

**News Release:**

**Trust expands eligibility criteria for research training bursaries**

**- more pharmacists can now develop research skills**

As well as increasing the number of opportunities to apply for a research training bursary from one to two calls for applications per year, the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) has widened the eligibility criteria.

Community pharmacists who are self-employed as locums or independent community pharmacists or employed by smaller chains of registered pharmacies are still eligible. However, following discussions between the Trust and the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust, who provide £40,000 to annually fund these research bursaries, applications will now also be accepted from pharmacists employed by large multiples or PCTs.

Over the last six years, the Trust has funded 15 community pharmacists to pursue research or develop an academic career through this scheme and it is hoped that by widening the criteria, even more can apply for a grant to fund a research project or a research training opportunity.

Says Trust Director, Sue Ambler: "Our bursaries contribute considerably to increasing much needed research capacity in pharmacy practice. This is vital if pharmacy is going to build the evidence base needed to support the aspirations of government policy. It's also important that employers recognise and support research as part of the

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pharmacist's role and these bursaries now provide an excellent chance to develop their research skills and their application in a community pharmacy setting."

The second call of the year has just been announced and the deadline for completed applications is 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Interviews will be held in London in late November.

Further details, application forms and guidance notes are available by contacting Charlotte Coates, Senior Research Administrator, Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN, tel: 020 7572 2278 or e-mail: [charlotte.coates@rpsgb.org](mailto:charlotte.coates@rpsgb.org)

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**Notes for editors:**

**1. There are three levels of research training bursary available:**

- **Level 1** – funding to undertake research modules and a small-scale project such as service evaluation to measure acceptability to health professionals' or patients' uptake, clinical outcomes or resource implications (supported by a research organisation, for example, a Higher Education Institute or local Research Design Services)
- **Level 2** – funding to upgrade a Diploma in Clinical/Community Pharmacy to a MSc, which usually involves undertaking a further two modules (one on research methods) and undertaking a research project or a practice intervention initiative
- **Level 3** – funding to undertake a non-pharmacy MSc that has relevance to and benefits the world of pharmacy

**2. The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust**

The Pharmacy Practice Research 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.pprrt.org.uk](http://www.pprrt.org.uk)

The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust  
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