



**Media Release**  
**5<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

**Study shows long term commitment to working in pharmacy  
and preregistration job satisfaction is high**

Preregistration trainees' commitment to pharmacy as a profession is high and satisfaction with preregistration training is high. However, for some, work overload and difficulties with work/life balance start in their preregistration year says the latest report of the Longitudinal Cohort Study of Pharmacy Careers published by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust).

The *Working lives of preregistration trainees* study is being carried out by Professor Karen Hassell and her team at the University of Manchester and follows the career progress of the 2006 pharmacy graduates from around Great Britain. This third survey covers the students' experiences of their preregistration year and looked at job satisfaction, experiences of work and relationships between these variables

It found that overall there are high levels of job satisfaction among this cohort. Participants reported that the most satisfying aspects of their roles were the interpersonal aspects including working with patients and colleagues. However, around a quarter of participants felt that they did not receive sufficient feedback at work and over a third felt that they were 'over loaded' with more negative responses arising from those working in the community. The results show further key differences across ethnicity, gender and sector of training.

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Females were happier than their male counterparts in terms of hours of work and variety in their roles. The study also found that ethnic minority participants were less satisfied when compared to their white peers. Those working in community pharmacy were less satisfied than those working in hospital in terms of working hours, freedom, remuneration and opportunities for development of clinical skills and professional knowledge. Those in the community were also more likely to feel they did not have enough time to carry out all their work.

By contrast hospital trainees were less satisfied with the amount of responsibility given indicating that the lack of autonomy offered by their posts had had a negative impact on their job satisfaction. Surprisingly those working in hospitals were more likely not to feel part of the health care team.

Future commitment to working in pharmacy was high with more females intending to pursue a career in secondary care and comparatively more ethnic minority males intending to work in the community. This reflects known existing occupational patterns.

At a regional level it appeared that the largest proportion of graduates hoped to work in the same region where they attended pharmacy school and preferences for work were significantly correlated with sector of training; from a workforce planning perspective this suggests little cross sector mobility during the earliest career stages.

Professor Hassell says: “These findings provide a good perspective of the actual experiences of preregistration trainees. The differences across ethnicity, gender and sector are in places notable and providers would do well to note the results in these sections. The fact that workload is already an issue in what is effectively a training environment is concerning. The longitudinal study includes a final fourth survey on experiences at the end of the first year as a registered pharmacist and was undertaken earlier this year. This will complete the picture of how career choices are initially influenced and how they change over time.”

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The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust  
Registered Charity Number 1076457

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Trust Director, Sue Ambler said: “We are pleased to see this penultimate report of the series. The full study is due to complete next year and will provide the profession with a comprehensive overview of career motivators and influencing factors which will be of great interest to educators, pre-registration employers and ultimately workforce planning as a whole.”

## Ends

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## Notes for editors:

1. *Working lives of preregistration trainees: a longitudinal cohort study of pharmacy careers; pre-registration post questionnaire. Report 7: analysis of the questionnaire.* Sarah Willis, Research Fellow, Dr Liz Seston, Research Fellow and Professor Karen Hassell, Chair in Social Pharmacy, Director, Centre for Pharmacy Workforce Studies, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Manchester.  
ISBN: 9780955696961

[www.pprt.org.uk/Documents/Publications/Working\\_Lives\\_of\\_Preregistration\\_Trainees.pdf](http://www.pprt.org.uk/Documents/Publications/Working_Lives_of_Preregistration_Trainees.pdf)

2. The longitudinal study is funded by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust. Previous surveys have investigated why participants choose to study pharmacy and early preselected choices for sectors and how and why a preregistration placement is chosen. Reports of these first two surveys can be found on the Trust website at:

[http://www.pprt.org.uk/Documents/Publications/Studying\\_pharmacy\\_who\\_when\\_how\\_why\\_w\\_hat.pdf](http://www.pprt.org.uk/Documents/Publications/Studying_pharmacy_who_when_how_why_w_hat.pdf)

[http://www.pprt.org.uk/Documents/Publications/From\\_pharmacy\\_education\\_into\\_preregistration\\_training.pdf](http://www.pprt.org.uk/Documents/Publications/From_pharmacy_education_into_preregistration_training.pdf)

## 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)

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