

Media Release
19th October 2009

**PHARMACY PRACTICE RESEARCH TRUST STRENGTHENS PORTFOLIO
OF RESEARCH INTO PROFESSIONALISM IN PHARMACY**

The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) has awarded a third grant in its Professionalism in Pharmacy Practice research programme to Dr Ellen Schafheutle, Lecturer and Sarah Willis, Research Fellow at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Manchester, to investigate patient-centred professionalism among newly registered pharmacists.

The aim of the study is to understand and clarify how professionalism develops in pharmacists' early career years (1 -2 years) and to consider the implications of this development for the delivery of quality patient-centred care. In particular, the research team will explore early career pharmacists' perceptions about professionalism, its relation to patient-centred care and its development in pharmacy training and practice. The views of support staff and tutors involved in preregistration training will also be sought.

Ellen Schafheutle said: "We have already gained some insight into how professionalism is learnt amongst undergraduate pharmacy students, and work experience seemed to play an important role." "However," Sarah Willis continued, "little is known about the influence of the workplace and early years of practice on

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recently registered pharmacists' professionalism. The research grant will enable us to explore this with those who are key players in this early period of practice and professionalism."

Beth Allen, Acting Director of the Trust said: "This study will build on the foundations of a number of Trust funded projects, including the 5 year longitudinal study of 2006 pharmacy graduates and two ongoing studies into professionalism in pharmacy. It proposes to explore pharmacists' understanding of the concept of professionalism with patient-centredness at its core. This understanding will be crucial in informing how pharmacy professionalism translates into patient and public benefit, both now and in the future."

A £30,000 grant was awarded for the nine month study which will start this month.

Ends

**For further media information contact: Bonnie Green on 07774 650 391
email: bonnie.green@rpsgb.org**

Notes to editors:

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 around £2m in research; 30% supporting capacity building in pharmacy practice research and 70% on commissioned research. The Trust receives financial support from the Pharmaceutical Trust for Education and Charitable Objectives, the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust and the Galen Trust, as well as a gift in kind from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. For further information and to access reports of Trust commissioned research or for funding/grant opportunities go to: www.pprrt.org.uk