

## Project Overview

The Community Pharmacy Research Support Centre, a national consortium of nine academic pharmacy units in Australia, was established in September 2003. The Centre is coordinated from the Faculty of Pharmacy in The University of Sydney, with nodes in The University of South Australia, Adelaide; La Trobe University, Bendigo; The University of Queensland, Brisbane; the University of Tasmania, Hobart; Monash University, Melbourne; Curtin University of Technology, Perth; James Cook University, Townsville; and Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. Governance of the Centre is effected through an Executive Group, comprising a representative of each of the nine nodes, with a chair elected from the membership.

The overall purpose of the Centre is to develop and support community pharmacy practice research expertise and capacity.

The nine nodes contribute individually and collectively to a series of programs that are intended to:

- promote a research culture in community pharmacy practice;
- provide community pharmacists with access to training and education in research methods and practical aspects of research project management;
- provide support to community pharmacists who wish to participate in or undertake research, including advice on the preparation of grant applications;
- foster research collaborations among community pharmacists, and between community pharmacists and researchers in other fields;
- generate a database of Australian and international community pharmacy research, covering published and unpublished reports;
- obtain relevant materials from the PharmInterCom<sup>1</sup> countries for incorporation in the research database;
- facilitate international collaborations among the PharmInterCom countries, particularly on projects that use methods which can be applied trans-nationally;
- generate reports on topics of interest to the Pharmacy Guild and the Commonwealth
- promote community pharmacy research in the pharmacy profession, government and non-government agencies, and the health industry; and

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<sup>1</sup> PharmInterCom is a group representing peak pharmacy policy interests in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

- promote awareness of the contribution of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to the development of community pharmacy research nationally and internationally.

These programs have been formalised as the five objectives of the Centre.

## Objectives

- 1) Develop and maintain a register of national and international literature and resources related to the remuneration or economics of professional pharmacy services (remunerated by consumers, government or third party payers).
- 2) Develop and maintain an international database of community pharmacy practice research.
- 3) Establish an international pharmacy practice research collaboration, (including the seven PharInterCom countries) to progress collaborative and comparable research on the value of pharmacy professional services.
- 4) Generate reports on issues of interest to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging.
- 5) Facilitate the involvement of and increase the number of community pharmacists participating in pharmacy practice research by:
  - a. Conducting a workshop to ascertain the interest of pharmacists participating in research and the education and support they require.
  - b. Developing a website containing a searchable database of upcoming and ongoing research projects and a searchable database of pharmacists interested in research.
  - c. Conducting a nation-wide survey of randomly selected Australian community pharmacists to determine their attitudes towards and involvement in pharmacy practice research, including the canvassing of perceived barriers and potential solutions to promote research activity in community pharmacy practice.
  - d. Designating a mentor responsible for facilitating the involvement of community pharmacists in research at each of the nine CPRSC member schools of pharmacy.
  - e. Developing a document outlining strategies to increase and retain pharmacists in research, incorporating the results of the survey, reports from mentors, and the report on the workshop.

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