**The Challenge:**
NHS organisations such as Health Boards need better data and more sophisticated analysis to determine what services are needed, how effective new services are and to predict what will be required in the future.

ABMU Health Board operates four acute hospitals and employs 16,500 staff, 70% of whom are involved in direct patient care, but the data it held was often found to be fragmented.

It needed a clear idea how to exploit information it held, to plan services against the background of a constantly changing population.

**The Research:**
In 2013, with the backing of the Welsh Government and Innovate UK, ABMU Health Board and Swansea University posed a question to businesses: ‘How can we improve the health and wellbeing of our population through the better use of population health information?’

Businesses were invited to submit proposals to develop tools, methods and approaches that would use the world famous databank of Welsh health and social demographic data, the SAIL Databank, to assist in the planning and evaluation of health services and ultimately drive service improvement.

**The Results:**
Two Swansea-based companies—We Predict and GP Commissioning Solutions Ltd – emerged from the feasibility stage of a three-year Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition set by ABMU and Swansea University’s Farr Institute Health Informatics group. SBRI encourages innovative ideas from industry that can solve challenges faced by the public sector.

GP Commissioning Solutions’ online software allows clinicians and managers to ask complex questions about health services using every day terminology, without having to understand data and systems.

The software developed by We Predict uses sophisticated analysis methods to describe, evaluate and predict health and healthcare trends.

**The Impact:**
This project will allow ABMU to unlock the wealth of information that is available to it, enabling it to understand how its population and patients are using its services. This will help ABMU to plan more effective NHS services which better meet the needs of its population.


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