Pharmacy Research UK

e-news

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Pill School Project

As part of Pharmacy Research UK (PRUK)'s £250k funding into larger projects, we are delighted to announce that we will be funding research into developing a "Pill School". This project is designed to help train young patients to take tablets and capsules and will be hosted, and part funded, by the Evelina London Children's Hospital. It will be led by Dr Asia Rashed, Research Pharmacist at King's College London.

This project's aims are to develop an intervention to help children learn how to swallow solid dosage forms; to test and evaluate this intervention within a hospital setting; to identify the proportion of children at the study site who can, with training, be swapped from liquid medicines to tablets/capsules; and to assess the opinions of the Pill School from the child, their parents and the healthcare professionals involved in the study.

This project will have far-reaching implications and valuable outputs for sick children as it will provide a template that will be of lasting benefit to children in many other hospitals. By teaching the paediatric population how to

swallow medication in tablet form, a fundamental improvement to a sick child's safety, quality of life and wellbeing will be achieved.

Read our Pill School Press Release

Annual Review 2017

PRUK is delighted to publish its Annual Research Review for 2017. The report provides an overview of all PRUK activity that took place over 2017, including information on our funding and patient and public involvement processes, a roundup of our 2017 awards and researcher profiles. It also showcases new initiatives such as the PRUK mentoring scheme. Finally, the review reflects on team highlights and achievements and culminates with our vision for 2018 and beyond, as we share our plans to continue to provide a strong evidence base for the practice of pharmacy.

Read our 2017 Annual Review

Awards and Bursaries – deadline approaching

The deadline for the 2018 Awards and Bursaries funding schemes is just over one month away! For further information on the schemes that we have to offer, please visit our Awards and Bursaries homepage.

Whether you are thinking of gaining more research knowledge into a particular methodology, undertaking a master's degree, or wanting to lead on your own research project, then we can provide the funding you need to

help you reach those goals. All applications are assessed on a competitive basis.

Remember that from this year, all funding opportunities are open to both Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and non-RPS members.

HSRPP

The 2018 Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice (HSRPP) Conference is fast approaching! The 24th HSRPP conference will be hosted by Newcastle University under the theme 'Innovative Healthcare in the 21st Century: Providing smarter, safer, and patient-centred health services' from April 12th – 13th.

Ticket booking for HSRPP 2018 is now closed. We look forward to seeing all the attendees there!

For those who are unable to attend, keep an eye on our twitter feed for information and live-updates from the conference!

Emma Davies' research on BBC News Wales

PRUK were delighted to see our researcher Emma Davies at the forefront of an important national conversation on the prevalence of opioid prescribing and misuse in Wales. The report was investigating the claim that inconsistent pain services across Wales are the driving force behind the recent spike in strong painkiller prescriptions. Concerns over the risk of dependence, tolerance and addiction have been raised by previous research conducted in the field. However, patients' adherence to opioids, the incidence of side effects, risks of dependence and addiction and the impact on patients' general health are not clearly defined in a Welsh or UK-wide population.

Emma's study 'Trends in Opioid Prescribing and Associated Resource Utilisation in Wales' serves as the first large-scale study of opioid prescribing in these populations. The project explores the overall use of opioids in the Welsh population and examines the impact of existing prescribing patterns and the potential benefits of change, as well as the effectiveness and safety of long term opioid use in the management of chronic pain. It aims to develop an economic model that enables the full costs of opioid use in chronic, non-cancer pain to be more accurately determined, in order to inform the development of more effective services for pain management and improved use of medicines.

Call for Peer Reviewers

We are seeking to recruit volunteers with pharmacy, health services research, social science, medical and methodological backgrounds to peer review applications for our awards and bursaries. By widening the pool of peer reviewers, PRUK will ensure access to expertise across a broad range of topics within pharmacy research.

Peer review is the process where experts review the work of other researchers in the same topic area of discipline to ensure that the scientific integrity of the work is upheld. Peer reviewers are primarily involved in assessing applications for research funding and form a crucial part of the funding decision process.

Peer Reviewing will not involve substantial time commitments, as we only get in touch with our reviewers once a year (in May) to send a couple of applications to review. We recommend that those looking to enhance their professional networks sign up as this will serve as a brilliant opportunity to increase networking possibilities within research communities.

If interested, please sign up here

How mentoring can help progress your career

We published a story from Dr Debra Robertson, one of our mentees who signed up to our scheme last year. Debra, a Lead Oncology Pharmacist at the Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, had never received formal mentoring before signing up to our programme and was seeking advice from an experienced peer on how to get her work published. She was matched with Professor Zaheer Babar, a Professor in Medicines and Healthcare at the University of Huddersfield. Zaheer is also Editor-in-Chief at the BMC Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice and has contributed to 105 research contributions.

Debra: "*For me the matching process worked well and my first experience being mentored has been a pleasure. I would recommend the PRUK mentoring scheme without hesitation for anyone seeking to challenge themselves and develop their research skills."*

Desh Mofidi PRUK's Research Manager: *"The PRUK Mentoring Scheme launched in October 2017 and is open to all pharmacy researchers who either wish to seek guidance from an experienced mentor or would like to offer their experiences and expertise to novice research professionals. We have matched over 5 pairs and look forward to welcoming new participants to the scheme."*

Read the article here

Blog: Why the steep learning curve of the PhD is worth it

A PhD is commonly acknowledged as one of the toughest tests anyone can face during their academic career. Personal award recipient Emma Davies wrote a blog for PRUK on how she has learnt to overcome some of the challenges associated with a PhD and successfully balance a clinical role with a research degree. Her thoughts and experiences will resonate with many pharmacists with a clinical background, who have developed an academic interest after being exposed to how research impacts on patient care. Emma's blog lends itself as an example of why it is important to bridge the gap between pharmacy research and clinical practice in order to advance knowledge on current treatments and medicines.

Read the blog here

Events

PRUK Presentations

PRUK were delighted to have the opportunity to present at both the RPS/PRUK Proposal Writing Workshop and the first WHO Global Challenge: Medication Without Harm seminar hosted by UCL School of Pharmacy's Centre for Medicines Optimisation Research and Education (CMORE). Desh Mofidi presented on the funding opportunities and the support initiatives available for registered pharmacists who are looking to get research active. PRUK plan to attend further events to showcase the services we provide to new audiences in the pharmacy field.

FIP Congress in Glasgow

The 2018 FIP (International Pharmaceutical Federation) Congress invites pharmacy practitioners and pharmaceutical scientists from around the world to come together to consider ways of extending and enhancing the role of pharmacists so that they play a full part in ensuring patients, and health systems, achieve full benefit from the medicines people take.

Call for Abstract Submissions:

- Abstracts can be submitted under the following topics: Academic Pharmacy, Community Pharmacy, Hospital Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy, Military and Emergency Pharmacy, Health and Medicines Information, Social and Administrative Pharmacy, History of Pharmacy and Pharmacy Technicians.

- Deadline is 1 April 2018

Book your place at FIP through their Glasgow website

Could you be our new CEO?

With the departure of Rachel Joynes, we are currently recruiting for a new CEO. Responsibilities will include leading and managing the organisation, increasing the funding available for pharmaceutical research directly from PRUK's own resources and indirectly via co-funding opportunities, and overseeing the grant management. The CEO will work closely with the Board of Trustees to deliver PRUK's vision and strategy as well as overseeing all aspects of policy, fundraising, partnership, impact and communications.

We are looking for an ambitious leader and a strong communicator, with senior management experience including relationship development, marketing and external affairs. Other skills required are strong networking, influencing and ambassadorial skills. Ideally, any candidate will have experience of working in: applied research charities; Education bodies with a science base; the NHS (especially its R&D); Government; or Biotech/Pharma companies.

For more information on the role see our news story

Research News

Medication Management in Older people: the MEMORABLE study in Join Dementia Research

Reducing Medication Errors National Summit 2018

Data Saves Lives Campaign

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