

The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust



**News Release:
11 January 2008**

COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS CAN NOW APPLY FOR 2008 RESEARCH BURSARIES

Community pharmacists who have an interest in developing their skills in conducting research relating to everyday pharmacy practice can now apply to the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (PPRT) Research Training Bursary Scheme.

The PPRT is inviting applications from community pharmacists for the 2008 scheme funded by the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust. The Research Training Bursary Scheme has £40,000 to annually fund a number of projects over different levels and since being established in 2002 has funded ten community pharmacists to pursue research or develop an academic career.

Bursaries are available for three levels of work:

- **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, Primary Care Research Network or Research and Development Unit)
- **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

Karebor Ngwerume, a community pharmacist from Hull, was a successful Level 2 bursary applicant in 2007 who was granted a £12,000 award. Through her research, she sees the potential to develop her expert role in OTC medication, its effectiveness and safe selling. "The skills that I develop during the MSc will also provide me with the expertise and qualifications to take an active role working with undergraduate pharmacy students whilst remaining based in community pharmacy," said Karebor.

Applications are invited from community pharmacists who are self employed (as locums or independent community pharmacists) or pharmacists employed by a small chain of up to 60 registered premises, who demonstrate a real need for external support to develop their skills and careers in research. A research training bursary would also provide a Continuing Professional Development opportunity.

The deadline for completed applications is 23rd May 2008 and it is expected that interviews will be held on 3rd July 2008 at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of GB's headquarters in London.

Further details, application forms and guidance notes are available by contacting Beth Allen, Research Programme Co-ordinator, Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN, tel: 020 7572 2466 or e-mail: beth.allen@rpsgb.org

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Notes to editors:

1. The Bursaries include the following items of funding:

- Salary (pro rata for part time)/locum costs
- Course fees
- Research costs (up to a maximum of £500, to include printing, postage and travel)
- Supervision costs (either from a Higher Education Institution or from local Research and Development Unit/Network)
- Conference attendance (up to a maximum of £400 towards attendance and presentation of work at UK conferences).

2. The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust

The Pharmacy Practice Trust was established 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, industrialists and retailers. For further information email: practiceresearch@rpsgb.org