

Submission

Training the Chinese cancer specialists of the future and exploring new approaches to detecting and treating cancer won Cardiff University its award for international collaboration of the year.

The prevalence of breast cancer has increased in China in recent years, making in an urgent issue.

Cardiff's partnership with Capital Medical University in Beijing was initiated to educate and train an under-served group of professionals in China – middle-ranking clinicians and researchers.

Since the project began, 16 Capital Medical research fellows have come to Cardiff. Their research fellows have come to Cardiff. Their research has explored the metastasis of breast cancer, examining how the disease spreads around the body from the original tumour. Findings so far have led to 26 papers being published in highly ranked medical journals.

The partnership projects have discovered new biomarkers not only for breast cancer but also for prostate and kidney cancer.

The Chinese scholars have become research leasers in their field, with more than half of them winning research funding from the Chinese government when they returned home.

Cardiff researchers have benefited from the clinical and human tissue collection held by Capital Medical, and the partnership has helped Cardiff to secure international research grants. The collaboration has also attracted the support of Albert Hung, a Hong Kong-bases entrepreneur and philanthropist who will fund the second phase of the partnership, which will see 20 more Chinese researchers travel to Cardiff over the next four years.

One of the judges, Paul Boyle, acting chief executive of the Economic and Social Research Council and international champion at Research Councils UK, said: "This project demonstrates the value that comes from bringing together international experts who can forge world-class partnerships that are sustainable."