

News Release
13 February 2009

**TRUST SUPPORTS CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN PHARMACY
RESEARCH:
2009 PRACTICE RESEARCH AWARDS OPEN FOR
APPLICATIONS**

Pharmacists who want to start or develop a research career are being invited by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (the Trust) to apply for a 2009 Practice Research Award.

The awards were set up to build research capacity in pharmacy practice and develop the evidence base for pharmacy practice. The Trust has granted 18 awards since the scheme was established. Research funded in 2008 is exploring such issues as optimising the dosage of antibiotics in patients with major burns; over the counter (OTC) medicine abuse and misuse; and, the implementation and effectiveness of a community pharmacy based physical activity counselling scheme in the adjunctive treatment of mild to moderate depression.

A total of £55,000 is available for a number of grants which are open to:

- those requiring funding between PhD and post doctoral grants;
- those requiring funding to go from MPhil to PhD;
- practitioners new to research; and
- PhD students requiring 'research costs' to enhance their PhDs.

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The awards can also be used to fund new areas of research, for example, pre-pilot and feasibility studies that would not be considered by other funding bodies.

Two types of awards are available:

1. **Galen Award** - one or more awards made annually to a total value of £10,000 funded by the Galen Trust.
2. **Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowship** - one or more awards made annually to a total value of £45,000 funded by a grant from the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust in order to support research relating to community pharmacy.

Trudy Thomas, Head of Clinical and Professional Practice, Medway School of Pharmacy and a locum pharmacist who was awarded a Sir Hugh Linstead Fellowship grant in 2008 says: "I would urge fellow pharmacists with an interest in research to apply. This award gave me the opportunity to bounce ideas about my proposed area of research with some of the top practitioners in pharmacy practice research who were part of the award panel. As someone new to research, winning the award has really increased my confidence and it's also started to open doors to further areas of funding and other opportunities.

The deadline for all completed applications is 22 May 2009 and interviews will be held on 1st July in London.

Further details, application forms and guidance notes for the practice research awards are available on the Research Funding section of the Trust's website at <http://www.pprt.org.uk/ResearchFunding/TrustResearchFundingHome.aspx> or by contacting Beth Allen, Research Programme Co-ordinator, Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN, tel: 020 7572 2466 or email: beth.allen@rpsgb.org

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For further media information contact: **Bonnie Green**
email: bonnie.green@rpsgb.org
direct tel: 07774 650 391

Notes to editors:

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. 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