

# The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust



Medicines & People

Turning Knowledge Into Know-How

## **Programme 3 – Pharmacy: a profession fit for purpose**

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*Contextualising patient centred professionalism in pharmacy practice: consulting with patients, professionals and stakeholders* In order to nurture professional values and practice in pharmacy and create key pharmacy leaders and role models of the future we must understand which aspects of professionalism in practice are valued both by pharmacists and their patients. These must be introduced at the outset of pharmacists' career development through well designed teaching and learning initiatives. However, it is not enough to instill good ethics and attitudes; we must also understand how professionalism functions and most importantly, recognise the contextualised nature of practice – different environments impact in different ways on professional practice. This is because environment is more than just a physical setting – it mediates and is mediated by social interaction, and encompasses our response to our surroundings and performance within it. By contextualising professionalism through 'in-situ' data, this project will provide concrete examples of what is currently taking place. This study will be the first of its type to place current definitions in context in a very practical way whilst broadening understanding of patient and professional need and examining expectations about building trust and delivering patient-centred professionalism. (Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 2008-2009)

*Mapping the teaching and assessment of professionalism in pharmacy education* The main aim of this study is to understand and clarify how professionalism is learned, cultivated and facilitated in the academic environment. By exploring notions of professionalism with pharmacy students it will define the nature of professionalism in pharmacy and shed light on the ways that teaching of the topic are transferred into practice settings. Given that learning and maintaining appropriate professional behaviour is an intrinsic element of professional regulation, this study will generate findings which will also inform developments surrounding the formation of the new regulatory body. In addition, the outcomes will inform debates about revalidation, how performance and competence of pharmacists can be assessed and maintained, and quality assurance issues in education and pre-registration training. (Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 2008-2009)

*Evaluating Pharmacist Provision of Clozapine Services* Government policy has suggested that pharmacists can play a greater role than before in the delivery of health care, including the areas of health promotion and protection. This study addresses a chronic mental health problem, treatment resistant schizophrenia (TRS), and its management with clozapine. Use of clozapine has been found to improve the negative symptoms of schizophrenia and increase social integration, amongst people with TRS, but other potentially dangerous side effects require careful management. Pharmacists are increasingly becoming involved in the delivery of clozapine services, but there is a

lack of evidence about the most cost – effective organisational model to inform these developments.

This research will evaluate alternative models for the delivery of clozapine services. It will compare patient outcomes and costs when different teams of professionals (including pharmacist, nurse, hospital or general practice doctor) are involved in delivering the care. The research is designed to inform those engaged in decision making for mental health service organisation. It will enable them to determine the extent and impact of pharmacists working within different models of clozapine services. (Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 2008-2010)

## **Workforce**

*The new contractual framework for community pharmacy in England and Wales* There is a need for research to ascertain how the new contractual framework is being implemented - to identify what is working well, what is working less well and what factors are acting to support implementation and which are barriers. The purpose of this research is to inform the continuing development and implementation of the framework. (Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 2006-2007)

*Working patterns of female community pharmacists over the age of 30: an exploration of the factors that motivate working practice* An exploration into the reasons why female pharmacists adopt their chosen working patterns and to identify the factors which influence these choices (Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowship, 2005-2006)

*Pharmacy workforce: a longitudinal study of careers amongst new pharmacy graduates* A study of career, employment and training choices and changes in motivations and aspirations of pharmacy graduates over five years of their careers (Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 2004-2009)

*Pharmacy undergraduate students: career choices and expectations across a four-year degree programme* This project will inform workforce planning and policy and developments in education through looking at the career aspirations, motivations and expectations of current pharmacy students and the career choices they are making (Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 2003-2005)

*An exploration of the diversity and complexity of the pharmacy locum workforce* From the 2002 pharmacy workforce census a number of areas were identified where further research was needed to explore patterns of work in greater detail. The census revealed that a large number of pharmacists chose to work as locums - almost a quarter of the home register reported to be working as a locum in 2002. A report of qualitative research conducted by Dr Karen Hassell (University of Manchester) provides insights into why pharmacists are choosing this sort of flexible working.

The research reveals that locum pharmacists can not be easily typified, they are very diverse in terms of why they choose to be employed as a locum, how many hours they work and what they expect from their "careers", as well as in their demographic characteristics. Locums range from those who undertake emergency cover every so often, to portfolio pharmacists keen to maintain their practice experience, to full-time locums who simply prefer the freedom of self-employment.

A common theme motivating the choice of locum employment was that of flexibility, both in terms of time and place. In relation to time locums can choose the days and hours of work, with one benefit often cited being able to choose when to take holidays. The issue of place was expressed in terms of being able to "cherry pick" the pharmacies worked in (RPSGB Research Strategy, 2003-2004)

*Skill mix in community pharmacy: exploring and defining the roles of dispensary support staff* A recognised gap in the study of skill mix in community pharmacy practice, coupled with the RPSGB's intention to register and regulate all pharmacy technicians and the Department of Health's position on extending the roles of support staff, gave impetus to the need to know more about views and expectations of support staff. This research project describes and clarifies the range and diversity of tasks undertaken by dispensary support staff in the community pharmacy setting and identifies factors that affect skill mix profiles. The project highlights that the success of skill mix in community pharmacy relies on the appropriate use of pharmacy support staff and the six community pharmacies studied provide examples of innovative models of skill mix, often developed at a local level (Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowship, 2002-2004)

*Understanding innovation in community pharmacy* This project explored innovation in pharmacy and identified the characteristics of innovators, innovations and the process by which innovation happens. This project resulted in three reports – an interim findings report, a final report and a briefing paper to inform community pharmacy development in primary care. Briefing paper building on research exploring innovation in community pharmacy to inform the future implementation of key policy changes (RPSGB Research Strategy, 2001-2003).

## **Education**

*Professional expertise & pharmacy practice* The RPSGB is going through a phase of reflection about pharmacy's educational processes and requirements with a view to the needs of the profession for the future.

This studentship is designed to address some of the core philosophical issues that have arisen in recent developments in education policy. In particular it will seek to apply work drawn from philosophy of education and health care ethics to the practical imperatives of the Society's profession-building and professional development roles with the aim of illuminating both philosophical and practical agendas - joint funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (2007-2011).

*Learning from Innovation in Pharmacy Education* Ten 'mini-projects' to encourage pharmacy academics to evaluate and explore aspects of pharmacy education and to promote and disseminate effective learning and teaching activities (Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 2005-2006):

- University of Brighton  
*An investigation into which factors affect the perceived success of the experiential community pharmacy visits in year one of the MPharm programme*
- The School of Pharmacy, University of London  
*Learning how to teach the "final check"*

- Cardiff University in collaboration with Aston University, Bradford University and the Robert Gordon University  
*Current and future methods of teaching and assessment of RPSGB fitness to practise procedures*
- Liverpool John Moores University  
*Evaluation of the current and future provision of pharmacy undergraduate research projects*
- The School of Pharmacy, University of London  
*How do pharmacy students learn?*
- University of Bath  
*Using videoed teaching OSCEs to aid student assessment*
- Robert Gordon University/University of Aberdeen  
*E-learning for sharing across medical, health and social care undergraduate students: development, evaluation, assessment and dissemination of an e-learning interprofessional module*
- South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust [SMUHT]  
*A study to develop and test a new method of assessment of communication skills of pharmacy undergraduate students: the patient as the assessor*
- Robert Gordon University  
*Developing and evaluating an E-network of pharmacists undertaking supplementary prescribing training and their linked designated medical practitioners, which is supported by academia, aiming to enhance the period of learning in practice*
- University of East Anglia  
*Portfolio based learning and assessment: optimising its use within pharmacy*

*Functional and occupational map* Project to define the occupations and functions (work activities) which make up the pharmacy sector (funded by Pharmacy Practice Research Trust and Skills for Health, 2004-2005)

*Teaching, learning and assessment methods in pharmacy undergraduate programmes*  
Investigation of initiatives developed by schools of pharmacy to develop best practice in pharmacy education and to inform the Society's regulatory role as it relates to accreditation of degree programmes and pre-registration training (Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 2003-2005)

## **Ethics**

*What role should public health play in global justice for health?* Public health is not easily applied to the global context. Though there is a growing literature that applies the term to global health problems it does so with insufficient consideration of what this means. There is a distinct lack of the theoretical analysis about global health necessary to underpin the more practical application of these areas, including with respect to pharmacy practice.

The specific focus of public health in relation to global justice from a theoretical stance will underpin any future work on applying theory to practice at a local level and across individual professions - joint funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (2006-2010).

*The nature of ethical dilemmas and medical legal issues confronting pharmacists* A PhD study to identify the dilemmas pharmacists face in their work and understanding the methods of resolving these dilemmas (2002-2006)

*Core values and professional ethics in pharmacy* A PhD study to explore the development of values and ethics in the pharmacy profession (2002-2005)

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