



Medicines & People

Turning Knowledge Into Know - How

Editorial

Since the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) was established 10 years ago, it has contributed significantly to the development of research capacity and the practice of pharmacy both for individual pharmacists and pharmacy.

We have invested £2m in high quality research; 30% of which has supported capacity building in pharmacy practice research and 70% on commissioned research. This research has explored large scale issues of national interest like the evaluation of the new pharmacy contract through to smaller projects that inform local practice and provide platforms for further, wider investigation.

The Trust's 2009 Annual Review will be published shortly and in this we have marked our first decade by identifying 10 key achievements from these last 10 years. For example; contribution to national policy, supporting and developing research leadership and excellence, increasing collaboration and research capacity building.

Also in the Review, we report on how the Trust is meeting its objectives of ensuring that our research addresses the issues of patient safety, patient and public benefit, professionalism and value for money. Four of our Trustees who have a particular interest in these areas give their personal perspectives.

Research capacity building is a key objective of the Trust and year on year,

Pharmacy Practice Research Trust

Research Bulletin
April 2010

Issue 6



we support aspiring researchers. To date, more than 60 pharmacists have been supported through our Research Awards and Bursaries to develop their research skills and qualifications. Writing in the review, Karebor Ngwerume, a community pharmacist who was granted a Research Training Bursary to fund an MSc says: "Without the Trust, I would not have been able, or perhaps even inclined, to undertake the MSc. The award provides a wonderful opportunity for pharmacists like me to undertake and develop research and other skills; all of which have contributed to my personal development."

The impact of the capacity building and pump priming activities of the Trust should not be underestimated at a time when research funding across all disciplines is unlikely to be sustained at past levels.

Marshall Davies
Chair,
Pharmacy Practice Research Trust

Applications sought for RPS Conference 2010 Practice Research Award

Nominations or applications for the Practice Research Award at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Conference 2010 are invited for consideration by the conference Practice Research Panel. This prestigious award,



sponsored by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, recognises individuals who have made a significant contribution to the field of pharmacy practice research and who have the potential to become a leader in the field.

The 2009 award went to Dr Darren Ashcroft, Reader in Medicines Usage and Safety, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science at the University of Manchester for his work into medicines usage and in particular quality and safety.

Dr Ashcroft said: "The Practice Research Award recognised my research and work over the last 10 years studying drug related morbidity in the UK and its development into a wider European context. Winning this award meant a lot to me."

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Capacity Building

Induction Day for ESRC students



The Trust organised an induction day for its Economic and Social Research Council students on the 8th of December. These studentships provide funding for students to undertake three/ four years of study for a PhD degree which are jointly designed and supervised by a university department and a non-academic organisation. The Trust supports three students from the Universities of Aston, Stirling and York.

The students, Shugaftha Javed, Kim Jamie and Veronica Smith, were invited to London for a day of pharmacy related presentations and site visits. The aim of the induction was to provide an insight for the students, some of whom come from non-pharmaceutical/pharmacy backgrounds, into the scope of the pharmacist's role and the current developments in the profession and at the RPSGB.

They visited Greenlight, an innovative community pharmacy with a wide range of advanced and enhanced services; St Thomas' Hospital Pharmacy and its dispensary; and had presentations on the PPRT, the White Paper and the Future Vision for Pharmacy. Kim Jamie of York University said "I found the whole day really informative and the tours of the Greenlight and St Thomas' hospital pharmacies were particularly enlightening".

More research training bursaries for pharmacists in 2010

Research capacity in pharmacy has been further supported by the announcement of four Training Bursaries, totalling £27,000, from the second round of the 2009 programme have been granted to four pharmacists who want to develop their skills in conducting research.

The bursaries are granted by the Trust to community or PCO pharmacists who show commitment to research. The four aspiring researchers are:

Olufunmilayo Oduniyi: Clinical Lecturer in pharmacy practice and locum community pharmacy received a bursary to complete a Masters in Public Health. Her dissertation will focus on community pharmacy based programmes in the prevention of diabetes.

Daniel Graham: Pharmacy Manager, Derbyshire received a bursary to undertake an MSc conversion in Clinical Pharmacy (Community) at Bradford University.



Meeting of the PPRT combined Research Award and Training Bursary Panel and the PPRT research team.

Elizabeth Bond: Partnership Pharmacist, Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire Local Health Board received a bursary towards completion of an MA in leading, managing and partnership working at Thames Valley University. She plans to investigate models of pharmacy to enable seamless care of patients who are at high risk of admission or readmission.

Roselyn Kankondo: Pharmacy Manager and Teacher/ Practitioner, Rowland's Pharmacy received a bursary to undertake an MSc conversion in Clinical Pharmacy (Community) at Bradford University. Her research project will be to study the impact of MURs with a focus on asthma patients.

Beth Allen, Acting Director of the Trust said: "This funding is vital to develop a research active profession to underpin the development of strong evidence base for pharmacy that supports the aspirations of future policy. The Trust is committed to supporting research capacity and over the last 10 years we have supported more than 60 pharmacists to develop their research skills and qualifications.

We are pleased to support the commitment of these four pharmacists and hope that many more will follow suit in recognising the value of research in their own practice and in a wider professional context and apply for a bursary in this year's programme."

The Trust has further announced that pharmacists working in Community/ PCO can now apply for a 2010 Research Training Bursary. For further information go to:

<http://www.pprt.org.uk/ResearchFunding/ResearchTrainingBursaries>.

The **closing date is 23rd April 2010** and interviews will take place in early July.

Capacity Building

Supporting career development in Pharmacy Research: Aspiring researchers can now apply for a 2010 Practice Research Award

Pharmacists who want to start or develop a research career are being invited by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust to apply for a 2010 Practice Research Award. The awards were set up to build research capacity in pharmacy practice and develop the evidence base for pharmacy.

Since the Trust was established 10 years ago it has supported more than 60 pharmacists to develop their research skills and qualifications. Research funded through this scheme in 2009 is exploring such issues as the extent of community pharmacy engagement with patients having a skin disease and an evaluation of an integrated pathway for inflammatory bowel disease.

William Horsley, lead pharmacist for the North East Specialised Commis-

sioning Group was granted a Practice Research Award in 2009. He is undertaking an evaluation of an integrated care pathway for inflammatory bowel disease and exploring ways in which community pharmacy can be involved in care pathways for chronic diseases which are largely managed in primary care.

"Hopefully my results obtained from this project will feed into the community pharmacy evidence base, ultimately leading to improvements in patient care and potentially a greater role for pharmacy.

I am looking forward to sharing the results with my pharmacist colleagues and contributing to pharmacy practice in academia. Receiving such a valuable and prestigious award will help me stand out amongst my peers in an increasingly competitive world and I would encourage fellow pharmacists with an interest in developing research or their research career to apply for a Trust research award."

A total of £55,000 is available for a number of grants which are open to:

- those requiring funding between PhD and post doctoral grants;
- those requiring funding to go from MPhil to PhD;
- practitioners new to research; and
- PhD students requiring 'research costs' to enhance their PhDs.

The awards can also be used to fund new areas of research, for example, pre-pilot and feasibility studies that would not be considered by other funding bodies.

The deadline for all completed applications is **21 May 2010** and interviews will be held on 2nd July in London.

Further details, are available at:

<http://www.pprt.org.uk/ResearchFunding/010ResearchAwards.aspx>

or email: charlotte.coates@rpsgb.org

Commissioned Research

Investigating the effectiveness of pharmacy interventions: Call for research project proposals

The Trust is inviting applications for research projects to investigate the effectiveness of pharmacy interventions in one of three areas; the management of long term conditions (LTCs), public health or the treatment of minor ailments.

The Trust is looking for proposals that specifically address the aspirations of the White Paper in providing evidence in terms of patient outcomes and economic value of pharmacist intervention. In addition, the project must deliver on the key priorities identified in the Trust's strategic direction for pharmacy practice research published last year.

Evidence of the effectiveness of pharmacy interventions in LTCs exists but it tends to be exploratory in nature and relatively small scale.

Beth Allen, Acting Director of the Trust says: "It is often quoted that pharmacists are 'ideally placed' to support patients with long-term needs through such things as medicines management, regular monitoring of conditions and advice on disease management and lifestyle. However, to move pharmacy from a position of 'ideally placed' to demonstrably delivering cost effective services focused on patient outcomes requires an investment in building the evidence base. We hope that an outcome of these projects will be to provide sufficient evidence for pharmacy interventions in these areas, as well as providing opportunities to secure larger funding resources for the

conduct of, for example, full randomised controlled trials."

Funding of up to £300,000 is available and it is envisaged that this will support systematic reviews of current evidence and exploratory, multi-site investigations of a specific pharmacist intervention. The full commissioning brief and application form is available from: charlotte.coates@rpsgb.org or at:

www.pprt.org.uk/ResearchFunding/Commissioning.aspx

The closing date for submission of project proposals is **the 14th May**.

Commissioned Research



Early career study of pharmacists shows gender and ethnicity impact on work choices and job satisfaction

The latest report from the *Longitudinal Cohort Study of Pharmacy Careers* published by the Trust shows that many of the early careers of pharmacists in the cohort were either 'gendered' or 'ethnised' in that they were working in jobs disproportionately done either by male or female pharmacists, or by white or minority ethnic (ME) pharmacists (or both).

The work, employment and the early careers of cohort pharmacists study is part of an on-going five-year longitudinal study of the early career choices and pathways of pharmacists who graduated from British pharmacy schools in 2006. Commissioned by the Trust, it is being undertaken by the Centre for Pharmacy Workforce Studies at the University of Manchester. This eighth report from the study is based on the analysis of a questionnaire which collected data relating to the cohort's work and employment experiences in 2008, one year after qualifying, as well as their early career choices. At the time of completing the

survey almost all the respondents (97.8%) were actively employed as pharmacists with 64.1% working in the community, 34.1% in hospital and 12.5% as locums. 22.2% of participants reported having two jobs and this was most common in those working in Hospital Pharmacy. Most of those who had trained in community pharmacy (CP) were still working in that sector (97.1%) whilst the proportion who had trained in hospital pharmacy (HP) and were still working in the same sector was significantly lower (73.2%). While those in CP work on average, longer hours than their HP peers, hospital pharmacists are more likely to have a second job, suggesting analysis of working hours should not be limited to consideration of hours worked in the primary/main job."

Professor Karen Hassell commented, "considerably lower levels of job satisfaction reported in CP should be of concern to the profession, especially given evidence of a link between low job satisfaction and intentions to leave pharmacy."

Beth Allen, Acting Director of the Trust said: "The findings from this longitudinal study have significantly enhanced

our understanding of the career motivations, expectations and experiences of pharmacists. This study's exploration of early years in practice is particularly pertinent to current debates about workload and workforce shortages and will continue to inform workforce planning and professional support and development."

The final report of the longitudinal cohort study covering an overview of the results of all the elements of the research and the implications of the findings will be published by the Trust later this month.

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Typically, applicants should be at the mid-point of their career (e.g. Senior Lecturer or Senior Research Fellow). The winner will receive a cheque for £1,000 and have the opportunity to deliver a 30 minute lecture at September's Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Conference 2010, based primarily on the applicant's own research. It is not a necessary requirement that applicants are based in a School of Pharmacy or be a registered pharmacist. International applications are welcome.

Beth Allen, Acting Director of the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust said: "The Trust is pleased to continue its support for this award. It complements so well our objective of developing and promoting academic excellence in pharmacy practice research".

Applications should be received by 5pm, **Tuesday 13 April 2010**. For further details go to:

<http://beta.pharmacyplb.com/events-and-courses/the-royal-pharmaceuticalsociety-conference-2010.asp>

The winner will be notified in June 2010.