



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES
CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY – CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION
YR ACADEMI GENEOLAETHOL – YN DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEOL

Annual Review 2016-17



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President's Welcome

It has been another good year for the Learned Society.

The national academy is increasingly recognised in Wales and beyond. The election of 44 Fellows brought the total of the Fellowship to **over 460**. **Professor Mary McAleese** and **Lord Stewart Sutherland** were elected as Honorary Fellows. We look forward to the lectures which they will give when formally inducted.

Our strap line is simple - 'celebrating scholarship and serving the nation'. We have pressed the case for research at every opportunity and whenever we feel that it is insufficiently appreciated. The emphasis on education and encouragement of investment in research is fundamental to Wales' future prosperity. The higher education sector makes a vital contribution to the Welsh economy and in particular to strengthening Wales' future research capacity. Growing a skills base, attracting investment, and fostering innovation are prerequisites for a country on the western edge of Europe, the more so after Brexit.

We have promoted the quality of research in Wales, both inside and outside the nation, and communicated widely the success of our scholarship. Our portfolio of medals, previously five, has been augmented by the Hugh Owen medal for research in education. Recognition of talent and achievement crucially inspires young academics and youth, demonstrating what is possible when ability is recognised, nurtured, and given opportunity.

This year again we have presented lectures and events across Wales for the benefit of both Fellows and the public, and we are developing our engagement with schools. We have made many representations on behalf of the Fellowship. Details are set

out on the Society's website. Our opinions appear to be increasingly appreciated and sought. Working constructively with governments and legislatures, while preserving our independence, is proving beneficial.

Our cooperation with the established academies within the British Isles has strengthened, in considerable part in forging a common response to the consequences of Brexit. These go beyond funding, movement of staff and students and research collaboration. Brexit raises important constitutional issues to which we are seeking to draw attention. The Society's approach is outward looking, and we are, with our sister academies, involved with the work of ALLEA, the European association of national academies.

Our greatest resource is our Fellowship. The more Fellows are involved, the more we can accomplish. This will be particularly true if as we intend, we are to expand our activities in schools.

I'm indebted to all those who served the Society during the year, particularly the Fellows who sit on the various committees and panels, and to Professor Peter Halligan and his colleagues who have done so much for your Society again this past year. Thank you.



Sir Emyr Jones Parry
President

Chief Executive's Review

Sustaining progress in uncertain times.

The LSW continues to play a growing and important role in Welsh society fulfilling its Royal Charter for *“advancing learning and knowledge, and promoting and contributing to scientific, cultural, social, environmental and economic development within Wales and beyond”*. Over the last 12 months, the Society has continued to strengthen its relationships with sister national academies in the UK and with academies in Europe. In August 2016, the Learned Society of Wales was formally incorporated as a **Royal Charter Charity** by the Charity Commission.

With the aim of celebrating scholarship and serving the nation, the Society continues to promote quality of research from both inside and outside the nation. Recognition of talent remains an important objective of the Society and our growing portfolio of medals underlines the Society's commitment to reward distinction among STEM, female, and early career researchers.

The Society has been working closely with other established academies within the British Isles. Following the Brexit referendum we made several joint comments on subjects, such as the importance of European Union funding for research. In 2016, the Society supported three events at the successful **British Science Festival**, held at Swansea University, joined the **Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE)** as an organisational member and arranged for the publication of a featured open access article on growing research in Wales in **Science** one of the pre-eminent scientific journals.

Following the model of the **Royal Society of Edinburgh's** work with the Scottish Crucible, the LSW similarly contributes to the evaluation and selection of Welsh Crucible candidates, and to the subsequent competitive grant applications to the Welsh Crucible fund. This year, the Society and Welsh Crucible also announced a new dedicated **Welsh Crucible Prize** awarded to the best completed research project.

In March 2017, Council agreed the need to review and develop a new strategic business plan for the next five year period after 2018. As part of the preparation, the Society commissioned an independent organisation to carry out a large series of interviews and surveys exploring external perceptions of the organisation which will allow stakeholders views to inform and shape the development of next five-year strategy.

Looking forward, key objectives remain ensuring that the society is financially sustainable and in due course to rename the society the **Royal Society of Wales / Cymdeithas Frenhinol Cymru**.



Professor Peter Halligan
Chief Executive

Our Goals

The Learned Society of Wales (LSW) plays an important, and growing, role in Welsh society, working to advance and inspire education, learning, academic study and knowledge.

The LSW is distinctive internationally because of its breadth of Fellowship, which ranges across traditional academic subjects but also business, arts practice and public service.

The Society's strengths lie in its Fellowship, its staff, and in the close partnerships forged with universities, professions, business, industry and government.

Since its foundation in 2010, the guiding principles for the Society remain its mission:

- ▶ to celebrate, recognise, preserve, protect and encourage excellence in all of the scholarly disciplines, and in the professions, industry and commerce, the arts and public service;
- ▶ to promote the advancement of learning and scholarship and the dissemination and application of the results of academic enquiry and research; and
- ▶ to act as a source of independent and expert scholarly advice and comment on matters affecting the wellbeing of Wales and its people and to advance public discussion and interaction on matters of national and international importance.

The previous five-year Strategic Plan, adopted in May 2013 prioritised "*aspirational and ambitious*" yet "*realistic and achievable*" activities.

The Society has taken the following steps to meet these ambitions:

- ▶ Increased the Secretariat to 5 members of staff (4.3 FTE) to help deliver the mission of the Society
- ▶ Supported and organised over 100 events which have reached diverse audiences across Wales
- ▶ Secured on-going funding from each of Wales's eight universities
- ▶ Achieved Royal Charter Charity status
- ▶ Developed a range of medals to recognise outstanding researchers connected to Wales
- ▶ Strengthened its relationship with other national academies in the UK and Europe
- ▶ Since 2013/14, the number of female Fellows has increased 50% to be more representative in terms of gender balance.

Celebrating and Inspiring



Society Medals and Prizes

The Society medals recognise academic excellence and also recover and promote a long legacy of Welsh achievement. ▶

Kirsty Williams AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education launches the Hugh Owen Medal at Aberystwyth University



Five **Menelaus Medals** have been awarded in engineering and technology.

(Supported by SWIET2007)



The second **Frances Hoggan Medal** was awarded for outstanding female researchers in STEM.

(Supported by Welsh Government)



The Society awarded three inaugural **Dillwyn Medals** for early career researchers in STEM, arts and humanities and the social sciences.

(Supported by Airbus)



The inaugural **Hugh Owen Medal**, for outstanding educational research, is named in honour of Sir Hugh Owen (1804-1881) the Welsh educator, philanthropist and pioneer of higher education.

(Supported by Welsh Government)

The **Hugh Owen medal** was launched in November 2016 by Kirsty Williams AM, the Cabinet Secretary for Education. The medal was awarded to Professor Chris Taylor in recognition of his outstanding contribution to educational research, which is not only methodologically ground-breaking but has also informed the development of key education policies in Wales. Professor Taylor said *"I am very honoured to have been awarded the first Hugh Owen medal by the Learned Society for Wales. It is crucial we recognise the importance of research in the Welsh education system. Without this we cannot be confident that our education policies and practices address the right issues or will deliver effective results"*.

The **Dillwyn medal** for STEM was awarded to Dr Rachel Evans, a lecturer at the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy at the University of Cambridge. The new photoactive materials designed

in her laboratory are used to improve the efficiency of solar cells, to develop smart sensing platforms for bio-diagnostics and to ensure food security, and to develop responsive membranes to improve water quality and remove pollutants, delivering positive benefits to society through technological advances.

Dr Rhiannon Evans, Senior Lecturer at the DECIPHer Research Centre, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University was awarded the Dillwyn medal for Social Sciences, Education and Business. Her research interests include the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, including self-harm and suicide prevention.

The recipient of the Dillwyn medal for the Creative Arts and Humanities was Dr Amanda Rogers, Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at Swansea University, researching the performing ►



From left: Dr Amanda Rogers, Dr Rachel Evans, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Dr Rhiannon Evans, and Professor Chris Taylor

arts, particularly theatre. Her work has examined issues of diversity and equality, and analysed the international migration of performers. Her current research focuses on the revival of Cambodian arts after the Khmer Rouge genocide.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry, President of the Society said:

“It is wonderful to see female early career researchers recognised by our inaugural Dillwyn Medals, particularly fitting given the pioneering innovations of Mary, Thereza and Amy Dillwyn.”

The second **Frances Hoggan medal** was awarded to Anita Thapar CBE FLSW of Cardiff University, for her research in child and adolescent psychiatry. *“It is an*

immense honour to receive this award,” Professor Thapar said, *“my scientific work has benefited enormously over the years from jointly working with excellent colleagues. Many of these have been young female scientists – so I hope this award serves as inspiration for them.”*

The **Menelaus medal** was awarded to Professor Graham Hutchings FRS FLSW, Regius Professor of Physical Chemistry at Cardiff University in recognition of his ground-breaking work on catalysis. He said *“My work in the field of catalysis has been largely aimed at designing new technologies in collaboration with industry. Recently our work enabled gold to be used as a new catalyst to replace a highly polluting mercury catalyst in vinyl chloride manufacture which I hope will really see benefits for society as a whole. It is a great honour to be awarded the LSW Menelaus medal.”*

Fellows elected in 2017

Now in the seventh year of a rolling process, the 2017 Fellowship Elections of the Learned Society of Wales continue to build towards a strong, representative Fellowship.

Through a rigorous five-stage process, the Society's focus on excellence and achievement will ensure that the Fellowship represents the very best in the major academic disciplines. New Fellows are notable not only for their individual successes, but also as inspirational figures for future generations in Welsh society.

Honorary Fellows

**Professor Mary McAleese MRIA FRCS
FRCA FRCP FRSA FRSE FRCM HonFLSW**
Formerly, President of Ireland; Pro-Vice Chancellor, The Queen's University Belfast; Director of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies; Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology, Trinity College Dublin

**Lord Stewart Sutherland of Houndwood
KT FBA FRSE HonFLSW**
Formerly, President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh

Fellows

Professor Roger Ainsworth FRAeS FLSW
Master of St Catherine's College, Pro-Vice Chancellor, and Professor of Engineering Science, University of Oxford

Professor Peter Barry FEA FLSW
Emeritus Professor of English, Aberystwyth University

Dr Richard Bevins FGS FAS FLSW
Joint Interim Director (Collections & Research) and Keeper of Natural Sciences, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum of Wales

**Professor Stephen Brown FICME FIMMM
FLSW**
Head of the College of Engineering, Swansea University

Professor Alan Bull FRSB FRSA FIIB FLSW
Emeritus Professor, University of Kent

**Professor Richard Catlow FRSC FInstP
FRS FLSW**
Professor of Chemistry, Cardiff University and University College London

Dr Jasmine Donahaye FLSW
Associate Professor of Creative Writing, Swansea University

**Professor Christopher Evans FRSC
FRCPATH FIOR FLSW**
Director Rehabilitation Medicine Research Center Mayo Clinic; Professor Orthopaedic Surgery, Mayo Medical School; Professor Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Mayo Medical School



Professor Haley Gomez FRAS FLSW

Professor of Astrophysics, Cardiff University

Professor Roy Goodacre FLSW

Professor of Biological Chemistry, School of Chemistry, University of Manchester

Professor Ian Hall FLSW

Head of School and Research Professor, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University

Professor John Hartley AM FAHA FRSA FLSW

John Curtin Distinguished Professor, Curtin University, Western Australia; and Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow, School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, Cardiff University

Professor Andrew Henley FLSW

Professor of Entrepreneurship and Economics, Cardiff University

Dr Mari Jones FLSW

Reader in French Linguistics and Language Change, University of Cambridge

Professor Diane Kelly FRSB FLSW

Professor of Microbiology, Institute of Life Science, Swansea University Medical School

Professor Ruth King FLSW

Thomas Bayes' Chair of Statistics, University of Edinburgh

Professor Binliang Lin FCIWEM FLSW

Professor/ Arup Professor, Cardiff University/ Tsinghua University

Professor Christopher Meredith FLSW

Emeritus Professor of Creative Writing, University of South Wales

Professor Iwan Morus FLSW

Professor of History, Department of History & Welsh History, Aberystwyth University

Professor Helen Nicholson FRHistS FLSW

Professor in Medieval History, School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University

Professor Robert Pickard FRSB FRSM FLSW

Emeritus Professor of Neurobiology, Cardiff University; Trustee of the National Museum of Wales

Professor Loredana Polezzi FLSW

Professor of Translation Studies, Deputy Head of School & Director of Research, School of Modern Languages, Cardiff University

Professor Sally Power FLSW

Director, WISERD education, Co-Director WISERD, Professor School Social Sciences, Cardiff University

Professor David Price FRSB FLSW

Professor of Infection and Immunity, Cardiff University School of Medicine

Professor Richard Rathbone FRHistS FLSW

Honorary Professor, History department, Aberystwyth University; Emeritus Professor of History and Professorial Research Associate in the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies

Professor Neil Reeve FLSW

Professor of English, Swansea University

Professor Philip Routledge OBE MD FRCP FRCPE FBTS FRSB FAcadMed HonFRCGP HonFFPM HonFBPhS FLSW

Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, School of Medicine, Cardiff University; Honorary Consultant C&V UHB, Clinical Director Therapeutics and Toxicology Clinical Directorate/ All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre

Sir Evan Paul Silk KCB FLSW

President, Study of Parliament Group; Associate, Global Partners Governance; Honorary Professor, Wales Governance Centre, Cardiff University; formerly, Chair, UK Government Commission on Devolution to Wales

Professor Helen Snooks FLSW

Professor of Health Services Research, Swansea University

Professor Alayne Street-Perrott FRGS FLSW

Emeritus Professor of Physical Geography, Swansea University

Professor Julia Thomas FLSW

Professor of English Literature, School of English, Communication and Philosophy, Cardiff University

Professor David Tozer FLSW

Professor of Theoretical Chemistry, Durham University

Professor Elizabeth Treasure FRACDS FDSRCS FFPH FDSRCPS FLSW

Vice-Chancellor, Aberystwyth University, and formerly Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff University

Professor Marcela Votruba PhD FRCOphth FLSW

Head of School of Optometry and Vision Sciences, Cardiff University and Honorary Consultant in Ophthalmology, Cardiff & Vale UHB

Professor Damian Walford Davies FLSW

Professor of English Literature and Head of the School of English, Communication and Philosophy, Cardiff University

Dr Catrin Haf Williams FLSW

Reader in New Testament Studies, University of Wales Trinity St David

Dr Olwen Williams OBE FRCP FLSW

Consultant Physician - Sexual Health & HIV, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB

Professor Howard Williams FLSW

Professor Emeritus, Aberystwyth University, Distinguished Honorary Professor, Cardiff University

Professor Christopher Wood FRCSEd FLSW

Executive Chairman, Nucana Ltd

Professor Michael Woods FLSW

Professor of Human Geography and Professor of Transformative Social Sciences, Aberystwyth University

Professor David Worsley FIMMM FLSW

Research Director and Deputy Head of College of Engineering, Swansea University

Professor Michael Zaworotko FRSC FICI FAAAS FLSW

Bernal Chair of Crystal Engineering and Science Foundation of Ireland Research Professor, University of Limerick



Recognition & Relevance

During the last year, the Society grew its national and international impact, demonstrating its social and public value as a respected, independent and influential voice for Wales.

The Diamond Review

In October 2016, the Society welcomed the publication of the Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance Arrangements in Wales by Sir Ian Diamond and colleagues. Recognising that the current fee-grant model supporting Welsh-domiciled students was unsustainable, the Society provided a detailed report and evidence to the Diamond Panel, in January 2015, highlighting the importance of adequate student support, arguing that the historical under-funding of the Welsh HE sector be redressed.

The Society welcomed the Review's recommendation to introduce means-tested maintenance grants for Welsh-domiciled students, and the commitment that HEIs *"should be funded at a level that enables them to deliver teaching and research of the highest quality, in line with their respective strengths, specialisms, and missions"*.

The Review also recognises that the Society *"is a very welcome addition to the Welsh intellectual landscape, particularly given its multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral Fellowship"* and highlighted that *"the need to harness the most talented members of their societies to provide advice; to challenge and to debate, similar to other learned societies such as the Royal Society of Edinburgh or the Royal Society of London"* is important for successful knowledge-based economies.

Commenting on the role of the LSW, the Review continues: *"We believe it has the potential to develop into a real resource for a) improving the public understanding of science and stimulating and contributing to public debate and engagement on key contemporary issues; b) contributing to the development of Wales' 'soft power' by promoting international networks of interest in Welsh institutions, culture and values; c) inspiring and supporting Wales' most promising young talent across the* ▶

“

...a very welcome addition to the Welsh intellectual landscape

research, business and public sectors, in order to create value for the economy and society; d) providing independent advice and horizon scanning across a wide range of areas through ensuring that Wales' policy makers and influencers have access to the best national, and indeed global expertise; e) better recognising the quality of scholarship existing in and associated with Wales; and f) promoting Wales' interests and reputation on the global stage.”

For the Society to deliver on this remit the Review recommended that the LSW should be provided with funding similar to that in other jurisdictions, through HEFCW to fulfil objectives agreed between the LSW and HEFCW, taking into account important future challenges and priorities for the Welsh Government. A similar 'grant-in-aid' scheme is employed in Scotland for the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Finally, the Review recognises the insufficient critical mass of STEM researchers in Wales and proposed that the “*Welsh Government establishes an ambitious programme to train a new generation of researchers.*” The Review recommended developing a Postgraduate Research Scholarship Scheme funded in a three way equal partnership between the Welsh Government, the university in which the research student will be based, and another funder either from the private, public or third sector, which could be administered by the LSW.

Exchanging Ideas Seminar Series

The **National Assembly's Research Service** invited the Learned Society of Wales to develop a pilot seminar series to promote evidence-led policy and to provide Assembly Members with the opportunity to learn, exchange and discuss new ideas with leading academic experts. The seminar series addressed how ambitious Welsh Government policy should be in terms of:

- ▶ Economic strategy, finance and infrastructure;
- ▶ Growing and diversifying civil society in Wales;
- ▶ A smarter energy future for Wales.

The seminars provided a forum to present and disseminate research findings in an accessible way on issues that are relevant to the programme of business of the National Assembly for Wales. Attendees included AMs and their support staff; party researchers, Assembly Research Service staff, and Assembly Commission staff.

Championing Research

Wales operates in a competitive global environment. Yet international awareness and recognition of its scholarly excellence and research is under-appreciated. Wales has to develop its sector-wide academic profile and enhance its reputation for excellence in research, education, and innovation.

Few issues are more important than reputation in the competition for good students, research funding and research staff at a time of economic and political challenge.

With this in mind the Society has embarked on a variety of initiatives to grow Wales's national and international academic profile by better showcasing research and education excellence. We do this on behalf of the sector as a whole, and not for individual institutions.

In addition to organising occasional international symposiums and lectures, tangible delivery of this strategy has included promoting the Welsh research environment in the journal *Science*, which reaches an international audience of over half a million readers each week.

The Society also this year commissioned the Policy Unit of King's College London to undertake an independent review on the ***Impacts of Academic Research from Welsh universities***. The analysis considered, for the first time, every impact case study submitted from a single UK country, providing in-depth insight into the impact from Welsh universities. The UK's 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) was the first nationwide assessment of academic research that formally evaluated non-academic impact.

Across all submissions, Wales secured an impressive 49% at 4* (outstanding) in the impact ▶

sub-profile, which exceeds the UK average of 44%. A further 37% of the submitted impact for Wales was judged to be 3* (very considerable impact).

37% of the case studies reported impacts specifically for Wales. Within this sample, impacts on policy and society were prominent, mostly describing contributions to policy reform. The review confirmed the direct benefit of academic research to Wales, to the country's culture and heritage, to its economy, to public education and to social cohesion.

The geographical reach of the research impact activities from Wales's covered 102 countries and six continents.

Science, engineering, manufacturing and industry saw the highest concentration of activity outside of Wales, with 42% of all references to impacts on the sector situated in the UK and 45% internationally. The report showed that research in Wales has a global reach, and Welsh higher education continues to be highly efficient.



Promoting Learning and Scholarship

As part of its mission to promote scholarship and learning across Wales, the Society supported or organised 40 events over the last year.

This year saw the launch of our Partnership Lectures, hosted by Welsh universities and organised in conjunction with the Society.

The first Partnership Lecture was given by **Professor Margaret MacMillan**, at Bangor University in December 2016. The lecture, entitled 'David Lloyd George: The Peacemaker' marked the centenary of David Lloyd George's appointment as Prime Minister.

The second lecture in the series was held at Cardiff University in April 2017. The lecture by Professor Lord Martin Rees KT OM FRS FEng FMedSci HonFLSW, the Astronomer Royal, considered 'The world in 2050 – and beyond'. Lord Rees was also formally admitted as an Honorary Fellow of the Society at the event. A recording of the lecture can be accessed at www.soundcloud.com/cardiffuni/the-world-in-2050-and-beyond.

Other highlights included:

- ▶ A lecture by Sir Michael Atiyah at Swansea University
- ▶ Supporting Soapbox Science events in Swansea and Cardiff, which take women at the forefront of science and technology from all over Wales and beyond to the streets to talk about their research
- ▶ the first Hamlyn Lecture of 2016 delivered by The Rt. Hon. Dame Sian Elias, GNZM, Chief Justice of New Zealand in November 2016 in conjunction with the Cardiff Law School and chaired by The Rt Hon The Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales.
- ▶ Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell's Menelaus Memorial Lecture in March 2017 on Astronomy and Poetry
- ▶ Supporting a range of activities at the British Science Festival 2016, which was held at Swansea University ▶



4
days



16,341
visitors



21%
aged 16-24

- ▶ A short series of lectures across the nation showcasing recent research relevant to the study of Wales, including theology, curriculum reform in Wales, and the reaction in Welsh speaking Wales to the work of Sigmund Freud.

International events were amongst the activities supported by the Society during the year, including the Academia Europaea Annual Conference in June 2016, and the conference of the North American Association for the Study of Welsh Culture and History (NAASWCH) at Harvard University in July 2016. The Society was also a major sponsor of the British Science Festival at Swansea in September 2016.

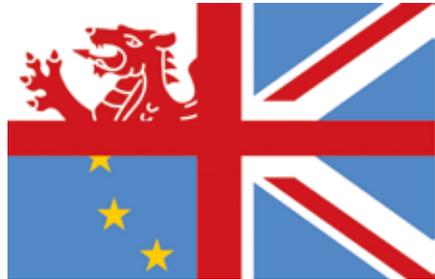
Details of the programme of events past and future is available to view at www.learnedsociety.wales/events

Wales, UK and Europe

Over the last 12 months, the Society has continued to strengthen its relationships with sister national academies in the UK and in particular, with academies in Europe. This has included joint projects with the British Academy and Royal Society, joint submissions with the Royal Society of Edinburgh and attendance at the first ever meetings of the seven UK based Academies.

The UK Academies have worked together to issue a number of joint statements during the last year, in response to the UK's decision to leave the European Union:

- ▶ In **July 2016** the LSW joined the Academy of Medical Sciences, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the Royal Irish Academy to publish a joint statement highlighting the need to maintain research and collaboration with the EU after the Referendum.
- ▶ Later the same month, 30 national academies from Europe released a joint statement, 'Science is global', to encourage governments and institutions to work in partnership to deliver research, scholarship and innovation across the continent for the greater benefit of society. The LSW also supported the 28th Academia Europaea Annual Conference, which was held in Cardiff in June 2016, which underlined the importance of pan-European collaboration and cooperation for research.
- ▶ In February, the LSW worked with the British Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh to develop a joint submission to the House of Lords EU Committee:



Brexit: Devolution. The Society also worked with other Academies to inform Science priorities for Brexit, a statement by Stephen Metcalfe MP, Chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, and the Commons Science and Technology Committee.

- ▶ The Society, along with the 6 other UK national academies issued a joint statement in reaction to the Government's decision to trigger Article 50 as part of the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal).

The Society also submitted evidence to a number of Committee enquiries, including the Lords Science and Technology Committee, the Lords EU Select Committee, the Treasury Select Committee, and the National Assembly

for Wales's External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee.

▶ The President of the Society wrote to the Secretary of State for Wales, urging that the UK government work to maintain UK researchers' access to EU Research programmes, and that the level of financial support for UK research is at least maintained at the current level.

▶ The Society also contributed a number of comment pieces to the Western Mail and Walesonline.co.uk, looking at the wider challenges that Wales faces as the UK withdraws from the UK, Welsh objectives for the negotiations and the potential impact in terms of research funding, collaboration, and researcher and student mobility.

Independent advice

Drawing on the expert knowledge of its Fellows, the Society has provided responses to formal consultations and comments addressing a number of areas of UK and Welsh government policy, including the Wales Bill (2016), higher education strategy, the Welsh language, UK industrial strategy, and the second Research Excellence Framework (REF2021)

Professors John Wyn Owen and Stephen Palmer organised a task and finish group of Fellows to develop a comprehensive response to the Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care in Wales (April 2017); this work is on-going.

The Society's Chief Executive Professor Peter Halligan was invited to join the

Advisory Panel of Professor Graeme Reid review of Research and Innovation organised by the Welsh Government. The review will look at the strengths, gaps and future potential to sustain and grow strong research and innovation activity in Wales. Further details of the Society's comments and submissions are available on the Society's website.

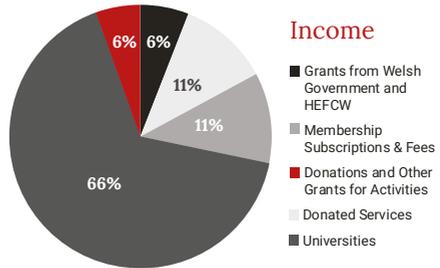
Financial Review

The generous support and office space provided by the University of Wales continues to be an important feature sustaining the Society's activities during 2016/17.

In recognition of the strategic importance of growing a diverse range of funding streams and need to maintain its footprint of activities and representation across Wales, the Society has begun to secure additional income sources, to provide long-term financial security and to enable the Society to develop and expand its programme over the next few years.

During the past year, financial support was received from all Welsh Universities totalling £220,000. In each case, the grants awarded are treated, for purposes of accounting and reporting, as a contribution towards the Society's core costs and part of its unrestricted funds. This is key to ensure that the Society remains – and is perceived to be independent.

The Society also benefits from generous in-kind support from all Welsh Universities and other organisations that have helpfully provided venues for Society events during the year. PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Society's auditors have generously committed to provide audit services to the Society on a pro bono basis.



Expenditure



Governance

Having received overwhelming support from the Fellowship, Sir Emyr Jones Parry GCMG FInstP FLSW was re-elected President of the Learned Society of Wales for a second term of office (from May 2017 until May 2020). The inaugural Vice President for Arts and Humanities Professor M. Wynn Thomas OBE FEA FLSW FBA and inaugural General Secretary Professor John Tucker MAE FBCS FLSW both stepped down after seven years of service.

From May 2017, Professor David Boucher took over the role of Vice President for Arts and Humanities and Professor Alan Shore the role of the Society's General Secretary; they will serve until May 2020.

The Society's Governing Documents

The Society was awarded Royal Charter on 28 September 2015. As a result of being awarded the Royal Charter, the Society has been incorporated as a Royal Charter Charity (1168622). Following the transition and incorporation to Royal Charter Charity, the limited company status for the Society was made dormant on 5 August 2016. The Society's current governing documents are its Royal Charter and bye-laws. This, along with the Society's Regulations form the Society's governing instruments since August 2016.

The Society's Council

The Charter provides for the Society's governing body to be the Council, in which "shall be vested the government and control of the Society and its affairs" subject to the provision of the Charter,

bye-laws and Regulations (Item 7.1). This includes the determination of the educational activities of the Society, the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the Society and the safeguarding of its assets, as well as ensuring that all matters relating to accounts and financial procedures are conducted in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements.

Members of the Council serve as Charity Trustees for the purpose of charity law.

Officers

President

The Society's current President is Sir Emyr Jones Parry GCMG FInstP FLSW.

Vice-Presidents

- ▶ Professor Ole Petersen CBE FMedSci MAE FLSW FRS (Science, Technology and Medicine)
- ▶ Professor David Boucher FRHistS FAcSS FLSW (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences)

Treasurer

- ▶ Professor John Wyn Owen CB FRSPH FLSW

General Secretary

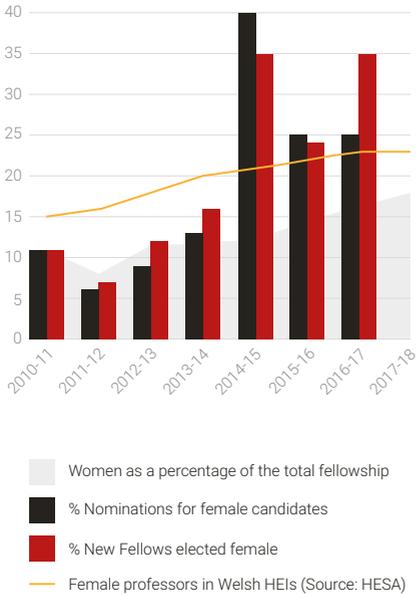
- ▶ Professor Alan Shore FInstP FLSW

Royal Patron

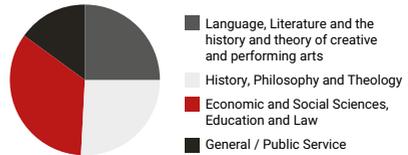
From March 2014, His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, graciously agreed to become Royal Patron for an initial period of five years.

Fellowship at a Glance

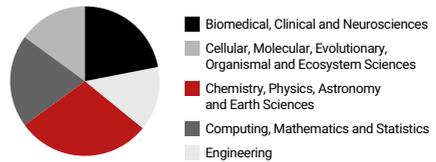
Proportion of Women in the Fellowship



Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Public Service Fellows



STEMM Fellows



It is encouraging that this year continues the trend of an increase in the proportion of female Fellows in the Society and that 35% of the new Fellows elected in 2016/17 were women.

Women now comprise 18% of the Society's Fellowship and 25% of the members of Council.

