

**Media Release  
29 September 2008**

### **Trust awards first Professionalism in Pharmacy Practice Research Grants**

The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) has awarded its first two Professionalism in Pharmacy Grants to the School of Medicine, Swansea University and the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Manchester.

Professor Frances Rapport from the School of Medicine, Swansea University will be investigating the concept of patient centred professionalism in pharmacy practice. The study will seek to clarify; how health professionals, patients and stakeholders define and perceive patient-centred professionalism in terms of patient and health care practitioner needs and expectations; and how different working environments influence community pharmacists' practice. The 16 month study starts this month.

Professor Rapport says: "By contextualising professionalism through 'in situ' data, we will provide concrete examples of what is currently taking place. The proposed study will be the first of its type to place current definitions of professionalism in context in a very practical way whilst broadening understanding of practitioner and patient need, as well as examining expectations about building trust and delivering patient centred professionalism."

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The second grant has been awarded to Professor Karen Hassell, from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manchester University. The aim of her research is to understand and clarify how professionalism is learned, cultivated and facilitated in the academic environment. The study will look at how professionalism is covered in the curriculum; examine staff perceptions about the ways the subject is taught and assessed; and describe what students understand by the term professionalism plus their perceptions about how it is taught and assessed in the educational setting. The nine month study will start in October 2008.

Said Professor Hassell: "Given that learning and maintaining appropriate professional behaviour is an intrinsic element of professional regulation, this study will generate findings which will also contribute to developments surrounding the formation of the new regulatory body. It will also inform associated debates about revalidation, how performance and competence of pharmacists can be assessed and maintained, along with quality assurance in education and pre-registration training."

The Trust identified the principles and practice of professionalism in pharmacy practice as a key research priority and established the Professionalism in Practice Grants to be awarded for research that relates to the teaching, assessment and practice of professionalism in pharmacy.

Trust Director, Dr Sue Ambler commented: "The pharmacist as a healthcare professional and the face of the profession is evolving and will continue to do so as the range of professional services they will provide increases. This new stream of research which the Trust is funding provides the opportunity to investigate the theme of professionalism from a range of platforms as evidenced by the two studies we are supporting."

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**Notes for editors:**

**1. Contextualising patient centred professionalism in pharmacy practice: consulting with patients, professionals and stakeholders:**

Professor Frances Rapport, Professor of Qualitative Health Research, School of Medicine, Swansea University; Professor Marcus Doel, Research Professor of Human Geography and Head of School, School of Environment and Society, Swansea University; Dr Richard Evans, Honorary Senior Lecturer, Primary Care, School of Medicine, Swansea University; Professor Paul Wainwright, Professor of Nursing and Associate Dean (Research), School of Nursing, Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, Kingston University and St George's University of London; Dr Dai John, Senior Lecturer and Head of Clinical Pharmacy, Welsh School of Pharmacy, Cardiff University; Mrs Gabi Jerzembek, Research Officer in Qualitative Health Research, School of Medicine, Swansea University; Dr Hayley Hutchings, Lecturer in Health Services Research, School of Medicine, Swansea University; Mr Steve Newbury, Community Pharmacist and Pharmacy Manager and Mrs Carol Trower, Co-operative Pharmacy

**2. Mapping the teaching and assessment of professionalism in pharmacy education:**

Professor Karen Hassell, Professor of Social Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Manchester; Professor Val Wass, Professor of Community Based Medical Education, University of Manchester; Professor Stephen Harrison, Professor of Social Policy, University of Manchester; Dr Jason Hall, Senior Teaching Fellow, University of Manchester; and Dr Darren Ashcroft, Reader in Medicines Usage and Safety, University of Manchester.

**3. 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](http://www.pprt.org.uk)