



Canolfan  
Ymchwil  
Canser  
Cymru

Wales  
Cancer  
Research  
Centre

# Wales Cancer Bioinformatics Network

## WCBN Member Directory, July 2024

There are currently 46 people signed up to the network; the list below reflects those who have returned a member profile and agreed to be publicly listed.

<b>Dr Alex Gibbs (Chair)</b> <a href="mailto:gibbsa@cardiff.ac.uk" style="color: white;">gibbsa@cardiff.ac.uk</a>	<a href="https://heathbioi.github.io/alex-gibbs/">https://heathbioi.github.io/alex-gibbs/</a> <a href="https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/research-staff/gibbsa">https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/research-staff/gibbsa</a> <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/alex-gibbs-81899048/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/alex-gibbs-81899048/</a>
Cancer Research Strategy (CRcSt) funded Senior Core Bioinformatician working at the Wales Cancer Research Centre (WCRC). My role is to help cancer researchers in Wales with their bioinformatics needs.	

<b>Dr Karam Aboud</b> <a href="mailto:karam.aboud@wales.nhs.uk" style="color: white;">karam.aboud@wales.nhs.uk</a>	
Medical oncology registrar and PhD candidate researching into ctDNA biomarkers in NSCLC.	

<b>Robert Andrews</b> <a href="mailto:Andrewsr9@cardiff.ac.uk" style="color: white;">Andrewsr9@cardiff.ac.uk</a>	<a href="https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/andrewsr9">https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/andrewsr9</a> <a href="https://elixiruknode.org/">https://elixiruknode.org/</a>
Senior lecturer in Bioinformatics and data co-lead for ELIXIR-UK. I work with NGS data, workflow and data stewardship, across research disciplines including cancer immunotherapy. I lead a core support Bioinformatics team at Cardiff University.	

<b>Ms Malavika Babu</b> <a href="mailto:BabuM@cardiff.ac.uk" style="color: white;">BabuM@cardiff.ac.uk</a>	<a href="https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/babum">https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/babum</a>
Working as statistician/research in cancer and other trials.	

<b>Laura Baker</b> <a href="mailto:l.m.baker@swansea.ac.uk" style="color: white;">l.m.baker@swansea.ac.uk</a>	<a href="https://github.com/LBaker22">https://github.com/LBaker22</a> <a href="http://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-baker-8aa78bb7">http://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-baker-8aa78bb7</a>
Research Officer and Data Scientist based in Population Data Science at Swansea University. My role involves using the SAIL Databank to conduct data linkage and analyse cancer population data in Wales.	

**Matthew Bareford**

[matthew.bareford@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:matthew.bareford@wales.nhs.uk)  
[barefordm@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:barefordm@cardiff.ac.uk)

Honorary Research Fellow - Cardiff University. Biomedical Scientist – WEQAS - CAVUHB. I currently work within Cardiff and Vale Health board as a Specialist Biomedical Scientist, whilst also holding the honorary research fellow title with Cardiff university where I undertake and consult on research projects involving Spatial Multi-Omics, as well as my own research interests in Kidney/Renal Cancer.

**Agne Baseviciene**

[1909394@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:1909394@swansea.ac.uk)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/agn%C4%97-basevi%C4%8Dien%C4%97-364953194/>

PhD student at Swansea University. Studying ovarian cancer using scRNA-seq analysis and in vitro models.

**Dr Gabriel Mateus Bernardo Harrington**

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<https://gmbernardoharrington.netlify.app/>  
<https://github.com/H-Mateus>  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6075-3619>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gmb-harrington>

Bioinformatician at the Dementia Research Institute. I mainly work on single cell seq data in AD and the neurovasculature. I've a big interest in all things reproducibility!

**Dr Harsh Bhatt**

[BhattH2@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:BhattH2@cardiff.ac.uk)

WCAT Fellow and honorary specialty trainee in Neurosurgery, based within Cancer and Genetics at Cardiff University. Interested in telomere-driven genome instability in gliomas and associated bioinformatics and statistical analysis of this.

**Dr Kez Cleal**

[clealk@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:clealk@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://github.com/kcleal>

Lecturer in Cancer Bioinformatics at Cardiff University and WCRC researcher. My research focuses on structural variant analysis and genome complexity in cancer.

**Steve Conlan**

[r.s.conlan@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:r.s.conlan@swansea.ac.uk)

Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology. Focused on applying functional genomics approaches, lab and meta (bulk and single cell transcriptions; epigenomics - CHIP seq, ATAC seq), to gynaecological cancers and female reproductive disorders. Research and Innovation working group chair for Genomics Partnership Wales.

**Dr Naledi Formosa**  
[FormosaN@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:FormosaN@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/formosa>  
<https://www.organonachip.org.uk/people/n-formosa>

Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) funded Health Research Fellow. My role is to conduct independent research in breast cancer metastasis.

**Julia Gee**  
[Gee@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Gee@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/gee>

Senior Lecturer, Cardiff School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. My research area is treatment resistance in breast cancer (e.g. using gene microarray data) & I teach on the MSc. Cancer Biology & Therapeutics course, including on its data analysis/bioinformatics module.

**Nathan Harmston**  
[harmstonn@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:harmstonn@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://harmstonlab.github.io/>  
<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/2736694-harmston-nathan>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nathan-harmston-662a8530/>

Lecturer in the School Biosciences investigating how gene regulation functions in development and disease (specifically in cancer). Experience in handling large 'omic datasets (RNA-seq, WGS/SV etc).

**Ms Samantha Hill**  
[HillsJ8@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:HillsJ8@cardiff.ac.uk)

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/samantha-hill-9b3869170/?trk=opento\\_sprofile\\_topcard](https://www.linkedin.com/in/samantha-hill-9b3869170/?trk=opento_sprofile_topcard)

BSc (Open) Maths + Biology (First Class), MSc Bioinformatics (Distinction), currently studying for a PhD at Cardiff's School of Medicine investigating the role of L-selectin and T-cell homing on various cancers with a bioinformatics focus.

**Dr Garan Jones**  
[jonesg116@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:jonesg116@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://github.com/pasted>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/garan-jones-7a8986134/>

Research Fellow, DCG School of Medicine, Cardiff University.  
My research currently focuses on alternate splicing of transcripts in cancer, using long-read sequencing. Previous experience includes rare disease analysis in the NHS, and population genetics of ageing.

**Arron Lacey**  
[a.s.lacey@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:a.s.lacey@swansea.ac.uk)

Senior Lecturer Cancer Data Science - SAIL Databank contact for Cancer research and working towards CReST Theme 6. Interested in bringing together multi-omic with population health data.

**Mengcheng Li**  
[LiM89@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:LiM89@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/research-staff/lim89>

PhD student in Cardiff university, ENGIN school. I am conducting research on Tumour heterogeneity in Non-small cell lung cancer.

**Abigail MacArthur**  
[MacArthurA@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:MacArthurA@cardiff.ac.uk)

[www.walescancerbank.com](http://www.walescancerbank.com)

Wales Cancer Biobank Research Coordinator. Working from UHW and Velindre CC. My role encompasses a vast array of biobanking activities from consenting patients, coordinating clinic access, and analysing data. I am also the Comms & PPIE Lead for WCB and manage our website and social media platforms.

**Vanda Miklos**  
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[www.linkedin.com/in/vanda-miklos](https://www.linkedin.com/in/vanda-miklos)

Bioinformatics PhD student at Cardiff University with Duncan Baird's group.

**Jose Javier Munoz Criollo**  
[munozcriolloj@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:munozcriolloj@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/advanced-research-computing/about-us>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/josemunozcriollo/>

Systems Support/Developer Analyst at Advance Research Computing at Cardiff (ARCCA). I support students and researchers from multiple fields who need High Performance Computing in their work.

**Luis Mur**  
[lum@aber.ac.uk](mailto:lum@aber.ac.uk)

<https://www.clinicalhubaberystwyth.com/>

Director of Research: Specialist in functional genomic analyses; especially metabolomics. Chief investigator of two clinical studies focusing on urological ("OSCAR") and breast ("BECA") cancer.

**Jose Manuel Naranjo Espinosa**  
[jmnanarjoespinosa@outlook.com](mailto:jmnanarjoespinosa@outlook.com)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jos%C3%A9-manuel-naranjo-espinosa-a7387756/>

Data analyst interested in helping cancer research efforts from data analytics point of view.

**Carina Owen**  
[OwenC28@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:OwenC28@cardiff.ac.uk)

Medical Oncologist and current PhD student in Awen Gallimore's cancer immunology lab at Cardiff University. I am studying the influence of tumour genomics on cancer immunotherapy response, through WES/WGS in mouse models and human data.

<b>Marcos Quintela-Vazquez</b> <a href="mailto:quintela-vazquezm@cardiff.ac.uk">quintela-vazquezm@cardiff.ac.uk</a>	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcosquintelavazquez/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcosquintelavazquez/</a> <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marcos-Quintela-2">https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marcos-Quintela-2</a>
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Senior research associate working with NGS cancer data in Helen Pearson's group. I routinely analyse RNA-Seq, ChIP-Seq and ATAC-Seq datasets.

<b>Gemma Rees</b> <a href="mailto:gemmarees7@gmail.com">gemmarees7@gmail.com</a>	
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Prospective PhD candidate (Oct 2024) studying spatial transcriptomics and bladder/ovarian tumour microenvironment.

<b>Rebecca Rees</b> <a href="mailto:2325929@swansea.ac">2325929@swansea.ac</a>	<a href="http://www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-r-b75ab31b8">http://www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-r-b75ab31b8</a>
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PhD student at Swansea University, funded by AIMLAC (Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Advanced Computing). My research applies AI-based bioinformatics approaches to studying gynaecological cancers within the Reproductive Biology and Gynaecological Oncology Group (RBGO) at Swansea Medical School.

<b>Sion Roberts</b> <a href="mailto:1900806@swansea.ac.uk">1900806@swansea.ac.uk</a>	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/sion-roberts-657420150/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/sion-roberts-657420150/</a>
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I am a PhD student at Swansea University, where my research focuses on understanding the mutational signatures and immunological impact on adenoma development in familial intestinal cancers.

<b>Sophie Shaw</b> <a href="mailto:sophie.shaw@wales.nhs.uk">sophie.shaw@wales.nhs.uk</a>	<a href="https://medicalgenomicswales.co.uk/index.php/en/">https://medicalgenomicswales.co.uk/index.php/en/</a> <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/sophie-shaw-770a0226/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/sophie-shaw-770a0226/</a>
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I'm the Lead Bioinformatician for research and development at the All Wales Medical Genomics Service (CAV NHS). We carry out cancer diagnostic services.

<b>Dr Lisa Spary</b> <a href="mailto:sparylk@cardiff.ac.uk">sparylk@cardiff.ac.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.walescancerbank.com">www.walescancerbank.com</a>
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Wales Cancer Biobank Applications Manager. Working from Velindre CC and UHW. My role involves all aspects of facilitating and coordinating research applications to WCB for cancer samples and data. This includes advising on sample availability, analysing data, sample acquisition, costings and 1-2-1 support to the researcher. I am a post-doc researcher so have a vast knowledge on laboratory techniques and data analysis.

<b>Dr Abin Thomas</b> <a href="mailto:ThomasA118@cardiff.ac.uk">ThomasA118@cardiff.ac.uk</a>	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-abin-thomas-12826756/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-abin-thomas-12826756/</a>
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As a Biostatistician at the Centre for Trials Research (CTR), my role involves providing statistical support and expertise to clinical researchers to assist them in their research endeavours.

**Alex Tonks**

[TonksA@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:TonksA@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/tonksa>

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/research/explore/research-units/acute-myeloid-leukaemia>

I lead a multi-disciplinary research group focused on abnormalities affecting haematopoietic (blood cell) development which leads to haematological malignancies (blood cancer). My work has focused on the identification of novel targets (using various OMIC platforms), biomarkers and potential drug targets for the treatment of one of these cancers - acute myeloid leukaemia (AML).

**Dr Giulia Trauzzi**

[trauzzig@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:trauzzig@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/giulia-trauzzi-phd-622a1a148/>

Technician at Wales Gene Park with interest in bioinformatics and hoping to develop a professional career in bioinformatics. We provide library prep, NGS and bioinfo services to cancer research groups.

**Dr Asta Vasalauskaite**

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/asta-vasalauskaite/>

Co-founder of OmicsChart, Cardiff based computational biology startup focused on oncology drug development.