Contents

4. Foreword
5. Our Vision
6. Our Trustees
8. Our Scientific Advisory Panel
10. Patient and Public Involvement
11. Mentoring Scheme
12. Our Funding Processes
13. Our Funding Priorities
14. What We Fund
15. Researcher Profile - Nick Thayer
16. Our Partners
18. Research Impact
20. Researcher Profile - Emma Davies
21. Our Projects
22. Research Funding 2017
24. Researcher Profile - Sion Scott
25. 2017 in Numbers
26. Our Reach
27. Celebrating Excellence
28. HSRPP Conference
29. 2017 Team Highlights
30. 2018 and beyond
Foreword

It is with great pleasure that we present this review and our thanks go to all who have contributed to another successful year. As we look back over our 5th year, we see a continuing track record of funding a broad range of projects, and a growing contribution to the evidence base of excellence in pharmacy research; whether carried out by individuals or by multidisciplinary teams. Our Scientific Advisory Panel has expanded and now includes two lay members, who will help us ensure that Patient and Public Involvement remains a core part of the research that we fund.

We are continuing to use Researchfish to track, monitor and assess the tremendous impact that PRUK funded research is having on public healthcare. PRUK are also pleased to have continued to provide established services, such as supporting the HSRPP conference. We have also extended our presence in social media, making sure that our voice is heard wherever pharmacy research is being discussed. Additionally, we are pleased to have launched our Mentoring Scheme, which has been welcomed by the pharmacy research community and is growing ever stronger.

Among the many individuals who have contributed to our on-going success was our Trust Director, Dr Rachel Joynes. Having set up the foundations for our research activities, Rachel has now left the charity and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours. The Board has appointed an Interim Chief Executive, Angela King. Angela has spent over a decade in the health related voluntary sector as a Trustee and Chief Executive and will use her expertise and experience to develop PRUK’s charitable activities.

We meet 2018 with some exciting challenges, and we do so from a position of strength with a growing number of researchers and supporters.

We thank you all for your continued support of Pharmacy Research UK.

About Us

Pharmacy Research UK (PRUK) is the principal charity funding research into pharmacy and supporting pharmacists in the development of their research skills.

PRUK is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities and is hosted by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

PRUK is proud to be celebrating its fifth year, continuing its work to further promote research in pharmacy for the benefit of the public and the sector.

Our Vision

Our long-standing vision is to improve the health of the public through excellence in pharmacy research and to support pharmacists in strengthening their research skills. We address this long term venture by continuing to:

- Promote research into the practice of pharmacy and publish significant findings
- Educate pharmacists in order to enhance the standard of healthcare available to the public
- Advance and promote knowledge and skills in relation to the practice of pharmacy

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Angela King
Interim CEO, Pharmacy Research UK

Professor Anthony Smith
Chair, Pharmacy Research UK
Our Trustees

Our Board of Trustees sets strategy, determine priorities, establish funding policies and allocate our funds.

Professor Anthony Smith, Chair
Anthony has served as Chair of PRUK since it was founded in 2012. He is Vice Provost (Education) at University College London. Prior to his appointment at UCL on January 1st 2012, Anthony was Principal and Dean of the School of Pharmacy, University of London.

Mr Steve Churton, Chair of Finance and Investment Committee
Steve has enjoyed a career devoted to pharmacy. Working for Boots, he held many senior level appointments, including that of Superintendent Pharmacist. He was elected President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain 2008-2010 and was made a Fellow of the Society for services to pharmacy. Steve is presently vice-Chair of NHS West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and a trustee of the Psoriasis Association.

Mrs Susan Ashelby
Sue's background is in hospital clinical pharmacy with experience in education and training as well as GP prescribing advice. She has taught at the Cardiff University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She was an Associate Course Director for the Cardiff University MSc in Clinical Pharmacy for a number of years. In this capacity, she was a Member of the All Wales Education and Training subcommittee of the All Wales Pharmacists group involved with setting the strategic division for education in Wales and advising the Welsh Chief Pharmacists committee.

Mr Martin Astbury
Martin became the first President of the new Royal Pharmaceutical Society in October 2010 and returned for a further term as president in July 2016 for his fifth term which he completed in July 2017. A member of the RPS English Pharmacy Board and Assembly, he also has a patient facing role with VM Morrisons pharmacies. Martin is Vice president of the International Pharmaceutical Federation community pharmacy section.

Mr Anthony Clinch
Tony worked for Unilever PLC in various capacities from 1955 until his retirement. He was latterly Director of Finance for The Leverhulme Trust and the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust.

Mr Peter Curphey
Peter has extensive experience in senior management roles within community pharmacy, most notably at Boots. Peter is a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, was a Member of the RPS Council from 1994-2003 and was President from 1997-1998. Peter leads the visiting degree accreditation team on behalf of the General Pharmaceutical Council and is a member of the GPhC Investigation Committee.

Professor Brian Edwards
Brian is Emeritus Professor of Health Care Development at the University of Sheffield. Prior to this he had an extended career in health services management which included the management of a large teaching hospital and two NHS regions. He also served for three years as President of the European Hospital Federation.

Mr Malcolm Harrison
Malcolm works for Boots UK as Senior Manager of Pharmacy Contracts & Project Development, supporting the development of national pharmacy contract frameworks across the UK. He is also a Fellow of the NHS Innovation Accelerator programme and the programme manager for Community Pharmacy Future group, leading a collaboration between the UK’s four largest community pharmacy chains to develop and deliver new services to improve the care of patients and cost savings for the NHS. Malcolm has previously worked in a variety of roles within both the community pharmacy sector and in retail operations and holds a CIPR Diploma in Public Affairs.

For more information, visit: www.pharmacyresearchuk.org/about-us/our-trustees/
Our Scientific Advisory Panel

The Scientific Advisory Panel advises the Board of Trustees on the development of PRUK’s research grant-giving strategy and policies. The panel also ensures that proposals for research funding are reviewed independently and objectively, and makes recommendations to the Trustees for allocation of research funds.

Professor Rachel Elliott, Chair
Rachel is a professor in Health Economics at the University of Manchester. Rachel trained as an industrial pharmacist and was one of the first critical care specialist pharmacists in the UK. Her research focus is the application of applied health economics and economic evaluation to medicines policy, prescribing and consumption. She is also a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Mrs Sylvia Bailey
Sylvia has a background in primary care management in Walsall and Birmingham, and served as a Non-Executive Director on the Walsall Manor Health Authority and Walsall Community Health Council. She has been a Lay Governor of a Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health) and is a board member of Healthwatch Walsall. She is also a National Institute for Health Research and Cancer Research UK lay Patient and Public Involvement research applications reviewer.

Gerry Bennison
Gerry has a background in understanding inequalities and the multi-faceted strands of multi-disciplinary Health and Social Care practice through lived and academic experience. Gerry has a keen interest in the use of lived knowledge and narrative in diverse forms of Health and Social Care provision through Patient and Public Involvement mechanisms. This is evidenced through active engagements as a Patient and Public Involvement Reviewer for the National Institute for Health Research on varying funding streams.

Dr Debi Bhattacharya
Debi is a Senior Lecturer in pharmacy practice at the University of East Anglia. She is the director of the pharmacist non-medical prescribing programme at the University of East Anglia and the research lead for the medicines management team. Debi is also an editorial board member of the journal ‘Patient Preference and Adherence’.

Professor Alison Blenkinsopp
Alison is a health services researcher and registered pharmacist, currently Professor of the Practice of Pharmacy at University of Bradford’s School of Pharmacy.

Professor Christine Bond
Christine is Professor of Primary Care (Pharmacy), and Head of the centre of Academic Primary Care at the University of Aberdeen. She is Editor of the International Journal of Pharmacy Practice and has served on many national research panels including the Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice Conference.

Professor Richard Holland
Richard is the Head of the Medical School designate and Professor of Public Health Medicine at the University of Leicester. He previously worked at the University of East Anglia, first as a lecturer in public health, then gaining a fellowship with the Medical Research Council to investigate home based medication review by pharmacists in older people.

Professor Carmel Hughes
Carmel is Professor of Primary Care Pharmacy and Head of the School of Pharmacy at Queen’s University Belfast. She is also joint Clinical Lead for the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network for Primary Care. She was the first pharmacist to be awarded a Harkness Fellowship in Primary Care Pharmacy and is the only pharmacist to have received a National Primary Care Career Scientist Award.

Dr Douglas Steinken
Douglas is a Senior Lecturer of Pharmacoepidemiology at the University of Manchester. He is also a health services researcher in their division of Pharmacy and Optometry.

For more information visit: www.pharmacyresearchuk.org/about-us/our-scientific-advisory-panel/
Patient and Public Involvement

Patients and the public are an integral component in the research process. Their involvement ensures that the research we fund remains of the highest relevance and is grounded to produce outputs that will lead to an improved healthcare experience for the public and deliver overall patient benefit.

This year saw the recruitment of two new public members on our Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), Sylvia Bailey and Gerry Bennison. Their remit is to ensure that patient and public involvement in research remains a key priority throughout all of the PRUK funding schemes. This increased focus on patient and public involvement has been communicated to research funding applicants and as a consequence of this new emphasis, the level of patient and public involvement has increased in the fellowships funded in 2017.

PRUK have also been involved in a nationwide consultation relating to a set of National Standards for Public Involvement, developed by the Public Involvement Standards Development Partnership, which sets out six standards for how to incorporate public involvement within research. The standards are in the process of final review; once available they will be an invaluable resource for researchers and funding organisations to support their applicants in developing robust and relevant public involvement plans in their proposals.

Mentoring Scheme

This year saw the launch of PRUK’s Mentoring Scheme. This scheme is intended for researchers working across pharmacy practice and pharmacy professionals working within health service research to help build up their research knowledge and expertise through the support and mentorship of an experienced peer.

The scheme has been endorsed by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and is also supported by the British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA). The scheme launched in October 2017 and has been well received, with the first mentors and mentees already matched.

Mentoring Communication Statistics

The coverage and engagement has been extensive, with pharmacy research influencers sharing and reposting our mentoring web pages and tweets.

- **Pharmacy Business Article** – ‘Pharmacy Research launches mentoring scheme’
- **Pharmacy Management and Business in Practice** – ‘New Pharmacy Research Mentoring Scheme Launched’
- **Press Release** posted on Get Topical
- **PDA Students** – ‘This is brilliant @PharmResUK #pharmacystudent #pharmacy #research
- **Carl Booth** – ‘Watch for more information @BOPACommittee over the coming months. Hoping to sign up BOPA members for mentoring scheme’
- **Helena Rosado** – ‘This is a great opportunity if you’re starting in #pharmacy #research, discuss your challenges and worries, get support, get inspired’.
- **Professor Rachel Elliott** – ‘Mentoring for me is all about being lucky to spend time with energetic and amazing individuals. Drop the ladder, it’s good for the soul!’
Our Funding Priorities

Our charitable mission is to promote pharmacy research for the public benefit and publish the useful results to advance the education of the general public and pharmacy professionals.

We seek to understand the way professionals, patients and the public think about and access medicines and pharmacy services and utilise our research outputs to develop and shape policy and practice relevant to pharmacy, health and social care.

PRUK funds research across the following strategic priorities:

- **Medicines optimisation and pharmaceutical care**
  This encompasses all aspects of medicine use to ensure that patients are getting the most out of their medicines.

- **Accessing medicines in a modern era**
  Present and future multichannel digital delivery of health services affects all aspects of health care and it is important that we understand this rapidly expanding field.

- **The roles and competencies of pharmacy technicians**
  As pharmacy practice develops it is important to optimise the skills mix within the pharmacy team and to explore the actual and potential role of pharmacy technicians in delivering high quality pharmacy services for the benefit of patients.

- **Patient and professional experience and understanding pharmacy**
  To further develop and optimise roles and services, it is vital to know what patients and non-pharmacy professionals understand about pharmacy and pharmacists, their expectations and experiences.

- **The contribution of pharmacy to public health**
  To investigate the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of pharmacy services relating to public health, as well as the knowledge and public awareness of pharmacy as a provider of public health interventions.

Our Funding Process

Since 2012, PRUK has funded a selection of project grants, research training bursaries and awards relating to the practice of pharmacy. Through the funding opportunities available, PRUK has enhanced the research culture in pharmacy, contributed to patient care and improved health outcomes.

Applications for research funding are peer reviewed externally to ensure that only the highest quality proposals are taken forward to be assessed by PRUK’s SAP. The SAP is critical to the funding decision process, as the panel reviews all applications to determine where PRUK funding should be invested.

Projects funded by PRUK supplement ongoing research and help to address the gaps in health literature as well as issues prevalent in the profession today. This research is crucial, not only for highlighting the issues apparent in the field, but for also providing workable solutions and recommendations to steer the future direction of research.

PRUK recognises the importance of patient and public involvement in research funding as it ensures actual patient benefit. Collecting and sharing patient experiences provides them with a platform to communicate the benefits and risks associated with their treatment and medication. This information will improve healthcare professionals decision-making processes, patient safety and how patients are managed in the community.

In 2017, PRUK began to apply for grants from charitable trusts that support organisations that fund and promote research for the public benefit in the evaluation of medical procedures. By growing and diversifying our income streams, PRUK will be able to further develop a strong evidence base for pharmacy interventions and support pharmacy research as a key driver in policy change and improved patient outcomes. We hope that this extra source of income will facilitate our ability to fund the next generation of pharmacy researchers at the capacity we are striving for.
What We Fund

In 2017, PRUK offered funding through the following schemes:

1. Capacity and capability funding schemes

   **Research Training Bursaries**
   The Bursary scheme is intended to support community and other primary care pharmacists who have an interest in developing their skills in conducting research relating to everyday practice.

   **Personal Research Awards**
   The purpose of the Personal Research Awards scheme is to develop pharmacy practice research capacity. Applications are therefore assessed both in relation to the development of the individual applicant and the research project proposed.

   **BOPA-PRUK Research Award**
   This grant, co-funded by BOPA, is designed to support novice researchers to engage in research by offering funding for them to lead an independent research project for the benefit of patients in the haematology or oncology pharmacy field.

2. Project Grants Scheme

   These larger grants of up to £100k are designed to directly advance pharmacy research. The scheme was announced in 2016 and the final stage applications were assessed in Spring 2017. Two projects were successful in securing funding totalling almost £200k.

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**Researcher Profile**

Nick Thayer was awarded a Bursary in 2015 in order to complete his MSc in Community Pharmacy Public Health Services at Keele University. He is the Pharmacy Services Lead at Well Pharmacy and Vice Chair and CCA Rep for Community Pharmacy Cheshire and Wirral.

"Development of research techniques is a key element in the development of advanced clinical practice, which in turn is integral to career progression. PRUK funding allowed me to develop abilities in research methodology and appreciate an entirely new way of thinking, enabling me to fully explore my abilities. Being awarded an MSc in Community Pharmacy Public Health Services is a fantastic achievement that I believe will set me apart from other professionals.

I have found the research process extremely satisfying and enjoyable. I am delighted that my work has been considered of significant importance to warrant presentation at the RPS conference, which is indicative of how my research will help contribute to the shaping of future service provision within community pharmacy. After such success, it felt like a natural step to continue my studies to the next academic level – a doctorate.

Without the bursary I wouldn’t have been able to complete the research required for my MSc thesis, which would have meant I would lack the skills or experience required to successfully tackle the higher level of research and academic rigour required for the highest level of academic achievement.

I am extremely grateful to PRUK for supporting me in my career development and facilitating my work, which I believe will lead to changes in practice, particularly locally, that will be to the ultimate benefit of patient outcomes. I would certainly recommend research to any pharmacist in any workplace setting, as there is a real need for developing the evidence base to pharmacy interventions. PRUK provide a scheme that is both easily accessible and supportive, simplifying the funding process and allowing you to focus on the research."
Our Partners

In 2017 we have been delighted to continue our collaboration with the British Oncology Pharmacy Association. The BOPA-PRUK partnership calls for pharmacy professionals who are new to research to lead on their own project for the benefit of patients within the field of haematology or oncology pharmacy research.

This funding is designed to enable pharmacy professionals to gain further experience in conducting their own research project, whilst also informing the research area and allowing for further collaboration with experienced researchers. This aligns with our charitable objective of supporting the pharmacy research leaders of the future and advocating for a research active career for pharmacists.

Carl Booth, Lead Pharmacist for Cancer Services and Clinical Trials at BOPA said: “BOPA and PRUK are working together to improve patient care and experience by supporting high quality pharmacy practice research. Our second BOPA / PRUK award will look at the use of web-based video consultations in a group of patients who are on potentially lifelong treatments. We are delighted to continue our association work with PRUK to support another great project.”

John Minshull, 2016 BOPA-PRUK Award recipient pictured above said: ‘I am very grateful to BOPA and PRUK for providing me with this grant. It has provided me with the resources to undertake skills training to enable me to perform the research effectively. This research project is timely as increasingly health policy aims to move services out of hospital and into the community, better integrating them with the needs of patients and leading to a better quality of experience’.

Pharmacy Research Wales is a multi-stakeholder collaboration established to develop a pharmacy research strategy for Wales and is led by the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee. Their strategy is aimed at all Health Service and Pharmacy Practitioners interested in medicines use research that influences practice and policy to benefit the health of the people of Wales and beyond. It addresses the needs of the pharmacy profession in relation to research, culture, workforce, knowledge sharing and research priorities.

The Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust was established in 1925, at the wish of William Hesketh Lever, who left a share of his wealth to provide grants for the benefit of chemists, grocers and commercial travellers. We are very grateful to the Trust for providing funding for our research training bursaries and personal research awards.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is the professional membership body for pharmacists and pharmacy in Great Britain. It leads and promotes the advancement of science, practice and education in pharmacy to shape and influence the future delivery of pharmacy driven services. It supports and empowers its members to improve health outcomes for society through research, professional guidance, networks and resources.

RPS hosts PRUK and its staff and we work closely together to develop targeted guidance for researchers as well as running training courses and collaborating on promoting appropriate activities.
Research Impact

We use the online system Researchfish to track the progress of the awards and projects that we have funded.

Since our inception we have awarded over £1.7 million towards our research grants, awards and bursaries. In 2017 we have funded over £285k across our different funding schemes.

Over 30 pharmacy professionals have been supported by PRUK to develop their research skills and obtain a range of qualifications to help them progress onto the next stages of their research career. We have committed over £500k to develop capacity in the profession, including contributions to the completion of PhDs, as well as funding other short courses and masters programmes.

To date, we have funded over 55 projects progressing pharmacy research in the UK that are building the capacity of pharmacists to lead research and are having a significant impact on improving patient care.

Our research continues to explore the pertinent issues relevant in the field today, through both large and small scale projects that have informed local practice, sparked interest in the pharmacy research sector and provided platforms for further investigative research.

In 2017, PRUK-funded projects resulted in 26 published outputs and 20 journal publications.

This year saw another BOPA-PRUK research award, where we have funded the second project in this prosperous partnership, providing opportunities for novice researchers to lead their first ever research project.

Our projects have secured an additional £1 million from other charities and government funded schemes following our funded research.

This shows that research funded by us is not only valuable, but also leads to further research that will benefit patients in the future.
“When the Welsh Government announced a move towards a Prudent approach to Health Care in 2014, pain management was highlighted as one of the first areas for review. There have also been two reviews by the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse into fears over the misuse of prescribed analgesics, opioids being the greatest concern. These initiatives highlighted the understanding of opioid prescribing in Wales was not complete; available prescribing data is limited as it does not provide information about why the drugs were prescribed and knowing that is fundamental to improving care in future.

My research examines the trends in opioid prescribing in Wales over the last 10 years and whether there is an association with opioid use and other health care utilisation i.e. do people using opioids use more services than those who do not. I will also be undertaking an economic evaluation of the costs to the Health Service of opioid prescribing which I believe are greater than simply the price of the drugs.

I am using the funding provided by Pharmacy Research UK to access Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) datasets, which cover the majority of the general practices in Wales, in addition to hospital attendances and other public services data. This will provide a comprehensive view of how prescribing and health care utilisation fit together within the area of pain management and is a great opportunity to utilise the rich data and expertise available from the team in SAIL.”
Research Funding 2017

This year, PRUK awarded over £285k in research fellowship and grant funding. These awards cover a range of topics that will impact pharmacy services and care and inform research for the future. These awards include funding under our partnership with BOPA and the coveted Project Grants.

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<th>Research Training Bursaries</th>
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<th>Personal Research Awards</th>
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<th>Partnership Awards</th>
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<td><strong>Scheme</strong></td>
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<td>BOPA-PRUK Research Award</td>
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### Project Grants

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<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grant</td>
<td>Professor Mandy Ryan</td>
<td>University of Aberdeen</td>
<td>Improving the patient-pharmacist interaction: A new approach to help patients make informed decisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grant</td>
<td>Professor Bryony Dean Franklin</td>
<td>Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust</td>
<td>The use of Patient-Held Information about Medication to support medicines optimisation (the PHIMed study)</td>
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2017 PRUK Awards and Bursaries Holders
Researcher Profile

Sion Scott, Pharmacist and PhD student at the University of East Anglia.

Sion was awarded a Personal Research Award in 2017 for his project ‘Developing a model for deprescribing in hospital’.

“The award has enabled me to attend a one-week course introduction to the principles and practice of behaviour change. This training has allowed me to apply behavioural theory to the design of an intervention to support deprescribing in hospital. Being able to apply behavioural theory at the design process is extremely important, since deprescribing is a complex and challenging process, we are able to gain a theoretical understanding of the likely process of change required. Attendance of the course would not have been possible without PRUK support.

Through my research I have recently started a questionnaire study looking at the views of older people and their informal caregivers towards deprescribing in hospital. We were very fortunate to have this study adopted onto the NIHR Clinical Research Network portfolio and thus benefit from additional research nurse and administrator support with recruitment.

The study has had a great start, with recruitment into the patient arm completed within three weeks. Adoption onto NIHR Clinical Research Network portfolio was made possible through PRUK, an NIHR non-commercial partner being the project sponsor. Additionally, the use of electronic tablets, again made possible because of the PRUK award, has been a huge success and has eliminated the need to input participant answers into a database, saving time and eliminating user error.”

2017 in numbers

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<th>Active Projects</th>
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<th>New Grants Awarded</th>
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<th>Researchers Working</th>
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<th>Institutions Across</th>
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<th>Early Career Researchers Supported</th>
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<th>Capacity and Capability Fund</th>
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Communication Highlights

PRUK hosted a Tweetchat with @WePharmacists and the RPS. The Tweetchat was part of the international #whywedoResearch campaign which aimed to gather and dissect professionals’ experiences and attitudes towards research and evaluation. The chat was very popular, with 89 contributors, 391 tweets and a total reach of 1,510,443.

PRUK have expanded our social media channels to include Facebook and LinkedIn to ensure we are involved in every part of the conversation on pharmacy research.

We were delighted that a pharmacy research project, jointly funded by PRUK and the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA) was profiled in AMRC’s research impact report. This research was commissioned in 2014 to investigate unlicensed medicines use across the multidisciplinary team and was led by Gemma Donovan.

Our Reach

Communications in numbers

1,290 tweets providing 837,000 impressions

30% increase in twitter followers

Most Popular Tweet - “We’ve just launched our mentoring scheme! Sign up to be a mentor or mentee at pharmacyresearchuk.org/mentoring/"

52,000 views on our website

33 press releases promoting our funded research, responding to appropriate news stories and announcing our funding opportunities

Celebrating Excellence

We sponsored the RPS-PRUK 2017 Pharmacy Practice Research Award. The winner was Dr Sarah Slight from Newcastle University (pictured bottom-left) who received £1,000 and delivered a lecture at the RPS Winter Summit entitled, “How can health information technologies improve patient safety?”

We sponsored the first RPS Research Fellows Forum, which explored the career direction of pharmacists into research and the different support programmes available. This event was a huge success and we look forward to sponsoring the next event.

We had a presence at the RPS Winter Summit: Bridging the gap between industry, academia, policy and practice. The conference was designed to showcase the latest innovations in science, research and education and explore how they impact across pharmacy and healthcare. PRUK wrote a blog summarising the highlights of the day.
HSRPP Conference

Pharmacy Research UK is proud to co-host the Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice Conference (HSRPP). The annual conference has been held over two days for the past 24 years. We are committed to embracing change, development and innovation and to supporting young researchers. As such, the HSRPP conference places particular emphasis on disseminating the work of early career pharmacy practice researchers. The conference has a global reach and its papers are published in the prestigious International Journal of Pharmacy Practice.

The 2017 HSRPP Conference was hosted by the University of Nottingham, set in the stunning 330 acre parkland ground on the main University Park Campus on the 10th and 11th of April. The conference theme “Drivers for Change: Influencing Policy, Practice and Education” was a great success, with delegates enjoying a number of engaging keynote speakers and workshops.

A number of our past and current PRUK funded researchers also presented oral and poster presentations at the event.

The 2018 conference will be hosted by the University of Newcastle with preparations already well underway. We look forward to seeing you there.

"My first HSRPP conference - and it was the best conference I've ever attended! I loved the focus on pharmacy practice research - which was so relevant & interesting. Fantastic organisation too, and the atmosphere was so relaxed throughout both days. I returned motivated and enthused!” - 2016 Delegate

"We were delighted to welcome over 160 attendees to the very successful 23rd HSRPP conference at Nottingham around the theme of driving change to improve practice. The PRUK team provided great support to make the conference the success it was” – Professor Matthew Boyd, Associate Professor in Patient Safety and Pharmacy Practice at Nottingham University

2017 Team Highlights

At PRUK, we have seen another productive year full of activities that have demonstrated the value of pharmacy research and supported novice researchers in the sector.

Demonstrating the value of pharmacy research:

- We funded 2 project grants worth almost £200k, each conducting high impact research for the advancement of the profession.
- We awarded a record amount of over £285k to further pharmacy research, through supporting the development of pharmacist skills and knowledge, to providing the support for impactful projects to be undertaken.
- We secured over £100k from the Leverhulme Trust to ensure that we can continue to fund training bursaries for the next three years.

Supporting Researchers:

- This year saw the launch of the PRUK Mentoring Scheme, engaging researchers with a wide range of experience who can support each other, to strengthen the state of pharmacy research.
- We sponsored a research proposal workshop in January 2017, hosted by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, to provide guidance to pharmacists on putting together a competitive research bid.
- We collaborated with the RPS to host monthly research advice surgeries for researchers looking to develop funding applications.

Pharmacy Research UK is proud to co-host the Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice Conference (HSRPP). The annual conference has been held over two days for the past 24 years. We are committed to embracing change, development and innovation and to supporting young researchers. As such, the HSRPP conference places particular emphasis on disseminating the work of early career pharmacy practice researchers. The conference has a global reach and its papers are published in the prestigious International Journal of Pharmacy Practice.

The 2017 HSRPP Conference was hosted by the University of Nottingham, set in the stunning 330 acre parkland ground on the main University Park Campus on the 10th and 11th of April. The conference theme “Drivers for Change: Influencing Policy, Practice and Education” was a great success, with delegates enjoying a number of engaging keynote speakers and workshops.

A number of our past and current PRUK funded researchers also presented oral and poster presentations at the event.

The 2018 conference will be hosted by the University of Newcastle with preparations already well underway. We look forward to seeing you there.

"My first HSRPP conference - and it was the best conference I've ever attended! I loved the focus on pharmacy practice research - which was so relevant & interesting. Fantastic organisation too, and the atmosphere was so relaxed throughout both days. I returned motivated and enthused!” - 2016 Delegate

"We were delighted to welcome over 160 attendees to the very successful 23rd HSRPP conference at Nottingham around the theme of driving change to improve practice. The PRUK team provided great support to make the conference the success it was” – Professor Matthew Boyd, Associate Professor in Patient Safety and Pharmacy Practice at Nottingham University

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2018 and Beyond...

As PRUK enters into its 6th year and looks towards the future, we are proud to further support pharmacists and researchers working within pharmacy practice to develop their skills in conducting high quality research and further support pharmacy research as a key driver in policy change and patient benefit.

As we look forward, we are excited to:

- Continue to provide competitive funding opportunities to build researcher capacity across the UK
- Engage and support researchers to build competitive research proposals via workshops
- Promote and support researchers via the PRUK Mentoring Scheme
- Develop an online interactive community of pharmacy researchers to stimulate collaboration and celebrate expertise
- Deliver the 2018 HSRPP conference in Newcastle and begin work for the 2019 HSRPP conference to be held in Birmingham
- Publish PRUK-funded research findings and highlight PRUK policy through our communication channels
- Continue to promote the role of pharmacy services, the value of research and the positive impact these can have on patient care