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Research: Statement on Supporting and Conducting Research in Pharmacy (2011)



Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
Société canadienne des pharmaciens d'hôpitaux

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Published by the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP), Ottawa, Ontario. 2011 edition. Use of this document was approved by CSHP Council in 2011.

Suggested citation:

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists. Research: Statement on Supporting and Conducting Research in Pharmacy. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists; 2011.

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Research: Statement on Supporting and Conducting Research in Pharmacy

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists embraces and recognizes research as an integral component of pharmacy practice and encourages members to support, participate and initiate research activities.

Pharmacy practice is based on a specialized body of knowledge that should be evidence-based and supported by practice research. Contributions to knowledge through research is regarded as a fundamental tool that helps to promote new directions for pharmacy practice and optimize patient care.

Pharmacists with minimal research experience can conduct research in collaboration with individuals whose experience, expertise, and motivation will ensure the project's success. People with such expertise include university academics, fellow practitioners, and other health professionals. Experienced pharmacist researchers are encouraged to mentor and support novice pharmacist researchers.

To foster research within pharmacy practice, an organized and cooperative effort is needed. Pharmacy managers must encourage research and should support the efforts of staff members who are interested in pursuing research as part of their commitment to the public and the profession. Pharmacists involved in professional pharmacy organizations should request that these organizations provide guidance and support for practitioners and establish a philosophical commitment to the recognition of research as an integral component of pharmacy practice.

Pharmacists are encouraged to increase their involvement in research. Research ideas begin with intellectual curiosity. The opportunities for research are limitless; any unknown in the practice field is a potential research idea. The generation of basic scientific knowledge is only one facet of research. Research techniques and study results can also aid in

solving operational problems, developing and evaluating new services, or justifying existing programs.

The following are some examples of areas suitable for investigation:

- clinical drug therapy: to study drug efficacy, safety, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacogenomics, etc.;
- pharmacy education: to study design, delivery and evaluation of various aspects of pharmacy curricula, etc.;
- health services: to address issues such as how human factors, organizational systems, financial systems affect the quality of health care. This area includes, but is not limited to, various aspects of pharmacy practice such as collaborative delivery of health services, safe medication practice, seamless care, pharmacoconomics, pharmacoepidemiology, and quality management; and
- basic pharmaceutical sciences: the development and testing of new dosage forms or medication administration modalities.

Other directions for research will develop as the profession evolves in concert with changes in health care.

Knowledge translation is a vital component of research, and involves "synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and the ethically-sound application of knowledge" to strengthen the health care system.¹ Communication of research results, through

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Education: Statement on Collaborative Development, Delivery, and Evaluation of Pharmacy Curricula

presentation at scientific conferences, publication in scientific or professional journals, and presentation of results to key stakeholders, is an essential component of the research process.¹

The integration of knowledge into practice is vital to providing evidence-based care. Research activities contribute to the evolution and cultivation of knowledge for this purpose. Pharmacists are encouraged to initiate and participate in research

activities, to strive for research excellence, and to apply research findings into their respective practices.

1. About knowledge translation. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Institutes of Health Research; 2009 [cited 2011 Feb 3]. Available from: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29418.html>

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