

**News Release:  
23 January 2009**

**MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS  
TO APPLY FOR RESEARCH BURSARIES**

The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) is increasing the opportunities for community pharmacists who are interested in developing their pharmacy practice research skills to apply for a research training bursary. There will now be two calls for applications for a bursary during the year and the first has just been announced.

The Research Training Bursary Scheme has £40,000, provided by the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust, to annually fund a number of research projects or research training opportunities over three different levels. Over the last 6 years, the Trust has funded 15 community pharmacists to pursue research or develop an academic career through this scheme.

One of last year's successful applicants was Alison Astles, a locum community pharmacist from Merseyside who was awarded £14,000 to undertake an MPhil at the University of Manchester. Alison says: "I want to further my career in research, and this bursary has offered a route into this whilst maintaining my links with community pharmacy. In the future I would like to continue to work as a part time locum and further build research into my practice. In particular, as a locum, I recognise the huge contribution that pharmacy staff make to service delivery, and would like to investigate changes in their roles".

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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, 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

Applications are now 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 can 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 24 April 2009. Interviews will be held in London in late June.

The second call for applications will be announced in July 2009.

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](mailto:beth.allen@rpsgb.org)

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**Notes for editors:**

**1. 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.pprt.org.uk](http://www.pprt.org.uk)