



## **Trust Chairman sets out future direction**

**The PPRT has recently published its Annual Report for 2009-2010. Below our Trust Chair Marshall Davies outlines our future strategy and new priority - to invest in pharmacy practice research capacity.**

Our Trustees have always recognised that, as in any field of academic endeavour, the quality of research relies heavily on a properly equipped research workforce being available. This year the Trust, as well as commissioning new research, has maintained its commitment to supporting the development and training of the research workforce by awarding grants and bursaries to aspiring researchers. Many grant recipients tell us that without this support it would have been really difficult to develop their research career.

An objective for this reporting year was to seek a medium and long-term collaborative relationship with our

major funders, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and the Pharmaceutical Trust for Education and Charitable Objects (PTECO). We are pleased to report that the RPS has agreed to continue to support staff time to administer the Trust.

However, PTECO, which has traditionally funded a major proportion of our commissioned research, has decided to concentrate on developing its own research programme and thus this funding is no longer available to us. We regret this, given the quality and impact of the research that we have commissioned to date, but we will continue to identify opportunities to work with the PTECO Trustees in the interests of the profession.

Since the Trust was established in 1999, it has been dedicated to maintaining the quality, standard and

rigour of the research commissioned and to work in collaboration with other disciplines. High standards of governance and peer review have been established and our continued membership of the Association of Medical Research Charities, the organisation to which the major medical research charities belong, is a testament to this. It is only by maintaining such high standards and integrity in governance that research can have an impact and contribute to the evidence base needed to determine improvements in the quality and outcomes of healthcare and pharmacy's role in this.

Many charities now find themselves in a changing funding environment and have to review both what they can do and how and what is sustainable in the medium to long term. The Trustees remain committed to their current objectives but this change to our funding means that we will focus on our research capacity building schemes, with continued support from the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust and the Galen Trust. Given that a founding principle of the Trust when it was established in 1999 was to create a research aware pharmacy profession, this is very much a continuation of those early objectives.

Over the last 10 years or so the Trust has supported over 70 pharmacists through the Research Training Bursary and Research Award schemes to develop their research skills, experience and careers with the aim of improving patient care and we look forward to supporting even more. Cont on page 2

The successful recipients of this year's awards will be announced in September and the next call for application will be made early in the new year.

Over the last 10 years or so the PPRT has supported over 70 pharmacists through the Research Training Bursary and Research Award schemes to develop their research skills, experience and careers with the aim of improving patient care and we look forward to supporting even more. The successful recipients of this year's awards will be announced in September and the call for applications for the scheme in 2012 will be made early in the new year.

We will, of course, continue to support and administer the existing portfolio of research that we have commissioned over the last few years and will do so until completion and publication of all the studies.

**Mr Marshall Davies Chair, Pharmacy Practice Research Trust**

The Annual Report is available to view here:[http://www.pprt.org.uk/Documents/PPRT\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2009-2010.pdf](http://www.pprt.org.uk/Documents/PPRT_Annual_Report_2009-2010.pdf)

### Comments from our colleagues

**Professor Christine Bond:** "As health services adapt to changing population need, integrating advances in treatment with strategic priorities, evidence is needed to inform optimum service redesign so that new ways of working are clinically and cost effective. The



importance of building this evidence base is reflected by the scale of NHS investment in research under the NIHR umbrella. It is key that in maintaining pharmacy practice at the leading edge of practice we access these research funds to explore new pharmacy roles

to improve population health. Key to successful research funding is a track record as a researcher and being networked into the wider health services research community and being aware of and using theoretical approaches from other disciplines such as health psychology, sociology and health economics. The PPRT has historically played an invaluable role in building capacity in health services research techniques amongst pharmacists. Their funding has enabled pharmacists to gain higher degrees and build programmes of work which are internationally recognised, and placed them in a competitive position to bid for NIHR and equivalent funding. I welcome the decision to focus their future awards on such further capacity building. This is appropriate investment that will reap good rewards."

to improve population health. Key to successful research funding is a track record as a researcher and being networked into the wider health services research community and being aware of and using theoretical approaches from other disciplines such as health psychology, sociology and health economics. The PPRT has historically played an invaluable role in building capacity in health services research techniques amongst pharmacists. Their funding has enabled pharmacists to gain higher degrees and build programmes of work which are internationally recognised, and placed them in a competitive position to bid for NIHR and equivalent funding. I welcome the decision to focus their future awards on such further capacity building. This is appropriate investment that will reap good rewards."

**Department of General Practice & Primary Care, University of Aberdeen and Royal Pharmaceutical Society Expert Panel reviewer**

**Mr Will Horsley:** "I fully support the PPRT in focusing on building research capacity in pharmacy. It is important to ensure that pharmacy, and by extension pharmacists, continue to have a real presence in academia and to ensure that research of relevance to our practicing colleagues is continued. I have benefitted from funding from the the PPRT, as a recipient of a Hugh Linstead Research Award, which has enabled me to include a substantial pharmacy component within my research project as well as enabling me to develop as a future research academic pharmacist. I am learning the skills, making contacts and building up the confidence to be able to secure funding from diverse sources for future pharmacy practice research."



Secondly, in my role at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, it is important to me to know that pharmacists will continue to have access to support that will enhance their portfolio of skills and that the profession is able to actively contribute to the evidence base for pharmacy. The availability of awards and bursaries to develop research experience and interests contributes to this.

**Lead Pharmacist for North East Treatment Advisory Group (NETAG)**

**Dr Catherine Duggan:** "Supporting and investing in pharmacy practice research capacity is important to me for two major reasons. Firstly, my personal experience. Early in my career I was a recipient of a PPRT award - this support contributed to developing my skills in research and understanding the value of these in pharmacy and healthcare more generally. Subsequently, PhD students under my supervision were also recipients which was a positive (mentoring) experience. The research itself gave a direction to my career and the application of research principles were fundamental to the next posts I took up; Director of an Academic Dept. of Pharmacy at St Bartholomew's and the London NHS Trust and Assoc. Director of Clinical Pharmacy for East and SE England.



Secondly, in my role at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, it is important to me to know that pharmacists will continue to have access to support that will enhance their portfolio of skills and that the profession is able to actively contribute to the evidence base for pharmacy. The availability of awards and bursaries to develop research experience and interests contributes to this.

Secondly, in my role at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, it is important to me to know that pharmacists will continue to have access to support that will enhance their portfolio of skills and that the profession is able to actively contribute to the evidence base for pharmacy. The availability of awards and bursaries to develop research experience and interests contributes to this.

**Director of Professional Development & Support Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

## Professor Derek Stewart is awarded the RPS Conference Practice Research Award.

Professor Derek Stewart has been announced as the winner of the Trust's 2011 Royal Pharmaceutical Society Conference Practice Research Award. The award will be presented at the conference on Monday, 12th September when Professor Stewart will deliver a plenary lecture entitled *A multidimensional view of the pharmacist prescriber* based on his considerable body of work in this area.

The RPS Conference Practice Research Award is presented by the Trust to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the field of pharmacy practice research and has the potential to become a leader in the field. Derek Stewart, who has recently been appointed Professor of Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, Robert Gordon University will receive the award in recognition of his research which has focused on the pharmacist prescriber.

Professor Stewart, who worked initially in secondary care prior to joining the



**Professor Stewart**

Robert Gordon University to pursue an academic pharmacy career said: "I am so pleased that my work has been recognised by this award. My lecture will stress the importance of robust pharmacy practice research as a positive contribution to evidence-based practice, strategic developments and placing the pharmacist prescriber within the hierarchy of modern healthcare practice."

Trust Chairman, Marshall Davies, who will be presenting the award at the RPS Conference said: "Professor Stewart's research into pharmacist prescribing from a range of perspectives

including the pharmacy profession policy makers, as well as patients and public, has shown it to be a dynamic and rapidly changing area to investigate. His research is informing and having an impact on professional policy and practice, making him a deserving recipient of this award."

For further details about the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Conference and to reserve a place please visit [www.rpharms.com](http://www.rpharms.com)

## RPS Conference 2011

Ensuring effective **teamworking**  
and **collaboration** with patients  
and professionals



Goldsmiths, University of London, 11 – 12 September



## Health Service Research and Pharmacy Practice Conference to be held at University College Cork in 2012

The Trust has passed the AMRC (Association of Medical Research Charities) Peer Review Audit. Every five years the ARMC audits its member charities according to the AMRC's principles of peer review:

- accountability;
- balance;
- independence;
- rotation;
- and impartiality.

AMRC members must demonstrate the highest standards in accountability and probity in the allocation of grants and awards. By passing the audit the Trust is able to demonstrate that we adhere to these standards and have received a 'kitemark' accreditation.

The Trust sends its research applications to a panel of seven academics and trustees drawn from a range of disciplines.

Applications are assessed on the contribution the award will make to an individual's career, what their project will add to pharmacy practice, whether applicants proposed research will be answered by their research question and if the proposed methodology, timetable and costings are appropriate.

At interview, applicants are assessed by academic panel members.

All applicants to PPRT Research Capacity schemes received full feedback on their application whether shortlisted or not and the Trust is happy to provide guidance to researchers on the application process.



University College Cork

Booking has now opened for next year's conference "Optimisation of Pharmacotherapy - from Pharmacovigilance to Improved Communication"

Each year, the Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice (HSRPP) conference is held at a different School of Pharmacy in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. Organised by a panel of pharmacy practice academics, the conference places a particular emphasis on disseminating the work of early career pharmacy practice researchers.

The HSRPP panel aims to identify and disseminate submitted research papers to inform policy and practice development and to provide an environment to encourage pharmacy practice researchers to share ideas about their research with their peers.

Next year, the conference will be held on the 23rd and 24th of April and abstract submissions are now being accepted. There will also be prizes for Best Poster and Best Oral Presentations. The deadline for submitting abstracts

is the 7th October 2011. You can find guidelines on abstract submission on the HSRPP website: [www.hsrpp.org.uk/submission](http://www.hsrpp.org.uk/submission) Conference abstracts are published in the International Journal of Pharmacy Practice.

Register now and take advantage of the early-bird rates held from 2011. Full delegate rate costs £200 and PhD rate £160. These prices will be available until the 10th February 2012. Please visit: [www.hsrpp.org.uk/registration](http://www.hsrpp.org.uk/registration)

The conference attracts high quality speakers from practice and policy. Former HSRPP key note speakers include Professor Nicholas Mays, Professor of Health Policy, Department of Health Services Research & Policy, Lonon School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Professor Ross Tsuyuki, Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology University of Alberta. Keynote speakers confirmed for HSRPP 2012 will be announced on the HSRPP website soon.

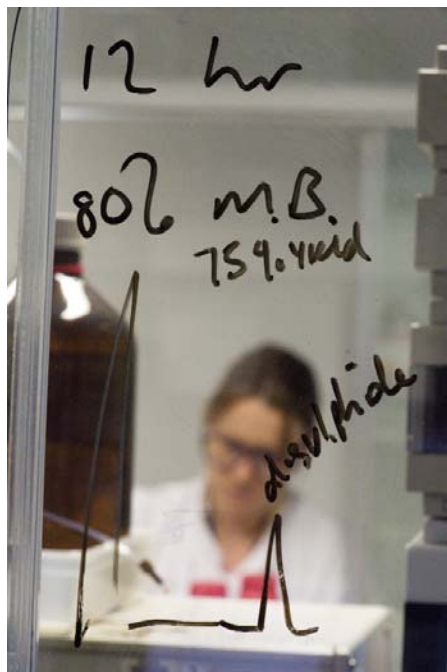
Cork is the third largest city in the Republic of Ireland and has a vast amount of history and culture worth exploring in any free time you find yourself with during the conference. The city has the largest natural harbour in Ireland and many fine examples of Georgian architecture. The most famous building in the city is church tower of St Anne's Church which dominates the city skyline.

St Anne's Church Belltower containing the bells of Shandon



## Health Research and the Health and Social Care Bill

The Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) has been lobbying vigorously to ensure that the commitment outlined by the government in the white paper *Equity*



and Excellence: Liberating the NHS (that the promotion and conduct of research be a role of the NHS) is delivered through the Health and Social Care Bill.

Following the listening exercise and the subsequent report of the NHS Future Forum an increased focus on research and innovation was indicated and AMRC, on behalf of its members, welcomed some of the commitments made in this regard. In particular:

- The new duty for the secretary of state to promote research
- To create a new duty for Clinical Commissioning Groups to promote research and innovation and the use of research evidence.

- That a culture of research and innovation is embedded in the arrangements for the NHS Commissioning Board and Public Health England

- To include a new duty for the secretary of state to maintain a system for professional education and training

The AMRC has also called for investment in training and developing the health research workforce. In their submission to the Public Bill Committee for the health and social care bill, it said: "With the promotion and conduct of research at the heart of the NHS, we need a workforce and leadership trained to demand, understand and utilise research and innovation for patient benefit. Academic values and a spirit of enquiry should be pervasive throughout the service. It is vital that investment is made in training and developing people with the necessary skills and expertise to support this." The Trust strongly supports this view and will continue, through its grants and bursary programme, to deliver this – particularly in regard to the pharmacy workforce.

Separate to the Bill are plans to establish a Health Research Regulatory Authority to act as a single regulator of health research in the UK. The Department of Health has just announced that a temporary special health authority will be established in the autumn which will act as the forerunner of the Health Research Regulatory Authority. One of the first functions will be to incorporate the National Research Ethics Service.

## Patient-centred Professionalism Master Class held at Swansea University

Professor Frances Rapport of Swansea University recently held an event on 'patient-centred professionalism'. Drawn from the research she and her team undertook for the Trust, the masterclass sought to explore whether health professionals understand this term and if it is evidenced in their working lives, their use of workspace their relationships with others and their sense of self.

The Swansea research team, led by Professor Rapport sought to



investigate the nature and impact of 'patient-centred professionalism across community care settings working with those in general practice, community pharmacy and community nursing.

The emphasis of the masterclass was the presentation of these studies in relation to novel applications of mixed methods approaches for data capture including bio-photographic methods, consensus building activities and Nominal Group Work.



Participants were encouraged to share their views on innovative method use

and their own experiences of working in a patient-centred professional manner or being at the receiving end of care. The event was attended by a wide-ranging disciplinary audience of health professionals, researchers, academics and students.