

Media Release

11th October 2010

Pharmacy Practice Research Trust continues its commitment to increasing pharmacy practice research capacity

2010 research and bursary awards announced

Pharmacy practice research capacity has been further supported by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the PPRT) by the announcement of the successful applicants for its 2010 Practice Research Awards and Research Training Bursaries. Awards, totalling over £76,000 have been made to six pharmacists who want to develop their skills in conducting research. This brings the total of pharmacists who have been supported by the PPRT over the last 10 years to develop their research skills and qualifications to around 70.

Four pharmacists have been granted Practice Research Awards totalling £60,000:

- **Peter Austin, Senior Pharmacist, Nutrition Support Team, Southampton University Hospitals**
Galen Award to investigate: *Bacteriological risk during the ward-pharmacy intravenous nutrition prescribing cycle*
- **Alison Astles, Locum Pharmacist, Merseyside**
Linstead Award to investigate: *Professional Engagement of Locum Community Pharmacists*
- **Shailesh Patel, Locum Pharmacist and Marketing Director, Xena Healthcare Limited, Buckinghamshire**
Linstead Award to investigate: *Can pharmacists have an overarching role in managing the medicines use process in a care home setting: the development of a service model for improved patient care?*
- **Mike Leech, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, University of Portsmouth and Locum Pharmacist, Brighton**
Linstead Award to investigate: *Clinical Simulation: Pharmacy friend or foe?*

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Two pharmacists have been granted Research Training Bursaries totalling £16,500:

- **Farida Butt, Teaching Fellow, Kingston University and Locum Pharmacist**
To undertake an MRes in Health and Social Care, King's College, London
- **Peter Thomas, Pharmacy Manager, Dorset**
To undertake an MSc in Organisational Psychology, Birkbeck College, London

Beth Allen, Acting Director of the PPRT said: "This funding is vital to develop a research active profession to underpin the development of a strong evidence base for pharmacy that supports its aspirations for the future. The PPRT is committed to supporting research capacity and we are pleased to support the commitment of these six pharmacists. We hope that many more will follow suit in recognising the value of research in their own practice and in a wider professional context and apply for a research or training grant in the 2011 programme."

Ends.

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Note for editors:

1. Details of research or training and comments from award recipients:

Research Awards

Peter Austin, Senior Pharmacist, Nutrition Support Team, Southampton University Hospitals. Galen Award

Bacteriological risk during the ward-pharmacy intravenous nutrition prescribing cycle: the Galen Award will provide additional funding for 'research costs' to enhance Peter's PhD. The aim of which is to consider measures that can reduce potential risks for infection in patients receiving intravenous therapies.

"I am delighted to receive the Galen Award from the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, a non-commercial partner of the NIHR. This award will substantially support my career and interest in research and is an exciting opportunity. It will offer me the chance to build on my previous research experience, develop the way I think about research and evidence and will also support my future aim of applying for a position developing pharmacy research".

Alison Astles, Locum Pharmacist, Merseyside. Linstead Award

Professional Engagement of Locum Community Pharmacists: the aim of Alison's research is to define and explore professional engagement among the locum pharmacy workforce. The objectives for the research are to investigate professional development among community pharmacists in terms of their participation in continuing professional development, networking with other pharmacists and professional colleagues, participation in service developments such as pharmacy enhanced services and involvement with pharmacy organisations.

"This Linstead Award from the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust will support my professional development and a wish to develop my career as a pharmacy lecturer. Undertaking funded research will facilitate this by building my professional standing and increasing my skill base."

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Mike Leech, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, University of Portsmouth and Locum Pharmacist, Brighton. Linstead Award

Clinical Simulation: Pharmacy friend or foe? This funding will enable Mike to attend a short course in Systematic Review at Oxford University and then undertake a systematic review of the existing literature on the use of clinical simulation in undergraduate pharmacy.

"This award will enhance the progress and the ultimate findings of my PhD. This preliminary study will pave the way for future research in later years into simulation in pharmacy education, and will provide one means of obtaining the role of principal lecturer."

Shailesh Patel, Locum Pharmacist and Marketing Director, Xena Healthcare Limited, Buckinghamshire. Linstead Award

Can pharmacists have an overarching role in the managing the medicines use process in a care home setting: the development of a service model for improved patient care?: this study aims to explore the feasibility of a model of service delivery that would involve a pharmacist taking overall responsibility for the medicines use process in a care home setting.

"As a community pharmacist with an interest in older people, the research funded by this award will support my development in working with older people and also further develop my research skills. I believe this research will also provide me with a level of expertise that I will need should I decide to pursue a career in academia."

Bursary Training Awards

Farida Butt, Teaching Fellow, Kingston University and Locum Pharmacist

To undertake an MRes in Health and Social Care, King College, London

"As a community pharmacist there are always questions, problems or issues that are raised in daily practice and which need to be investigated further. On reflection I have often thought some of these questions could be turned into good potential research projects but there are many challenges and skills needed in conducting research on your own. The MRes in Health and Social Care is an in-depth course offering practical experience of research which will provide me with knowledge of a wide spectrum of research methodologies and help me develop a range of transferable and applied research skills. This bursary will create a pathway for me to acquire expertise in research which in the future will help improve my practice in pharmacy."

Peter Thomas, Pharmacy Manager, Dorset

To undertake an MSc in Organisational Psychology

"This bursary will allow me to pursue my interest in organisational psychology, which simply put, is a way to help both individuals and organisations operate in the best way possible. I feel the knowledge this course will bring will benefit both myself and pharmacy as it will allow me to progress my career as an organisational psychologist within the pharmacy profession."

2. 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 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:

- The Galen Award: up to £10,000 is granted annually and funded by the RPSGB to support registered pharmacists from all sectors to undertake practice research

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- The Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowship: 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

3. 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 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

4. 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