

**Media Release
17 October 2008**

National focus for pharmacy practice research now vital

- summit meeting to discuss the case and scope priorities

Professor Shalom Isaac (Charlie) Benrimoj, Pro-vice Chancellor Strategic Planning, and Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney and Professor Sally Davies, Director of Research and Development at the Department of Health will be key note speakers at a research summit being organised by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) next month to discuss the case and scope priorities for a national pharmacy practice research strategy.

At the summit meeting, Professor Benrimoj will be describing the Australian Community Pharmacy Agreement R&D Program which has provided a structured national programme for pharmacy and pharmacy practice research. Chief Pharmaceutical Officers Dr Keith Ridge, Professor Bill Scott and Dr Norman Morrow for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland and Dr Dai John, Head of Clinical Pharmacy, Cardiff University will each give national perspectives on Research and Development delivering pharmacy policy in the UK.

Marshall Davies, chair of the Trust says: "Following publication of the pharmacy white paper, the Trust highlighted the need for a UK wide programme for

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pharmacy practice research. This action will help to build a robust evidence base and underpin commissioning and clinical decision making. Historically the nature of pharmacy practice research has tended to be small scale and has not been generalisable in the wider healthcare context, although more recently researchers have been successful in securing larger research grants. However, in order to meet the needs of policy makers to deliver improved patient outcomes, a national focus for pharmacy practice research priorities is now needed”

The summit is being held in London on Thursday, 6 November and a series of workshops will seek to scope priorities for a national programme of research. The event will be of interest to policy makers, academics working in the field of pharmacy practice and pharmacist practitioners with an interest in research.

For further information and to register go to www.pprt.org.uk

Ends

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Notes to editors:

1. The Future of Pharmacy Research: the case for a national research strategy

Thursday, 6 November, Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin St, Belgravia, London SW1X 7DR.

Timing: 09.30 – 16.00

<http://www.pprt.org.uk/Events/ForthcomingEvents.aspx>

2. The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust

The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) was established by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of GB in July 1999 as an independent research charity with a broad objective to promote and develop the field of pharmacy practice research. Its trustees are drawn from senior health policy makers, leading academics, industry and retailers.

The Trust has invested over £1.5m in research; 30% supporting capacity building in pharmacy practice research and 70% on commissioned research. Annual grants from the Pharmaceutical Trust for Education and Charitable Objectives and the Leverhulme Trades Charities Trust contribute to the funds of the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust. For further information and to access reports of Trust commissioned research go to: www.pprt.org.uk