

Media Release

3rd November 2009

Building the evidence base for community pharmacy and supporting research capacity

Trust announces successful applicants for 2009 awards

Awards totalling £139,000 have been announced by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) for its 2009 Practice Research Awards and Research Training Bursaries.

Five Research Awards have been made totalling £94,000 and this includes three research projects investigating community pharmacy involvement in the management of long term conditions such as skin disease, cardiovascular disease and inflammatory bowel disease.

The Practice Research Awards winners are:

- Rod Tucker: Community Pharmacist, East Yorkshire
£30,000 Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowship grant to investigate the range of skin conditions encountered in community pharmacy and the extent of pharmacist engagement with patients having a skin disease.
- Abdul-Wahid Mohammed: Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen
£30,000 Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowship grant for a pilot study to evaluate the clinical outcomes of a community pharmacy cardiovascular disease clinic.
- William Horsley: Pharmacist, NHS North of Tyne.
£30,000 Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowship grant to undertake an evaluation of an integrated care pathway for Inflammatory Bowel Disease.
- A further two awards of £2,000 were granted for research training to Samir Vohra, Clinical Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, University of Central Lancashire and Stuart Gill-Banham, Clinical Lecturer, Applied Therapeutics (Mental Health + Neuropharmacology), Medway School of Pharmacy.

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Two Research Training Bursaries totalling £45,000, which are specifically for community or PCT pharmacists, have been awarded to:

- Sharuna Reddy: Organisational Lead for Research and Development, NHS Blackburn and Darwen
£40,000 Level 3 Bursary to undertake a Masters in Public Health at Liverpool University.
- Penny Buckingham: Locum Pharmacist, Guernsey
£5,000 Level 1 Bursary to undertake a postgraduate diploma in public health research at Lancaster University.

Beth Allen, Acting Director of the Trust said: "This funding is vital to develop a research active profession to underpin the development of strong evidence base for pharmacy that supports the aspirations of future policy. The Trust is pleased to support these individuals' commitment and we hope that many more pharmacists will follow suit in recognising the value of research in their own practice and in a wider professional context."

Pharmacists will be able to apply for the 2010 Practice Research Awards in January 2010 and the Research Training Bursaries in January and July 2010. For further details go to www.pprt.org.uk

Ends.

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Note for editors:

1. Details of research and comments from Practice Research Awards recipients:
NB: photographs available

Rod Tucker: Community Pharmacist, East Yorkshire

An investigation into the range of skin problems encountered in community pharmacy and the extent of pharmacist engagement with patients having a skin disease.

The study aims to determine the range of skin conditions encountered in community pharmacies and to assess the degree to which pharmacists are involved in the management of patients with a skin problem. It is estimated that between a third and quarter of the population experience a skin problem at some time during their lives. Evidence suggests that in general practice, as much as 20% of all consultations are for skin disease and skin conditions also showed a prevalence of 21% in an analysis of consultations at an NHS walk-in centre. There is little information on the prevalence of skin diseases seen in community pharmacy. This study will seek to determine what range of diseases community pharmacists typically see, what extent pharmacists engage with patients with skin diseases and to elicit the views of pharmacists on their potential role in managing patients with a skin disease.

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Rod says: *"The role of pharmacists in the management of skin diseases is unknown but likely to be huge, given that nearly a fifth of all retail sales are for skin care products. If, as a profession, it can be shown that we are making a big contribution to the care of patients with skin disorders then this fact alone could become a driver for the development of locally enhanced dermatology services through community pharmacies"*.

Abdul-Wahid Mohammad: Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen
Evaluating the clinical outcomes of a community pharmacy cardiovascular disease clinic. A pilot study.

This study aims to determine if a community pharmacy based cardiovascular (CVD) clinic conducted by a community independent pharmacist prescriber is feasible and clinically effective in practice. The study will evaluate the impact of the clinic on the number and type of medication changes per patient, repeat medicines received at baseline and follow-up, primary care consultations, patient satisfaction with the clinic, pharmacist and GP experiences of the clinic and using the data generated inform the design of a larger scale randomised controlled trial.

Abdul-Wahid says: *"This award would provide a mean to launch my research in this particular area and also consolidate existing research skills. This will provide a solid foundation to build upon for future ideas and concepts which may arise in the ever changing face of community pharmacy"*

William Horsley: Pharmacist, NHS North of Tyne
An evaluation of an integrated care pathway for Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Inflammatory bowel diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease are life-long conditions affecting about a quarter of a million people in the UK. Drugs constitute the principal treatment for many patients and regular review is needed to maintain optimal disease control and manage the risk of long term complications. This study will explore the impacts on quality of care, health resource utilisation and patient experience in adopting an integrated model for care of inflammatory bowel disease within a PCT in the North East of England. In addition, opportunities will be explored for the involvement of community pharmacy and pharmacists within the pathway and future care of these patients.

William says: *"Being a pharmacist with a varied background including hospital and community pharmacy, and more recently having developed skills in health economics and evidence based practice; this project interested me and ideally suited my background. Government policy is moving towards models of integrated care for chronic conditions and it is important that community pharmacy is included in these changes. Hopefully results obtained from this project will feed into the community pharmacy evidence base, ultimately leading to improvements in patient care. I look forward to sharing the results with my pharmacist colleagues and contributing to pharmacy academic"*.

Samir Vohra: Clinical Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, University of Central Lancashire
Galen Award for training in qualitative and quantitative research

Stuart Gill-Banham: Clinical Lecturer, Applied Therapeutics (Mental Health + Neuropharmacology), Medway School of Pharmacy
Galen Award for training in research design

2. Details of study and comments from Research Training Bursary recipients.

NB: photographs available. Awards announced are from the January 2009 application round. Recipients from the second application round in July will be announced in early 2010.

Sharuna Reddy: Organisational Lead for Research and Development, NHS Blackburn and Darwen
To undertake a Masters in Public Health at Liverpool University.

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Sharuna says: *"My passion and professional interest has gravitated towards public health and health improvement over time, recognising the impact of wider social determinants on health for the individual and the population. I want to use the skills and knowledge from the Masters programme to develop public health competences and frame pharmacy practice through a public health lens, to develop innovative models of practice that supports and improves health and wellbeing of the population."*

Penny Buckingham: Locum Pharmacist, Guernsey
To undertake a postgraduate diploma in public health research at Lancaster University

Penny Buckingham says: *With the aid of the bursary I hope to obtain the necessary skills to be able to carry out health research in an efficient manner having completed the course offered at Lancaster University. I hope to be able to carry out research that is beneficial to the local community and allows my work to lead to positive outcomes which will benefit the patient.*

3. The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust Practice Research Awards are available for:

- Those requiring funding between PhD and postdoctoral grants
- Those requiring funding to go from MPhil to PhD
- Practitioners new to research
- PhD students requiring 'research costs' to enhance their PhDs

The annual awards can be used to fund new areas of research, eg pre-pilot and feasibility studies that would not be considered by other funding bodies. There are two types of award available:

- Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowships: one or more awards of up to £45,000 granted annually is funded by the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust to support research relating to community pharmacy
- Galen Awards: up to £10,000 is granted annually and funded by the RPSGB to support registered pharmacists from all sectors to undertake practice research

4. The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust Research Training Bursary Scheme is intended to specifically support community or PCT pharmacists who have an interest in developing their skills in conducting research relating to everyday practice. The Trust has £40,000 funded by the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust to annually provide these bursaries. Bursaries, for which there are two applications rounds in January and July, are awarded for three levels of work:

- Level 1: Funding to undertake research modules and a small scale project
- Level 2: Funding to upgrade a Diploma in Clinical/Community Pharmacy to an MSc
- Level 3: Funding to undertake a non-pharmacy MSc that has relevance to and benefits the world of pharmacy

5. 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 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.pprt.org.uk

