

**Media Release  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS: RESEARCH INTO  
PROFESSIONALISM IN PHARMACY PRACTICE**

As part of its programme of research, the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) is inviting proposals to undertake research in relation to the practice of professionalism in pharmacy.

Potential funding for a project of up to £30,000 is available to undertake a project on professionalism among newly qualified pharmacists or those in first or second year of practice.

This call follows an earlier call for proposals in 2008. Two projects were commissioned at that time, details of which can be found on the Trust's website. However, due to unforeseen circumstances a third successful applicant from this round of commissioned research had to withdraw.

“In the context of pharmacy practice, the face of the profession is evolving and these changes have brought about an increase in patient contact and higher clinical accountability” said Dr Sue Ambler, Director of the Trust. “An understanding of the principles and how to engender and assess them are clearly aspects for consideration and support in the development of a

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professional body for pharmacy. This research call provides the opportunity to investigate professional development from a more diverse platform.”

The closing date for submission of applications is **Friday, 13 March 2009** and interviews for those short listed will be held on or around **Thursday, 21 May 2009**.

A copy of the research commissioning brief and application form can be obtained from Beth Allen: [beth.allen@rpsgb.org](mailto:beth.allen@rpsgb.org) or call 020 7572 2466. Also available from: <http://www.pprrt.org.uk/ResearchFunding/Commissioning.aspx>

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#### **Notes to editors:**

1. Details of ongoing projects on professionalism can be found at:

<http://www.pprrt.org.uk/ResearchActivity/ResearchActivityHome.aspx>

#### **2. Ongoing Trust research on Professionalism in Pharmacy Practice**

The Trust currently funds two projects relating to Professionalism in Pharmacy Practice:

***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.

***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.

### **3. The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust**

The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the 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)