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New collaborative to boost pharmacy research funding, reach and patient impact

A new nationwide collaborative promises to better connect and support Australian pharmacy research organisations and individuals to translate innovative ideas into meaningful improvements for patients, following its launch by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) today.

The [National Translational Research Collaborative \(NTRC\)](#) is a free virtual membership hub enabling real-life connections that support the establishment and expansion of research projects within and between hospitals, universities and research institutes, and between starting and established pharmacy researchers and other health professionals.

Dr Lisa Pont, Chair of NTRC, says the collaborative's supportive structure and patient focus reflects the contemporary challenges and opportunities of pharmacy research, such as securing grants and funding and upscaling multi-site projects.

'Discoveries need dollars and, as in other research settings, expert guidance can sharpen a great idea into a brilliant research proposal – through the expertise of its scientific advisory and grants and awards sub-groups, NTRC will open new doors for innovative clinical pharmacy research projects.

'In addition, through the support of local liaisons and pharmacy research mentors, the NTRC will support site-to-site and peer-to-peer conversations between all levels of researchers to forge and strengthen partnerships; crucial to building a stronger evidence base and contributing to better healthcare for patients.'

From today, organisations and individuals can join NTRC by detailing their research background and current activity, relevant experience and available local support through an online Expression of Interest (EOI) form on the [NTRC website](#) – data collected will help SHPA to evaluate the current capacity and capability of Australia's pharmacy research landscape.

In the first round of funding opportunities, grants worth \$60,000 from international pharmaceutical companies Gilead Sciences and Celgene are now available to projects reviewed and endorsed by the NTRC.

Kristin Michaels, CEO of SHPA says NTRC is a multi-faceted membership entity with a patient-focused view toward adding value to healthcare systems.

'NTRC will help turn more pharmacists into pharmacy researchers, an advancement that furthers the workforce as whole, ensuring the development and introduction of new and improved clinical services.

'NTRC reflects SHPA's strategic commitment to building and promoting an evidence base for excellence in medicines management to protect the quality and safety of supply and improve outcomes for Australian patients.'

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About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national professional organisation for more than 4,000 pharmacists, pharmacists in training, pharmacy technicians and associates working across Australia's health system. SHPA is the only professional pharmacy organisation with a core base of members practising in public and private hospitals and other health service facilities.

SHPA is committed to facilitating the safe and effective use of medicines, which is the core responsibility of pharmacists, especially in hospitals. SHPA supports pharmacists to meet medication and related service needs, so that both optimal health outcomes and economic objectives are achieved for Australians, as individuals, for the community as a whole and for healthcare facilities within our systems of healthcare.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

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