

WIPAHS Strategic Theme Lead Invitation

Systems Approach to Lifestyle Promotion Theme

Overview of WIPAHS

The Welsh Institute of Physical Activity, Health and Sport (WIPAHS) is a Pan-Wales network of Welsh Universities and Sport Wales. We seek to promote health and well-being using the transformative power of physical activity and sport by identifying, developing, and answering relevant research questions in non-elite settings.

The primary objective of WIPAHS is to make a difference to the people of Wales by collaborating across Welsh Universities and external stakeholders (those who are facilitating physical activity and sport, policy makers and the public). WIPAHS is a practice-driven organisation and operates to answer the questions posed by those working in the field, as well as to widely disseminate knowledge across a diversity of audiences. Ultimately, WIPAHS' mission is to build capacity across Wales, train future scientists and increase strategic collaboration across Sport Wales, academia, business, and stakeholders.

WIPAHS comprises of five key components: A Strategic Management Board, A Research Steering Group, the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) Panel, WIPAHS Researchers and a Stakeholder Panel. The Research Steering Group oversees all activities undertaken by WIPAHS and is formed of Strategic Theme Leads with direct input from the HEIs Panel, WIPAHS Researchers and external stakeholders. Strategic Theme Leads provide research project support and leadership across their area of thematic expertise. They are also expected to proactively engage with stakeholders to explore potential areas in which WIPAHS could provide support to organisations to address their research questions.

All thematic areas consider the promotion of mental and physical health and investigate how to implement and scale interventions. Projects do not have to be isolated to one strategic theme. The seven overarching strategic themes are:

- Moving for Health
- Healthy Behaviours
- Mental Health and Well-being
- Health, Sport and Physical Activity Economics
- Population-Level Change
- Behaviour Change
- Policy and Public Affairs

We are currently looking to expand our areas of thematic expertise and are inviting applications for a *Systems Approach to Lifestyle Promotion* Theme Lead

Theme Lead Role and Responsibilities

A Theme Lead would be responsible for:

- Working collaboratively with the Research Steering Group.
- Providing academic expertise, leadership and research project support relating to systems-based thinking, mapping, science, and implementation strategies.
- Facilitating collaboration across relevant individuals and organisations.
- Supporting access to facilities and resources, including ethics review panels.
- Attending quarterly meetings to share knowledge and activities, review projects and enhance collaboration.
- Contributing to WIPAHS activities as directed by the Strategic Management Board and Research Director.
- Actively contributing to WIPAHS through the promotion of WIPAHS activities and capacity to support stakeholders. This includes proactively discussing WIPAHS with potential beneficiaries.
- Publicising WIPAHS and disseminating its outputs through appropriate channels (e.g. social media) to enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration across Wales and internationally.
- Proactively exploring opportunities to leverage collaborative funding from relevant sources.
- Providing an overview of existing knowledge related to incoming research questions and supporting Sport Wales and its partners in accessing up to date research journals.
- Contributing to an annual report on WIPAHS activities as part of supporting ongoing WIPAHS funding.
- Adhering to pre-agreed procedures for communicating with external stakeholders on any matters related to WIPAHS.

Position Benefits

There is no funding available for the time commitment of theme leads (or any other members of WIPAHS aside from specifically employed Research Assistants/Officers). Therefore, the benefits of the role are found in the potential collaboration, commissions, funding and

learning that can emanate from involvement in a pan-Wales group, rather than direct financial gain. For example, these opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Letters of support and other auditable sources to help with Impact Case Study development. This includes direct links to policy makers.
- Partnership with Sport Wales and its partners to secure research income and industry collaboration.
- More impactful teaching and research practices via enhanced partnership between academia and end users.
- Development of collaborative research grants.
- Application for evaluation tenders.

To date, WIPAHS theme leads have been involved in the successful tenders for a variety of projects ranging from £16,000 to £120,000.

Term, Time Commitment and Reporting

Theme Leads will be appointed for three years and are required to communicate regularly with the Research Director as their primary point of contact.

Application

Interested applicants should submit a two-page CV and one-page cover letter detailing their experiences working with systems-based thinking, mapping, science, and implementation strategies in physical activity and/or sport in non-elite settings and mental health and well-being. This should include how applicants feel they could contribute to the objectives and mission of WIPAHS, collaborating, co-designing, and conducting research with external stakeholders, promoting research capacity across Wales, disseminating knowledge and training future scientists.

We ask that applications are submitted by email to wipahs@swansea.ac.uk by **22nd March 2024 at 4pm.**