

**Digwyddiad Rhwydwaith Ymchwilwyr Gyrfa Cynnar**

**"Alt-Ac": Careers for Academics Outside Academia**

**Zoom: 1:00 -03:00 pm, 26 Ionawr 2023**

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|  | **Sgyrsiau** |
|  | **‘Behind the Curtain: Building a Career in Professional Services in Higher Education’****Dr Angharad Watson** | Rheolwr Trosi Ymchwil, Gwasanaethau Ymchwil ac Arloesi, Prifysgol CaerdyddRoeddwn i eisiau cael PhD a dod yn academydd ers gwylio "Ballet Shoes" yn blentyn – fe wnaeth y syniad o fod yn "hosan las" gipio fy nychymyg. Canolbwyntiais fy holl ymdrechion ar y llwybr hwnnw – cymwysterau Safon Uwch, gradd, PhD. Symudais i Gaerdydd ar gyfer fy astudiaethau ôl-ddoethurol, ac roedd gen i gynllun 5 mlynedd - roeddwn i'n mynd i wneud ôl-ddoethuriaeth 3 blynedd i bara am 5 mlynedd trwy gael 2 gyfnod o gyfnod mamolaeth, ac ar ei ddiwedd, buaswn yn sicrhau cymrodoriaeth, yna'n dechrau adeiladu fy labordy fy hun. Hawdd. Dim ond cwpl o drafferthion a gefais ar y ffordd - doedd gen i ddim fy maes ymchwil fy hun, a doeddwn i ddim yn gallu beichiogi. Yn y sgwrs hon, byddaf yn rhannu sut y bu'n rhaid i mi ailfeddwl popeth, beth hoffwn i fod wedi’i wybod ar y dechrau, a sut rydw i wedi dod o hyd i foddhad swydd, pwrpas, gwerth a chydbwysedd bywyd-gwaith mewn Gwasanaethau Proffesiynol – i gyd heb gynllun!\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**‘My scientific career journey: from academia to industry’****Dr Maria Oliver** | Prif Wyddonydd yn InBioBydd fy sgwrs yn cwmpasu fy nghefndir gwyddonol a arweiniodd at fy PhD a fy mhrif gymhellion y tu ôl i astudio gradd PhD yn y lle cyntaf. Yna, byddaf yn trafod fy mlynyddoedd canlynol fel ôl-ddoethur, cyn disgrifio'r rhesymau y dechreuais amau bod gyrfa yn y byd academaidd yn iawn i mi, fy nghymhellion dros geisio llwybr gyrfa amgen, a'r trafferthion a'r gwrthwynebiadau a wynebais wrth wneud y penderfyniad hwnnw. Byddaf yn egluro fy rôl bresennol yn y diwydiant biodechnegol; sut mae'n wahanol i'r byd academaidd, a beth sy’n debyg. Byddaf hefyd yn adolygu beth yn fy marn i yw'r sgiliau trosglwyddadwy allweddol y byddwch wedi'u meithrin yn sgil eich PhD, a sut maen nhw’n berthnasol ym myd diwydiant, yn ogystal â thynnu sylw at rhywfaint o sgiliau pwysig na fyddwch efallai wedi'u caffael drwy eich amser yn y byd academaidd. Byddaf yn gorffen drwy ddisgrifio'r pethau positif yr wyf i yn bersonol yn teimlo fy mod yn eu cael o fod mewn diwydiant, a gobeithio dangos bod gyrfa wyddonol amgen ond gwerth chweil y tu allan i'r byd academaidd yn realiti i chi. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**‘Technology Transfer – Translating ideas into products’****Dr Adrian Walters** | Arbenigwyr Peirianwyr Deunyddiau ym Prifysgol Abertawe, a Chyfarwyddwr Rhaglen SUNRISE. Mae'n cael ei dderbyn yn eang bod ymchwilwyr yn gwneud Swyddogion Trosglwyddo Technoleg da. Nod cyffredinol y Swyddogion Trosglwyddo Technoleg yw masnacheiddio cynnyrch ymchwil prifysgol. Er mwyn cyflawni hyn, fel arfer, bydd angen i'r Swyddogion Trosglwyddo Technoleg gymryd rhan mewn ystod eang o weithgareddau cysylltiedig, gan gynnwys datblygu a chynnal partneriaethau diwydiannol, adnabod a rheoli eiddo deallusol, a chreu a mentora busnesau newydd. Bydd y sgwrs hon yn disgrifio rôl y Swyddogion Trosglwyddo Technoleg, ynghyd â rhywfaint o enghreifftiau o fywyd go iawn. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**‘Tightly Coupling an Engineering Career with Academia!’** **Dr Robert Deaves (CEng, FIET, FHEA, FLSW)** | Uwch Brif Beiriannydd, Dyson Ltd ac RAEng Athro Gwadd Pensaernïaeth Systemau Robotig, Coleg Imperial Llundain.Bydd y cyflwyniad hwn yn rhoi trosolwg o yrfa ym maes peirianneg, sydd wedi'i gysylltu’n dynn â'r byd academaidd am fwy na 35 mlynedd. Yma, mae adolygiad o sut y llwyddodd diwydiannwr i ennill cymwysterau academaidd, cefnogi ymchwil/myfyrwyr y Brifysgol a chael ei benodi'n Athro Gwadd yn cael ei ddarparu. Cyflawnwyd hyn i gyd tra'n peidio â bod yn weithiwr llawn amser i sefydliad academaidd. Rhoddir manteision ac anfanteision y llwybr hwn, ynghyd â'r dylanwad y mae sefydliadau cenedlaethol wedi ei gael ar ddilyn llwybr o'r fath. Mae’r cyflwyniad yn dod i ben gyda chyngor ac awgrymiadau i'r rhai sy'n dymuno dilyn gyrfa o'r fath.  |

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| **Bywgraffiadau Siaradwyr**  |
| **Dr Angharad Watson**Dr Angharad Watson yw Rheolwr Cyfieithu Sefydliadol Prifysgol Caerdydd, sy'n eistedd yn y Tîm Masnacheiddio Ymchwil yn y Gwasanaethau Arloesi Ymchwil ac sy’n rheoli Dyfarniad Partneriaeth Drosiadol Sefydliadol Wellcome, gwerth £918,000. Mae Angharad yn dod o Sir Benfro, ac fe aeth i'r brifysgol yn Rhydychen i astudio Biocemeg. Angharad oedd yr aelod cyntaf o'i theulu i astudio gradd mewn PhD (er bod ambell un wedi dilyn wedyn!), a dyfarnwyd PhD mewn Biofeddygaeth iddi o Brifysgol Manceinion yn 2010. Roedd cefndir ymchwil Angharad mewn bioleg celloedd ac imiwnoleg a dros y blynyddoedd, mae hi wedi cyflawni ymchwil ar fetabolaeth, therapi genynnau, bioleg bôn-gelloedd, glycobioleg ac imiwnotherapi canser yn y byd academaidd ac ym maes biodechneg. Yn 2019, ar ôl seibiant gyrfa o 12 mis, ymunodd Angharad â thîm effaith REF newydd ei ffurfio fel Swyddog Effaith yng Ngholeg y Gwyddorau Biofeddygol a Bywyd. Yn dilyn hyn, symudodd i’r fferyllfa i arwain Rhwydwaith Ymchwil Gwyddorau Bywyd Cymru, menter ar draws Cymru sydd yn cael ei ariannu gan WEFO drwy Sêr Cymru, i annog cydweithio ar draws Cymru mewn ymchwil i wyddorau bywyd. Ym mis Medi 2021, cafodd ei secondio i Ymddiriedolaeth Wellcome fel Rheolwr Portffolio ar gyfer Imiwnoleg, yn cynorthwyo’r pwyllgorau sy'n gwneud y penderfyniadau terfynol ynghylch dyfarniadau yng nghynlluniau etifeddiaeth Wellcome cyn gweithredu eu strategaeth ariannu newydd. Ymunodd â’r tîm Gwasanaethau Arloesi Ymchwil ym mis Ionawr 2021 yn ei rôl bresennol. Ochr yn ochr â'i gwaith, roedd Angharad yn un o alumni rhaglen Crwsibl GW4, yn un o Fentoreion Rhwydwaith Cydraddoldeb Menywod Cymru, ac mae hi wedi ennill ei chymwysterau rheoli prosiect PRINCE2 yn ddiweddar. Mae Angharad yn byw yn Fforest y Ddena, ac mae ganddi fab 6 oed.**Dr Maria Oliver**Mae gan Dr Maria Oliver, Prif Wyddonydd InBio, PhD mewn imiwnoleg feirol, profiad ôl-ddoethurol 4 blynedd, a thros 6 mlynedd o brofiad ym myd diwydiant, goruchwylio contractau ar brosiectau ymchwil, prosiectau Ymchwil a Datblygu mewnol a phrosiectau sydd yn cael eu datblygu gan grantiau IUK. Yn ystod ei gyrfa wyddonol, mae hi wedi datblygu arbenigedd mewn technegau imiwnoleg niferus, gan gynnwys y rhai sy'n cael eu rhedeg ar blatfform Luminex, sy'n cael ei ddefnyddio gan brofion perchenogol InBio i ganfod nifer o alergenau, yn ogystal â rhedeg profion cytokine amlddadansoddol ar gyfer ystod o arbrofion imiwnolegol mewn cydweithrediad â phartneriaid academaidd. Mae Dr Oliver yn gyflwynydd profiadol, yn trafod gwaith Ymchwil a Datblygu InBio mewn cynadleddau cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol, ac mae hi wedi cyfrannu at nifer o gyhoeddiadau diweddar wedi’u hadolygu gan gymheiriaid ynghylch profion a ddefnyddir i ganfod alergenau bwyd niferus, yn ogystal â phapur sy'n ymchwilio i ymatebion celloedd T hydredol i frechlynnau SARS-CoV-2. **Dr Adrian Walters**Mae Dr Adrian Walters yn Beiriannydd Deunyddiau sy'n arbenigo mewn deunyddiau electronig, lled-ddargludyddion, haenau tenau a dyfeisiau. Mae wedi bod yn gweithio yn y rhyngwyneb rhwng academia a diwydiant ers dros 20 mlynedd, ac wedi arwain llawer o brosiectau trosglwyddo technoleg llwyddiannus yn ystod y cyfnod hwn. Cyn ymuno â SUNRISE, arweiniodd weithgaredd IP a masnacheiddio yn deillio o Ganolfan Arloesedd a Gwybodaeth SPECIFIC a ariennir gan EPRSC/Innovate UK gan gynorthwyo i sefydlu dau gwmni deilliedig, sef Hexigone Inhibitors Ltd (2016) a Kubal-Wraith Ltd (2018). Mae hefyd wedi sicrhau dyfarniadau cyllido trosiannol gwerth dros £2M i gynorthwyo busnesau a arweinir gan arloesedd i gyflwyno technolegau newydd i'r farchnad. Mae'r dyfarniadau hyn wedi cael eu hennill yn gystadleuol trwy gynlluniau gan UKRI, yr Academi Beirianneg Frenhinol a'r Gymdeithas Frenhinol. Mae ei hanes o drosglwyddo arloesedd a thechnoleg wedi'i gydnabod drwy sicrhau statws Gweithiwr Proffesiynol Trosglwyddo Technoleg Cofrestredig. Ar hyn o bryd, Adrian yw Entrepreneur Preswyl y Gymdeithas Frenhinol yn y Coleg Peirianneg ym Mhrifysgol Abertawe, ac ef yw’r unig unigolyn sydd wedi ennill Gwobr Menter Gwyddoniaeth Deunyddiau y Gofaint Arfau a’r Gofaint Pres ddwywaith.**Dr Robert Deaves (CEng, FIET, FHEA, FLSW)**Mae gan Rob 35 mlynedd o brofiad o weithio ym maes peirianneg, a enillodd yn y diwydiannau amddiffyn, microelectronig a chynnyrch defnyddwyr mewn tri chwmni eiconig; BAE Systems, STMicroelectronics a Dyson yn y drefn honno. Ar ddechrau ei yrfa, fe wnaeth arloesi ym maes pensaernïaeth mordwyo ddatganoledig a gymhwyswyd i systemau robotig. Yna, yn Dyson, rhoddodd arweiniad i dimau sy'n arloesi ym maes ymchwil gysyniadol robotig. Fel Arweinydd Technegol Cynnyrch, llwyddodd i gymhwyso'r datblygiadau arloesol hynny i'r 360Heurist, ail lanhawr gwactod awtomataidd Dyson ar werthiant byd-eang. Mae ei gyfraniadau cyhoeddus yn cynnwys cadeirio byrddau cynghori ar gyfer prosiectau EPSRC ar ymchwil arloesol. Mae'r prosiectau hyn wedi arwain at gwmnïau ffrwydrol a hynod arloesol, gan gynnwys SLAMCore ac Opteran Technolegau. Ar gyfer yr IET, mae'n aelod o bwyllgor y cynllun Achredu Academaidd. Mae hefyd yn aelod gweithgar o Bwyllgor Cynghori Cymru ar Arloesi. I Lywodraeth y DU, mae wedi casglu ynghyd a chefnogi 'galwadau am wybodaeth' ar bwyllgorau'r Senedd a Thŷ'r Arglwyddi. Yn 2017, dyfarnwyd statws Athro Gwadd RAEng i Rob yn y Coleg Imperial yn Llundain. Datblygodd y rôl hon i ymgysylltu â 29 o brifysgolion cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol, a chefnogodd addysgu dros 60 o wahanol garfannau a thros 2400 o fyfyrwyr. Ar gyfer y RAEng, mae Rob wedi gwasanaethu am dros 3 blynedd ar y Grŵp Rheoli Athrawon Gwadd. Yma, mae wedi cynorthwyo i ddewis dros 70 o Athrawon Gwadd RAEng. Yng Nghymru, bu Rob yn cadeirio Bwrdd Gwyddonol Rhyngwladol prosiect rhwng y Llywodraeth a Phrifysgol Caerdydd, IROHMS. Yma mae'r ysgolion peirianneg, cyfrifiadureg/gwybodeg a seicoleg yn darparu ymchwil ar gyfer arloesi. Mae wedi cefnogi addysgu/ymchwil ym mhob un o'r wyth Prifysgol yng Nghymru hefyd. Mae gan Rob ddiddordeb arbennig mewn sut y gall ymchwil prifysgol a thechnolegau uwch (gan gynnwys Deallusrwydd Artiffisial) helpu i dyfu a chynnal economïau a gwella cyfoeth a lles pobl yng Nghymru a'r Byd! **Dr Barbara Ibinarriaga Soltero (Cymedrolwr)**Barbara yw Swyddog Rhaglen Datblygu Ymchwilwyr Cymdeithas Ddysgedig Cymru. Barbara sy’n bennaf gyfrifol am adeiladu Rhwydwaith Ymchwilwyr Gyrfa Cynnar y Gymdeithas, hwb rhyngddisgyblaethol a thraws-sefydliadol Cymru i gysylltu a dathlu gwaith ymchwilwyr sy’n dechrau gyrfa ym maes ymchwil. Ar wahân i fod yn brif bwynt cyswllt i aelodau’r Rhwydwaith, mae Barbara’n cynhyrchu’r Bwletin Ymchwilwyr Gyrfa Cynnar misol, ac yn arwain y gwaith o drefnu seminarau, gweithdai a gweithgareddau eraill. Mae Barbara’n gweithio’n agos gyda Cathy Stroemer i gyflwyno’r Rhaglen Datblygu Ymchwilwyr, un o weithgareddau craidd y Gymdeithas i hyrwyddo cydweithio rhwng ymchwilwyr ar draws Cymru. Cyngor Cyllido Addysg Uwch Cymru (CCAUC) sy’n cyllido’r rhaglen hon. Mae gan Barbara gefndir ymchwil ym maes seicoleg a'r gwyddorau cymdeithasol. Yn 2021, cwblhaodd Barbara ei PhD mewn Gwyddorau Cymdeithasol ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd. Edrychodd ei hymchwil ar ymddangosiad ymwybyddiaeth ofalgar ac arferion myfyrio eraill ym Mecsico, gan ganolbwyntio ar ddylanwad agweddau ieithyddol, cymdeithasol-ddiwylliannol, economaidd a gwleidyddol ar sut mae’r arferion hyn yn cael eu cyflwyno ar draws sectorau mewn cyd-destun nad yw’n angloffon. Ers hynny, mae hi wedi parhau i ymgysylltu â sefydliadau llawr gwlad ym Mecsico ac yn y DU, gan roi cyngor ar ddatblygiad ceisiadau grant ac eiriol dros greu maes ymwybyddiaeth ofalgar fwy amrywiol a chynhwysol. Mae gan Barbara hefyd brofiad o gynnal gwaith ymgynghorol ar gyfer Rheoli Ymchwil Da Byw Rhyngwladol, ynghylch normau rhywedd a newid hinsawdd. Mae Barbara yn frwdfrydig dros gefnogi datblygu proffesiynol ymchwilwyr yng Nghymru ac ymgysylltu a chreu pontydd rhwng cymunedau ymarfer a’r byd academaidd.  |



**Early Career Researchers Network Event**

**"Alt-Ac": Careers for Academics Outside Academia**

**Zoom: 1:00 -03:00 pm, 26 January 2023**

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|  | **Talks** |
|  | **‘Behind the Curtain: Building a Career in Professional Services in Higher Education’****Dr Angharad Watson** | Institutional Translation Manager at Cardiff UniversityI wanted to have a PhD & become an academic since watching “Ballet Shoes” as a child – the idea of being a “blue stocking” captured my imagination. I focused all my efforts on that path – A-levels, degree, PhD. I moved to Cardiff for my post doc, and I had a 5 year plan – I was going to make a 3 year post doc last 5 years by having 2 periods of maternity leave, and at the end of it I would secure a fellowship, then start building my own lab. Easy. There were just a couple of hitches – I didn’t have my own research area, and I couldn't get pregnant. In this talk I’ll share how I had to rethink everything, what I wish I’d known at the start, and how I’ve found job satisfaction, purpose, value and work-life balance in Professional Services – all without a plan!\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**‘My scientific career journey: from academia to industry’****Dr Maria Oliver** | Principal Scientist at InBioMy talk will cover my scientific background leading up to my PhD and my main incentives behind choosing to undertake one in the first place. I will then discuss my following years as a post-doc, before describing the reasons I started to doubt that a career in academia was right for me, my motivations for seeking an alternative career path and the struggles and oppositions I faced when making that decision. I will explain my current role within the biotech industry; how it differs from academia and where there are similarities. I will also review what I feel are the key transferrable skills you will have gained from your PhD and how they are relevant in industry, as well as highlight some important skills that you may not have acquired through your time in academia. I will finish by describing the positives that I personally feel I get from being in industry, and hopefully demonstrate that an alternative but rewarding scientific career outside of academia is a reality for you. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**‘Technology Transfer – Translating ideas into products’****Dr Adrian Walters** | Materials Engineer Specialists at Swansea University, SUNRISE Programme Director.It is widely accepted that researchers make good Technology Transfer Officers (TTO). The overall goal of the TTO is to commercialise the outputs of university research. To achieve this the TTO will typically need to engage in a wide range of associated activities including developing and maintaining industrial partnerships, identification and management of intellectual property, and creating and mentoring start-ups. This talk will describe the role of the TTO, along with some real-life examples.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**‘Tightly Coupling an Engineering Career with Academia!’** **Dr Robert Deaves (CEng, FIET, FHEA, FLSW)** | Senior Principal Engineer, Dyson Ltd and RAEng Visiting Professor of Robotic Systems Architectures, Imperial College London.This presentation will provide an overview of an engineering career which has been tightly coupled with academia for over 35 years. Here a review of how an industrialist has been able to gain academic qualifications, support University research/students and be appointed a Visiting Professor is provided. This has all been achieved whilst not being a fulltime employee of an academic institution. Pros and cons of this route are given along with the influence that national institutions have had on following such a path. The presentation concludes with advice and tips for those that wish to pursue such a career.  |

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| **Speakers’ Biographies** |
| **Dr Angharad Watson**Dr Angharad Watson is the Institutional Translation Manager at Cardiff University, sitting within the Research Commercialisation Team in RIS and managing the £918,000 Wellcome Institutional Translational Partnership Award. Angharad is from Pembrokeshire, and went to university at Oxford, studying Biochemistry. The first member of her family to do a PhD (although a few have followed after!), Angharad was awarded her PhD in Biomedicine from the University of Manchester in 2010. Angharad’s research background was in cell biology and immunology, and over the years she has carried out research on inborn errors of metabolism, gene therapy, stem cell biology, glycobiology and cancer immunotherapy, both in academia and in biotech. In 2019, after a 12 month career break, Angharad joined the newly-formed REF Impact team as Impact Officer facing the College of Biomedical and Life Sciences. Following this, she moved to PHRMY to head up the Life Sciences Research Network Wales, a Wales-wide initiative funded by WEFO via Ser Cymru to encourage cross-Wales collaboration in life science research. In September 2021, she was seconded to the Wellcome Trust as a Portfolio Manager for Immunobiology, supporting the committees making the final awards in Wellcome’s legacy schemes ahead of the implementation of their new funding strategy. She joined the RIS team in January 2021 in her current role. Alongside her work, Angharad was a GW4 Cruciblee, a Women’s Equality Network Wales Mentee, and she has recently gained her PRINCE2 project management qualifications. Angharad lives in the Forest of Dean, and has a 6 year old son. **Dr Maria Oliver**Dr Maria Oliver, Principal Scientist at InBio, has a PhD in viral immunology, 4 years’ post-doctoral experience, and over 6 years’ experience in industry, overseeing contract research projects, internal R&D and IUK grant funded projects. During her scientific career, she has gained expertise in multiple immunoassay techniques including those run on the Luminex platform, which is utilised by InBio’s proprietary assays for multiple allergen detection, as well as for running multiplex cytokine assays for a range of immunological experiments in collaboration with academic partners. Dr Oliver is an experienced presenter, discussing InBio’s R&D work at national and international conferences, and has contributed to several recent peer-reviewed publications on assays used for the detection of multiple food allergens, as well as a paper investigating longitudinal T cell responses to SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. **Dr Adrian Walters**Dr Adrian Walters is a Materials Engineer specialising in electronic materials, semiconductors, thin-films and devices. He has worked at the academic-industry interface for over 20 years and led many successful tech-transfer projects during this time. Before joining SUNRISE, he led IP and commercialisation activity arising from the EPSRC/Innovate UK SPECIFIC IKC supporting the formation of two spin-out companies, Hexigone Inhibitors Ltd (2016) and Kubal-Wraith Ltd (2018) and has won over £2M in translational funding awards to support innovation-led businesses deliver new technologies to market. These awards have been competitively won through schemes from UKRI, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society. His track-record of innovation and technology transfer has been endorsed through achieving the status of Registered Technology Transfer Professional. Adrian is currently Royal Society Entrepreneur in Residence in the College of Engineering at Swansea University and is the only individual to have won the Armourers & Brasiers’ Materials Science Venture Prize twice. **Dr Robert Deaves (CEng, FIET, FHEA, FLSW)**Rob has 35 years of engineering experience gained in the defence, microelectronic and consumer product industries at 3 iconic companies; BAE Systems, STMicroelectronics and Dyson respectively. Early career work pioneered decentralised navigation architectures applied to robotic systems. Latterly, at Dyson, he provided leadership for teams innovating robotic early conceptual research. As Product Technical Lead, he managed the application of those innovations to the 360Heurist, Dyson’s second automated vacuum cleaner on World-wide sale. His public contributions include chairing advisory boards for EPSRC projects on ground-breaking research. These projects have resulted in successful exploitative and highly innovative companies, including SLAMCore and Opteran Technologies. For the IET he is a committee member of the Academic Accreditation scheme. He is also an active member of the Innovation Advisory Committee for Wales. For the UK government, he has collated and supported ‘calls for information’ for Parliament and House of Lords committees. In 2017, Rob was awarded a RAEng Visiting Professorship at Imperial College London. He developed this role to engage with 29 national and international universities and supported teaching of over 60 different cohorts and over 2400 students. For the RAEng, Rob has served for over 3 years on the Visiting Professors Management Group. Here he has assisted in selecting over 70 RAEng Visiting Professors. In Wales, Rob chaired the International Scientific Board of a Government/ Cardiff University project, IROHMS. Here the schools of engineering, computing/informatics and psychology provide research for innovation through synergy. He has also supported teaching/research at all 8 Welsh Universities. Rob is particularly interested in industry-academia interactions, and how university research and advanced technologies (including AI) can help grow and sustain economies and improve wealth and wellbeing of people in Wales and the World. **Dr Barbara Ibinarriaga Soltero (Chair)**Barbara is the Researcher Development Programme Officer at the Learned Society of Wales. Barbara is primarily responsible for building the Society’s Early Career Researchers Network, Wales’s interdisciplinary and cross-institutional hub, to connect and celebrate the work of researchers starting a career in research. Besides being the main point of contact for the Network members, Barbara produces the monthly ECR Bulletin and leads the organisation of seminars, workshops and other activities. Barbara works closely with Programme Manager Cathy Stroemer to deliver the Researcher Development Programme, one of the Society’s core activities to promote collaborations between researchers across Wales. This programme is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW). Barbara has a research background in psychology and social sciences. In 2021, Barbara completed her PhD in Social Sciences at Cardiff University. Her research examined the emergence of mindfulness and other meditative practices in Mexico, focusing on the influence of language, socio-cultural, economic, and political aspects on how these practices are delivered across sectors in a non-anglophone context. Since then, she has continued to engage with grassroots organisations in Mexico and the UK, advising on the development of grant applications and advocating for creating a more diverse and inclusive mindfulness field. Barbara has also experience in conducting consultancy work for the International Livestock Research Management, regarding of gender norms and climate change. Barbara is passionate about supporting the professional development of researchers in Wales and engaging and building bridges between communities of practice and academia.  |