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Foreword

2019 was a hugely positive year for Pharmacy Research UK (PRUK) as we continued to support some fantastic research projects, while also establishing a number of excellent partnerships that will help extend our reach and impact in coming years. It was also a strong year financially, building up our reserves to ensure that we were as well set as possible for the challenges of 2020. We were delighted to award our first partnership grant with the College of Mental Health Pharmacy (CMHP), a partnership that we are set to continue into 2020 alongside our fantastic ongoing relationship with the British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA). We also launched our major new partnership with Diabetes UK, which has the potential to be one of the largest awards we have ever offered. The programme offers funding jointly with Diabetes UK (through their project grant scheme) for exploring how pharmacy can support patients with diabetes. Alongside all of this we continued to offer our vital developmental awards and bursaries, supported by the Leverhulme Trust, helping to build the pharmacy research workforce of the future. This review provides a short overview of some of our activity in 2019, showing how we continue to support important transformative pharmacy research work and support pharmacists to build their research careers. We are indebted as always to our partners, our supporters and all those who give their time to help our work such as our trustees and Scientific Advisory Panel.

PRUK faces the new challenges of 2020 from a position of strength, thanks to all the work from our team, our partners and of course the incredible pharmacy researchers whose work can make such a crucial difference in challenging times for healthcare.

Anthony Smith
Chair of Trustees

Guy Parckar
Chief Executive
Our mission

Our vision is to improve the health of the public through excellence in pharmacy research. 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

About us

PRUK funds capacity building and original research to help pharmacy and pharmacists improve the public’s health and deliver better outcomes for patients. 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 support policy and practice relevant to pharmacy, health and social care.
Our Board of Trustees sets strategy, determines priorities, establishes funding policies and allocates 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.

**Mrs Susan Ashelby**
Sue’s career has been in hospital clinical pharmacy with experience in education and training as well as GP prescribing advice. She has taught at the Welsh School of Pharmacy since 1999.

**Mr Martin Astbury**
Martin became the first President of the new Royal Pharmaceutical Society in October 2010 and returned as president in July 2016 for his fifth term. A member of the RPS English Pharmacy Board and ex-officio of the Scottish and Welsh boards, he also has a patient facing role with WM Morrisons Pharmacies. Martin is Vice-President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation community pharmacy section and a council member of the Commonwealth Pharmacist Association.

**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. and two NHS regions.

**Mr Raymond Anderson**
Raymond is a pharmacist, running two busy community pharmacies in Portadown in Northern Ireland. Alongside this he has held a wide range of professional and non-executive roles, including as President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and President of the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association.
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.

Mr Malcolm Harrison
Malcolm is the Chief Executive of the Company Chemists’ Association (CCA). The CCA is the trade association for large pharmacy operators in England, Scotland and Wales. Previously Malcolm worked as part of the Walgreens Boots Alliance International Healthcare Public Affairs team. In 2016 Malcolm became a Fellow of the NHS Innovation Accelerator programme, working with NHS England and the Academic Health Science Networks to develop new ways in which innovation and technology in pharmacy can be brought to market at scale within the NHS.

Malcolm previously worked in a variety of roles within Boots UK both as a pharmacist and within retail operations. Malcolm has been a registered pharmacist for over 20 years and is a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. He holds a CIPR Diploma in Public Affairs.

Dr Victoria King
Victoria joined the Pharmacy Research UK trustee board in 2019, bringing with her a wealth of experience in research strategy and grant management. She is currently Director of Grants at Barts Charity, one of the UK’s oldest and largest foundations focused on improvements to healthcare. Prior to this she held a number of different roles at the Wellcome Trust, most recently as Head of Science Strategy Delivery, and has held positions at several research-funding charities including Diabetes UK and Asthma UK.

Dr Dimitri Varsamis
Dimitri Varsamis works at NHS England on health strategy and policy. He has worked in a variety of roles across the healthcare sector, as well as NHS England he has held roles at the Care Quality Commission, the Healthcare Commission and a number of health trusts. He has a background in academic research, as well as previous experience in non-executive and advisory roles. He joined the Pharmacy Research UK trustee board in 2019.

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.

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.

Professor Christine Bond
Christine is Professor of Primary Care (Pharmacy), and Head of Centre of Academic Primary Care, University of Aberdeen.

Dr Debi Bhattacharyya
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 UEA and the research lead for the medicines management team.

Dr Jo Taylor
Jo is a social scientist with a background in social policy and applied health sciences. Her research focuses on the management of medical complexity and multi-morbidity, treatment decision-making and patient self-management. Jo has worked on a number of large inter-disciplinary programmes of research, primarily leading qualitative and mixed methods studies within these. She has significant experience in conducting primary research with hard to reach populations.
Dr Douglas Steinke
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.

Professor Carmel Hughes
Carmel is Professor of Primary Care Pharmacy and Director of Research (Pharmaceutical Sciences and Practice Cluster) at the School of Pharmacy at Queen’s University Belfast.

MS Rebecca Harmston
I am a lay member on a number of grant funding panels including Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB), The NIHR Health Technology Assessment Panel, the All Wales Research Panel (AWRP) and also the RfPBB in Wales. My main interests are making sure that patients understand study information sheets, reviewing grant applications and helping academic researchers write clear grant applications or study proposals.

Dr Adam Todd
Adam Todd (PhD, FRPharmS) is a Reader in Pharmaceutical Public Health at Newcastle University, UK. His research is highly interdisciplinary and uses methods from the social sciences, public health, clinical medicine, and epidemiology. He is an expert in pharmaceutical public health interventions, including screening and immunisation programmes, and is interested in exploring how such interventions can be used to reduce inequalities in health.

Professor Kristian Pollock
Kristian is Professor of Medical Sociology at the Nottingham Centre for the Advancement of Research into Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care (NCARE). She has carried qualitative research in a wide range of health service settings, often involving sensitive topics and vulnerable populations and has experience of undertaking observation, interviews, focus groups, and case studies as well as mixed methods research.
Our funding priorities

We want to ensure that our resources deliver the greatest possible impact. To ensure that the research we fund addresses key current issues and can help drive positive change, we have agreed a broad set of themes and issues as a focus for the work that we fund.

The pharmacist – workforce/skills
Exploring the current and future needs of pharmacists, the nature of the role and the people who practice.

The future of pharmacy
Research investigating the role of pharmacy in the future, and how it can develop to deliver increased patient benefit, given the changing landscape of healthcare.

Pharmacy and patients
Research exploring the way in which pharmacists and other professionals in pharmacy engage with and support patients, and how this might change and develop.

Safe medicines use
Research exploring medicine safety and efficiency, understanding the role of pharmacists and other service providers in ensuring the best use and outcomes from pharmaceutical care.

Mental health and pharmaceutical care
Research exploring how pharmacists can best support and work with people with mental health conditions.

Pharmacy and long-term conditions
Research exploring how pharmacists can best support people with long-term conditions.
What we fund

In 2019, PRUK offered funding through the following schemes:

**Research Training Bursaries**
The bursary scheme is intended to support pharmacists who have an interest in developing their skills in conducting research relating to everyday practice. From undertaking a research module, to undertaking a master’s degree, the bursaries offer support in a range of training and educational opportunities.

**Research Development Awards**
Development Awards, formerly known as the Personal Research Awards, are designed 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 award, co-funded by BOPA, is 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.

**CMHP-PRUK Research Award**
This award, co-funded by CMHP, is to support research showcasing the benefit that pharmacy can have in mental health research and improving the lives of patients who suffer from poor mental health.
Research impact

We are pleased to have funded more than £2million of research across project grants, developmental awards and training bursaries, providing opportunities for pharmacists to develop their research skills and showcase how pharmacy can benefit patients in a wide range of areas. In 2019, we funded £110k of new awards across our different funding schemes.

In 2019 alone, at least 20 outputs have been published from the research awards funded by PRUK. The vast majority of publications were submitted as original journal articles accepted across a range of journals, from the British Journal of General Practice, to the International Journal of Pharmacy Practice.

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. Over 43 pharmacy professionals have been supported by to further develop their research skills and obtain a range of qualifications to help them progress onto the next stages of their research career.
Our partners

Through working in partnership with other organisations we have been able to extend our reach and fund additional projects across the pharmacy research sector.

We are delighted to have continued our partnership with the British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA). 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 exposure and experience in conducting their own research project.

ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) generously host Pharmacy Research UK in their offices in London. The 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.

LEVERHULME TRUST

The Leverhulme Trade Charities was established in 1925, by Will of William Hesketh Lever, who left a share of his wealth to provide grants for the benefit of chemists, grocers and commercial travellers and for their families. The Trust supports our Research Training Bursaries and Personal Research Award schemes.

We are working with the College of Mental Health Pharmacy to provide funding for professionals who wish to undertake research for the benefit of patients with mental health conditions, ensuring the safe and effective use of medicines through improved pharmaceutical care.
We are delighted to have partnered with Diabetes UK to provide up to £50,000 towards research investigating the role of pharmacy in the diagnosis, treatment and management of diabetes. The Diabetes UK project grant scheme launched in December and is due to be awarded in 2020.

We will be supporting proposals that offer research in the following areas:

- **the role of pharmacy and pharmacists in better supporting people with diabetes**;
- **pharmacists’ role in early diagnosis of diabetes**;
- **improving medicines’ optimisation and medicine safety**;
- **overcoming health inequalities within diabetes care**;
- **better understanding and supporting people with diabetes who have co-morbidities**;
- **improving the delivery of pharmacy service for people with diabetes**;
- **development of new patient facing pharmacy services for people with diabetes**.

Guy Parckar, chief executive of PRUK said: We are absolutely delighted to be working with Diabetes UK with this new partnership. Pharmacists can play a crucial role in supporting people with diabetes – from diagnosis to ongoing management.
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We are absolutely delighted to be working with Diabetes UK with this new partnership. Pharmacists can play a crucial role in supporting people with diabetes – from diagnosis to ongoing management.

The Diabetes UK project grant scheme launched in December. Guy’s quote

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 in numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>31</strong> active projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong> newly contracted research projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>£110k</strong> of funding committed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>43</strong> pharmacists supported to conduct research</td>
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I am absolutely thrilled to have been awarded this grant. It will be contributing to my Doctorate (PharmD) which will be exploring the misuse of over the counter (OTC) and prescription only medication (POM) by people accessing substance misuse treatment services. I am particularly interested in the impact on mental health, physical wellbeing and the use of other substances. This is a subject matter for which there is currently a paucity of published evidence. I intend to complete a systematic literature review, conduct a large scale survey of people’s experiences, then more in depth interviews with both staff and service users.

I work for Humankind, a national third sector organisation, who provide specialist substance misuse treatment services, including help and support for people who misuse OTCs and POMs. Furthering our understanding should enable treatment services, like those that Humankind offers, to continue to improve the quality of care provision.

As the Director of Pharmacy for Humankind, I hope that the experience of undertaking this research will allow me to further specialise in substance misuse (having previously completed postgraduate qualifications including a MSc in Psychiatric Pharmacy). This grant is going to have a significant personal impact: I was otherwise having to take on a notable amount of additional self-employed work (on top of working full time, other professional and personal commitments) to afford to undertake this research. In addition, the monies will enable increased involvement by people with lived experience and improved dissemination of the findings too.

Roz Gittins – CMHP-PRUK research award holder
I applied for funding from PRUK in order to undertake a PhD by publication. This is an alternative method of obtaining a doctorate and involves drawing together the candidate’s career publication list within an over-arching theme. Once this is done to the satisfaction of the university, a thesis summary is written over one year that demonstrates a body of work that is equivalent to a conventional PhD, by articulating how the publications fit together and make a unique contribution. I was encouraged to pursue the route of PhD by publication as an experienced pharmacist who had regularly published over a number of years. My publications included smaller scale research projects, proof-of-concept studies, and other types of publication such as journal articles and book chapters. It was a privilege to go through the process of reviewing my publications, setting them in the context of current pharmacy practice and seeing the impacts of what I had produced.

My publication theme was ‘medicines optimisation’, and my thesis demonstrated how my work and that of others cohered with or influenced the concept long before it was articulated. I was also able to make a case for refining one of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society’s four principles of medicines optimisation. The PhD writing process made me critically reflect on the type of researcher that I am, and most importantly, help me to demonstrate that smaller scale practice research is of real value – it’s not just about randomised controlled trials. This revelation has motivated me to encourage pharmacists to ‘dip their toes’ into research and publication, and to write up more of the existing work that pharmacists regularly undertake but remains unpublished. Moreover, there are likely to be a number of senior pharmacists who have a good publication list that would make them eligible for PhD by publication, thereby improving the confidence and credibility of the profession.

I am enormously grateful to PRUK for making my PhD by publication application possible.

Barry Jubraj, 2018 Level 1 Research Training Bursary award holder
Our team

I started work as chief executive of Pharmacy Research UK (PRUK) in June 2018 and am responsible, working alongside our trustees and staff team, for the overall management, strategy and operations of the charity. I have worked in the charity sector for more than a decade, most recently as the CEO of a small health-related charity, and before that working in policy, campaigns and communications roles in a large disability charity. I’ve also served as a trustee at two small charities, and prior to that worked in Parliament. I am based at PRUK’s office in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in London.

Guy Parckar, Chief Executive

My role is to manage the research commissioning and monitoring processes for the charity. This involves preparing the funding calls and working with our partners to ensure that the research priorities are relevant. I ensure that the applications for funding are reviewed by our internal panels and external reviewers, ensuring compliance with the Association of Medical Research Charities principles. I work closely with the researchers and the contracting organisations to ensure timely completion of contracting and awarding procedures. I enjoy seeing the results of the research we fund and am proud to see pharmacists developing their research skills further, for the benefit of patients and health service research overall.

Desh Mofidi, Research Manager

I am responsible for managing the daily financial operations for the organisation, as well as assist with daily administrative tasks. My role is to send daily tweets including any latest developments or upcoming events. I work with the PRUK team to support fundraising initiatives and also monitor the social media, including the webpage. My aim is to help PRUK to grow & patients to get the best medical care needed.

Halima Begum, Research Coordinator
Our projects - map

Our research has explored large scale issues of national interest through to smaller projects that have informed local practice.

- **Cardiff**: University of Cardiff
  Number of researchers funded: 1

- **Reading**: University of Reading
  Number of researchers funded: 1

- **Bath**: University of Bath
  Number of researchers funded: 1

- **Swansea**: Swansea University
  Number of researchers funded: 1

- **Bradford**: University of Bradford
  Number of researchers funded: 1

- **Manchester**: University of Manchester
  Number of researchers funded: 1

- **Sheffield**: Sheffield University
  Number of researchers funded: 1

- **Sunderland**: University of Sunderland
  Number of researchers funded: 6

- **Norwich**: University of East Anglia
  Number of researchers funded: 4

- **London**: Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, King’s College London, Kingston University, University College London Hospital, University College London
  Number of researchers funded: 8

- **Aberdeen**: Robert Gordon University
  Number of researchers funded: 2
## 2019 Research Projects

### RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galen award</td>
<td>Comfort Mshelia</td>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>Barriers and facilitators to the prescribing and use of medicines to manage neuropathic pain in primary care settings in the United Kingdom: a mixed methods study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galen award</td>
<td>Catriona Matheson</td>
<td>Health Research Consultancy</td>
<td>Making Community Pharmacies Psychologically Informed Environments: A Feasibility study to improve engagement with people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leverhulme award</td>
<td>Simon Harris</td>
<td>Green Light Healthcare Ltd</td>
<td>Development of a tool to facilitate collaborative working between GPs and community pharmacists: a mixed methods study</td>
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### RESEARCH TRAINING BURSARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Alexander Moore</td>
<td>University of Sunderland</td>
<td>University of Sunderland: MSc in Clinical Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Tarirai Moyo</td>
<td>University of Sunderland</td>
<td>MSc Clinical Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Justin Hayde-West</td>
<td>London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>MSc Public Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Level 3
Vanessa Reid
The University of Manchester
Masters of Clinical Research (M ClinRes) at the University of Manchester

PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

BOPA-PRUK
Kumud Kantilal
University of East Anglia
Designing Services for Cancer in Older people (DiSCO)

CMHP-PRUK
Roz Gittins
Humankind
An exploration of the misuse of Over the Counter (OTC) and Prescription Only Medication (POM) by people accessing substance misuse treatment services

Researcher profile

The funding I have received from PRUK has enabled me to use prescribing data from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink to investigate the effect of patient factors on the outcomes of inhaled corticosteroids in COPD. I have been able to develop my research skills by attending courses that I would have otherwise been unable to attend due to financial restrictions. This has been particularly important in enabling me to learn how to use advanced statistical software packages to analyse my data, and will be of great use in my future career. Furthermore, PRUK have supported in me in being able to submit research papers to high impact, open-access journals.

Kimberley Sonnex, 2017 Research Development Award holder
Pharmacy Research UK is proud to support the annual Health Service Research and Pharmacy Practice (HSRPP) conference, as part of our commitment to supporting the development of early career researchers. The 2019 conference was hosted by the University of Birmingham. Dr Anthony Cox, lead host of the 2019 conference, says:

The HSRPP is one of the key events in the Pharmacy Practice research calendar and 2019’s was a great success. The quality of research, the thoughts it provokes, and the sense of community it fosters are so important. As chair, I was struck by how much younger researchers got from the event, which provides a friendly inclusive environment to share ideas.
2020 and beyond

- Continue to support new pharmacy research and help to build the pharmacy research workforce through our developmental awards and bursaries;

- Ensure that PRUK remains in a solid, sustainable position to continue supporting pharmacy research in the challenging economic times ahead;

- Continue to develop new funding partnerships, allowing us to extend the reach and impact of our funding;

- Ensure through ongoing review and improvement that we can continue to work to best practice across our assessment and review processes;

- Supporting the HSRPP conference through 2020 and beyond.
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London, E1W 1AW

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