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# News release

**For immediate release**

**Tuesday 11 October 2005**

## **£50K INVESTMENT IN EVALUATION AND INNOVATION IN PHARMACY EDUCATION**

The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust has announced grants totalling £50,000 for a series of small-scale studies to undertake research into the development of pharmacy education.

Project proposals for up to £5,000 were invited from pharmacy education providers (undergraduate, pre-registration and post-registration) to undertake research evaluating any aspect of pharmacy education that will be completed by October 2006. The Trust made £50,000 available for this area of research in total and will host a learning event in 2006 to share the results of these mini-projects.

The primary purposes of the mini-project scheme are to:

- Support dissemination of good practice to a wider audience
- Promote collaboration to enhance new and existing projects and partnerships
- Pump prime feasibility studies in innovative areas

And, in the longer term, to:

- Promote evaluation and high quality educational research studies including systematic review

The ten grant holders are as follows:

- Dr Angela MacAdam, University of Brighton  
*An investigation into which factors affect the perceived success of the experiential community pharmacy visits in year one of the MPharm programme*

/more follows

- Dr Imogen Savage, School of Pharmacy, University of London  
*Learning how to teach the 'final check'*
- Dr Dai John, Cardiff University in collaboration with Keith Wilson, Aston University, Simon Tweddell, University of Bradford and Ruth Edwards, The Robert Gordon University  
*Current and future methods for teaching and assessment RPSGB fitness to practise procedures*
- Professor David Mottram, Liverpool John Moores University  
*Evaluation of the current and future provision of pharmacy undergraduate research projects*
- Professor Kevin Taylor, School of Pharmacy, University of London & University College London Hospitals; and  
Dr Geoffrey Harding, School of Pharmacy, University of London  
*How do pharmacy students learn?*
- Miss Denise Taylor, University of Bath  
*Using videoed teaching OSCEs to aid student assessment*
- Dr Lesley Diack, Robert Gordon University/University of Aberdeen  
*E-learning for sharing across medical, health and social care undergraduate students: development, evaluation, assessment and dissemination of an e-learning inter-professional module*
- Mrs Dawn Bell, South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust (SMUHT)  
*A study to develop and test a new method of assessment of communication skills of pharmacy undergraduate students: the patient as the assessor*
- Dr Derek Stewart, Robert Gordon University  
*Developing and evaluating an E-network of pharmacists undertaking supplementary prescribing training and their linked designated medical practitioners, which is supported by academia, aiming to enhance the period of learning in practice*

/more follows

- Mrs Alison Gail Eggleton, University of East Anglia

*Portfolio based learning and assessment: optimising its use within pharmacy*

Professor Stephen Denyer, Head of the Welsh School of Pharmacy and RPSGB Council Member said: "At a time when education for the health professions is high on the political agenda it is good to see the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust investing in education development research. The projects chosen address in various ways the challenges of learning and assessment, and will all contribute to the growing innovation within pharmacy education. The Trust-sponsored event to follow in 2006 will offer an excellent opportunity to share these findings with other pharmacy academics and educators".

The education innovation fund is part of a wider R&D programme which is supported with a grant from the Society. Research funded in this programme is intended to inform the development of policy relating to the pharmacy workforce. The education programme takes forward recommendations made by the Society's Pharmacy Education R&D Reference Group (Report - Jan 2004, available on the 'practice research' section of the Society's website at [www.rpsgb.org](http://www.rpsgb.org)).

For further details of the successful applications for the Learning from Innovation in Pharmacy Education Mini Project Scheme please contact Beth Allen, Acting Research Manager (Tel: 020 7572 2466 or e-mail: [beth.allen@rpsgb.org](mailto:beth.allen@rpsgb.org)).

**Ends**

**For further information please contact Natalie Collyer in the  
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's public relations unit  
020 7572 2335**

**Notes for editors**

### **Pharmacy Practice Research Trust**

The Pharmacy Practice Trust was established 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 amongst senior health policy makers, leading academics, industrialists and retailers.

/more follows

The *Medicines and People* programme is a major initiative by the Trust. As an independent research charity, the Trust aims to promote research that will enable policy makers, manufacturers, prescribers and others to better understand the people and the contexts in which they use and take medicines.

For further information about the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust please contact Beth Allen on 020 7572 2466, or e-mail: [beth.allen@rpsqb.org](mailto:beth.allen@rpsqb.org)