universe's mass. Fugaku, located in Kobe, Japan, is exceptionally well-suited for the project due to its high performance and unique capabilities.



## Top 100 inspiring and influential women

Congratulations to [Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth](#), Department of Biosciences, on being named one of the top 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2023.

The top 100 list focuses on some of the main challenges that women and girls around the world face, and this year, the list is additionally shining a spotlight on the impact of the climate crisis on their health and safety.

Leanne's nomination is based on her work over the last 20 years, immersed in researching marine resource use and its sustainability. Her passion for seagrass was ignited by the realisation that human well-being is directly interlinked with this incredible habitat, and her goal is to improve the prospects of the millions of people intricately connected to seagrass ecosystems around the globe.

Leanne is the CEO of Project Seagrass, an international marine conservation charity headquartered in Bridgend and established as a spin-out from Swansea University. Project Seagrass is making a significant impact on both a national and international scale, consistently bringing positive attention to Swansea University.

[Read more about Project Seagrass](#)

## Swansea showcases semiconductor research

Professors [Owen Guy](#) and [Paul Meredith](#), [Centre for Integrative Semiconductor Research](#) (CISM), recently participated in [Wales Tech Week](#) alongside [CSConnected](#), where they presented an educational outreach app created by Imersifi, a leading Virtual Reality company based in Wales. This initiative is part of the START SEMI project which strives to equip students with the knowledge and skills essential for success in the semiconductor industry through an engaging and interactive approach.

[Read more about the semiconductor education](#)







Professors [Owen Guy](#), and [Paul Meredith](#), [Centre for Integrative Semiconductor Research](#) (CISM) also attended the [Wales Innovation Network](#) event at Lancaster House London, where they showcased the app and its potential to revolutionise semiconductor education. The event was attended by Ministers T C Davies and George Freeman and Swansea University Vice Chancellor Paul Boyle. Other attendees representing their research activities included [Professor Ben Evans](#), [Professor Ian Mabbett](#), Justin Searle, [Professor Dan Eastwood](#) and [Professor Kam Tang](#).

Photo: (Left to Right) Dan Gillard PHD student at CISM; Prof Paul, Meredith (CISM, Physics), Prof Owen Guy (CISM, Chemistry) and Prof Wyn Meredith (Compound Semiconductor Centre).

## Ginger Sue heads for India

Sue Phillips (FSE Finance Team Leader) will be heading back to India shortly for another Ginger Sue Adventure epic cycle ride exploring the sights, sounds and delights of [Kerala](#). This year's adventure is dedicated to raising much needed funds for the [Mind Charity](#).

Sue will cycle through the wildlife-packed Western Ghats, the spicy Cardamom Country and the beautiful backwaters of Kerala to the Mirari Beach. Setting off from Kochi, Sue and fellow cyclists will tackle tough climbs through Munnar's misty coffee and tea plantations, to the top of the Kannan Devan Hills in the Western Ghats.

Good Luck Sue!

[Find out about JustGiving](#)



## Physical Geographer receives the prestigious Hoggan Medal

Congratulations to [Professor Siwan Davies](#), Department of Geography, who recently received the Hoggan Medal from The Learned Society of Wales. The award recognises and celebrates the contribution of outstanding women in the areas of science, medicine, engineering, technology or mathematics.

Siwan is a physical geographer and science broadcaster, as well as a multiple award-winner for her research. Her work on the analysis of microscopic volcanic ash particles has been internationally recognised, and will help to reconstruct past periods of climate change to provide clues about current change.

Siwan said: *"I am delighted and honoured to be awarded the Frances Hoggan medal from the Learned Society of Wales for my research into past environmental change, which is so important for us all given the climate emergency."*

The names of the 2023 medallists were announced at a ceremony attended by Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language, and Professor Dame Sue Ion, one of our Honorary Fellows and Chairman, UK Nuclear Innovation Research Advisory Board.



## RAI UK Impact Accelerator programme

Congratulations to [Professor Simon Robinson](#), Department of Computer Science, on his successful partnership with RAI UK (Responsible AI UK) on the Impact Accelerator programme for the project “*Amplify: Empowering Underserved Voices in Spoken Language Interaction*”.

The aim of the projects is to maximise impact from existing responsible AI research to rapidly realise benefits for the economy, society, culture, policy, health, the environment, and quality of life.

Simon is the Project Lead and will be working with Minah's Research Services and Studio Hasi.



## TANGO to develop innovative AI systems

[Professor Alan Dix](#) and [Dr Matt Roach](#), Department of Computer Science, have secured funding of €8M on a 4 year EU project led by Trento University.

Project TANGO aims to develop research and prototypes that establish a deep mutual understanding between humans and machines that is essential for the development of truly effective and innovative AI systems that can expand human reasoning and decision-making capabilities. Swansea will lead in, developing methods for team decision-making and creating small-scale user-facing AI demonstrators for the XAI and ML models.

The project kicked off in Oct 2023, with 21 partner organisations from 9 countries across Europe, and is set to strengthen the leadership of Europe in this area.

## Biosciences researchers visit Berlin

Funded by the Swansea University Taith Researcher Mobility Fund and an Office for Naval Research Grant, two Biosciences research groups, [Sociality, Heterogeneity, Organisation and Leadership](#) (SHOAL) and the [Behavioural Ecology and Endocrinology Lab](#), visited Berlin, Germany, to identify and form relevant, collaborative opportunities with partners.

Associate Professors [Andrew King](#) and [Ines Fürtbauer](#) (Biosciences Academic Staff), [Dr Marina Papadopoulos](#) (Postdoc), and Marco Fele and Lucia Pedrazzi (PhD students) visited researchers at the following organisations: [Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin](#), [Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries](#) (IGB), [Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research](#) and the [Max Planck Institute for Human Development](#).

Photo: Marco, Marina, and Lucia presenting at Humboldt University (left) and a research workshop at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development (right).



## REIS Seminar Series Programme



A seminar on Security Sensitive Research & its registration will be delivered by Mrs Anjana Choudhuri, University Research Integrity Manager and Alexander Roberts, University Research Data Manager coordinating policies and systems to support Open Access Publishing.

Attendees will learn about the UK Government's regulatory requirements for the area and the available support in the University to assist researchers undertake such research safely with compliance.

The session will be delivered via Zoom on 13 Dec 2023, 2 pm.

[Register here](#)



## Leverhulme Trust grant success for saltmarsh research

Congratulations to [Professor Harshinie Karunaratna](#), Civil Engineering, who has been awarded a [Leverhulme Trust](#) research grant for a project on 'Artificial Intelligence-assisted saltmarsh flood mitigation assessment'. Harshinie will be working with [Dr Alma Rahat](#) from Computer Science and [Dr John Griffin](#) from Biosciences on this multidisciplinary project which will develop an AI-based framework for assessing the role of saltmarshes on coastal flood mitigation and investigate nature-based flood mitigation potential surrounding saltmarshes.

## Swansea University welcomes Hilary and Bill Clinton

Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and President Bill Clinton recently visited Swansea University to take part in a *Leadership for Future Generations* event in the Great Hall, Bay Campus. The event included a moderated and wide-ranging conversation about some of the global challenges confronting society and took place in front of an audience of local schools and further education colleges, as well as key University partners and stakeholders.

[Professor Paul Meredith](#) gave a presentation on [CISM](#), the Centre for Integrative Semiconductor Materials, while [Professor Geoff Proffitt](#) talked about the [biophilic buildings project](#). Both Hillary and Bill seemed genuinely interested and asked lots of questions.

The visit was generously supported by Welsh Government.



## STUDENT NEWS



## Best Presentation winner at International Conference

Congratulations to Talal Abdullah, a 4th Year EngD student in our [M2A](#) - Materials and Manufacturing Academy cohort sponsored by Tata Steel UK at Swansea University. Talal received the Best Presentation Award at the [International Conference on Mining, Mineral Processing and Metallurgical Engineering](#). The title of the presentation was 'Investigating the Viability of Small-Scale Rapid Alloy Prototyping of Interstitial Free Steels'.

His research focused on creating small-scale Interstitial Free Steel using a rapid alloy prototyping method. He studied the entire process, from melting materials,

including iron and alloying elements, to hot rolling and coiling, and compared the properties of the produced steel with industrial hot-rolled IF steel.

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

If you are aware of any recent achievements to share, either for yourself or for any members of your team, we would love to hear about them! We're interested in stories from academic and professional services communities. Please email any news to Anna Ratcliffe ([a.c.ratcliffe@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:a.c.ratcliffe@swansea.ac.uk)). **Deadline for submissions: 15th of each month.**

If you would like to promote a research event on the FSE Events webpage, please contact [fse-reception@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:fse-reception@swansea.ac.uk)

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