





**Prifysgol Abertawe
Swansea University**

2026

**YMCHWIL AC ARLOESI
RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

**DATHLIAD O GYDWEITHREDIADAU A PHARTNERIAETHAU
A CELEBRATION OF COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

4TH TACHWEDD
Y NEUADD FAWR, PRIFYSGOL ABERTAWE

4TH NOVEMBER
THE GREAT HALL, SWANSEA UNIVERSITY

14:00 Arrival and Networking <i>(light refreshments available)</i>			
14:30 Welcome: Professor Siwan Davies, PVC Research, Innovation & Enterprise			
14:40 Keynote Speaker: Chris Owen, Chief Operating Officer, South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)			
15:00 – 17:15 Themed Breakout sessions			
One Planet - Collaborating to (re)build South Wales in a time of Global Polycrisis Growing numbers of scholars and journalists are describing the current historical moment as a “polycrisis”. The idea is that we are experiencing simultaneous and severe challenges related to climate change, geopolitical instability, economic stagnation, and technological change all of which are threatening human well-being. But going further, polycrisis implies that these challenges are not just intersecting in dangerous ways but possibly reinforcing one another in an intensifying feedback loop. One effect of this intersecting set of crises is a growing sense of complexity and uncertainty in social, political, and biophysical systems. One thing that does seem certain is that almost nowhere on Earth will be unaffected by these unfolding challenges. These sessions aim to consider how global polycrisis is effecting our local region. But crucially, these sessions also aim to consider, if not celebrate, how intersecting, interdisciplinary and collaborative solutions are already making a difference for building a resilient Wales for the future. In other words, we aim to highlight not just self-reinforcing problems, but ways that collaborative solutions can reinforce one another.	Health and Well-being These sessions explore the interconnected themes of health, wellbeing, and innovation across the life course. It emphasises the importance of collaboration between academic researchers, NHS partners, and industry in addressing key challenges, including healthy ageing, advanced diagnostics, and improving mental health outcomes. By integrating cutting-edge research with clinical expertise and technological development, the session highlights how early detection, personalised care, and preventative approaches can enhance both physical and mental wellbeing. It will showcase how cross-sector partnerships accelerate the translation of discovery into practice, leading to more effective interventions and improved patient experiences. Through these collaborations, the session demonstrates a shared commitment to supporting longer, healthier lives and building more resilient, healthy communities.	Industrial Transformation Swansea University invites industry leaders, policymakers, and partners to sessions showcasing how research-led innovation is enabling the transition to low-carbon, high-value, and globally competitive industries. These sessions will highlight Swansea University’s long-standing and strategic collaborations with industry, a growing supply chain and network of companies in advanced semiconductor materials and power electronics to hydrogen technologies, renewable and distributed energy systems, and efficient energy-generating buildings. These partnerships underpin research that is directly addressing the challenges of industrial decarbonisation, electrification, AI energy demand, digitalisation, and energy efficiency, aligned with Net Zero Wales and national priorities.	Place, Society and Culture What makes a place feel like home? These sessions celebrate the people, places, histories and cultures that shape who we are, while exploring how these strengths can help create a better future. Through a lively mix of lightning talks, project presentations and discussion, it will touch on issues that matter in many different settings — from online safety, safer streets and voting behaviour to environmental protection, local heritage and discoveries that bring the past to life. It will also highlight collaborative work with a wide range of partners, showing how research can support stronger communities, a greater sense of belonging and richer connections with the world around us.
15:00 – 15:45 Collaborating to understand and develop Biophilic Living and improved housing provision in Swansea Chair: Professor Kirsty Bohata Dr Chris Pak, FHSS, Swansea University: Visioning the Future of Biophilic Living in Swansea Becky Cole, Codi Housing Association: Working with academia to deliver societal benefits	15:00 – 15:45 From Discovery to Care: How academic & NHS partnerships can help improve patient lives. Inspirational presentations highlighting how academic and NHS colleagues add value by working together. Chair: Dr Jason Webber Dr Emma Rees, Clinical Lead, FMHLS, Swansea University: Moving heart scans into the community; from Wales to Mongolia and back Dr Rod Middleton, Health Data Science, FMHLS, Swansea University: The UK MS Register – Enabling Collaborative Research in Rare Disease	15:00 – 15:45 Showcasing prosperity through sustainability How innovation drives prosperity – how to gain value from partnerships Chair: Professor Ian Mabbett Speakers to be confirmed	15:00 – 15:45 Linking people and places Our speakers will give short insights into the ways in which collaboration between researchers and practitioners can create real differences to society. Chair: Dr Daniele Doneddu Professor Matthew Wall, FHSS, Swansea University: The Horse Race Politics Project: Engaging and informing citizens through gamification Dr Chris Groves, FHSS, Swansea University: Empowering communities to engage with energy transition Professor Yan Wu, FHSS and Dr Nicholas Micallef, FSE, Swansea University: Building Digital Resilience Through Community-Led AI: Co-creating Safety Tools and Capacity with Minority Communities in Wales

15:45 – 16:30 Artificial Intelligence in Climate Change Preparedness Working closely with external partners such as the Welsh Government, the Met Office and others, Swansea University is at the forefront of applied research on the use of artificial intelligence to improve socio-environmental adaptation to extreme climate events. Chair: Dr Monika Seisenberger Dr Amy Mizen, FMHLS, Swansea University; Data Science, MAGENTA project: Using GEO AI for better planning for heatwave response for pregnant women in deprived areas Dr Yunqing Xuan, FSE, Swansea University: Using AI for better weather prediction, risk assessment, and preparation for flooding Dr Kristian Ions, FSE, Swansea University: Use of AI in coastal adaptation	15:45 – 16:30 How research data and infrastructure is helping shape health care and services The power of harnessing big data sets and how this impacts health care and services Chair: Dr Natalie De Mello Vodafone: Harnessing 5G potential for wider research and health impacts - the infrastructure to enable research Professor Ann John OBE, Health Data Science, FMHLS, Swansea University: Maximising mental health through our partnerships on “Datamind “ Professor Simon Dymond, Director, Gambling Research, Education and Treatment (GREAT) Centre, FMHLS, Swansea University: Lived experience and stakeholder partnerships in reducing gambling harms	15:45 – 16:30 Building an effective environment for industrial transition and growth Discover how policy and funding can help establish an effective environment for growth and a low-carbon future Chair: Dr Matt Roach Speakers to be confirmed	15:45 – 16:30 “Relationship status: Committed” This session introduces two long-term collaborative projects that have benefited from building relationships over the last 10 to 20 years to understand our region and its people. Chair: Professor Louisa Huxtable-Thomas Professor Nigel O’Leary, FHSS, Swansea University; Co-Director, Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research and Data and Methods (WISERD): Leading a successful pan-Wales project Dr Alex Langlands, FHSS, Swansea University: Heritage, Public Value and Future Generations: Partnering for Place-Based Regeneration
16:30 – 17:15 Collaborating on Nature Based Solutions and policymaking through Environment Platform Wales Opportunities for collaboration Chair: Professor James Bull, Andrew Schofield, Director, Environment Platform Wales Simon Baldwin, Welsh Government	16:30 – 17:15 How to translate your research into real-world impact Experience and insight from researchers who have collaborated with external stakeholders to drive translation toward real world impact. Chair: Professor Cathy Thornton Professor Deya Gonzalez, FMHLS, Swansea University: Viamab Therapeutics Ltd: our spin-out journey Dr Tennessee Randall, FMHLS, Swansea University: Unlocking the potential of foraged materials: Using consumer insights to support local food and cosmetic innovation Dr Ioan Humphreys, FMHLS, Swansea University: Improved prevention and management of chronic oedema through the assessment of the health and economic benefits of lymphoedema care	16:30 – 17:15 Delivering Industrial Transformation at Scale Panel themes include: - How to extract value and translate research into industrial deployment - Technologies to help decarbonise energy-intensive sectors such as metals, manufacturing, and transport - Values of industry–university partnerships in addressing Net Zero delivery and skills challenges Chair: Lewis Dean, Wales Innovation Network (WIN) Dr Wyn Meredith, CS Connected Greg Wilkinson, Rolls-Royce SMR James Claypole, Founder & CEO, Ail-Arian Ltd	16:30 – 17:15 With changes to place, society and culture, how can universities help the future of our region? Our Panel members will address key questions including: - How does SW differ from other areas of the UK or the World and how can we take advantage of that? - How do Culture and Heritage direct/focus what we do and influence our future? - How can we be more impactful from a societal point of view? - How are modern digital technologies shaping our work with the community? (Digital inclusion) - What should we be doing as employers and institutions to help develop pride in our Place? - Innovation question Chair: Dr Daniele Doneddu Richard Selby, Co-Founder and Director, Pro Steel Engineering Sioned Jones, Area Manager, Swansea Building Society Kim Memhende, Chief of Staff, Centre for African Entrepreneurship (CAE)
17:15 – 17:45 Posters and Networking			
17:45 – 18:45 Panel and R&I 2026 Award Presentations 17.45 - 17:50 Introduction to 3MT Winner & WE Innovate finalist: Sabriya Hussain, PhD Student, FSE, Swansea University Research Topic: Developing wireless power transfer systems for pacemakers and other implanted medical devices (such as cochlear implants) to reduce surgeries and improve patient outcomes. 17:50-18:15 Panel Session (led by Swansea University) - Looking to the Future 18:15 -18:40 R&I Award Presentations: Professor Siwan Davies and Professor Paul Boyle 18:40 Close: Professor Paul Boyle, Vice Chancellor, Swansea University			
18:45 – 19:45 Drinks, Canapes & Networking			