

## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT...



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### Barbara Farrell, BScPhm, PharmD, FCSHP, CSHP Foundation Research Grant Recipient

***“Identifying core competencies for maximum effectiveness of pharmacists working in family practice: A mixed methods study.”***

Barbara Farrell and co-investigators Lisa Dolovich, Natalie Kennie, Nancy Waite, Nancy Winslade, Derek Jorgenson, Sharon Johnston received a CSHP Foundation research grant of \$10,627 in 2010.

#### **Q. How did the concept/idea for your research project come about?**

**A.** Pharmacists are working in evolving primary health care teams without consensus on pharmacist core competencies for effective practice. Our goal was to develop and validate these competencies and to document the perceived contribution of pharmacists providing collaborative primary health care services.

#### **Q. Please briefly describe your research project and what it revealed.**

**A.** We used a modified Delphi process, including assessing perception of the frequency and criticality of performing tasks, to validate competencies important to primary health care pharmacists in Canada. The final competencies included 34 elements and 153 sub-elements in seven CanMeds domains. Pharmacists ranked those competencies related to direct patient care as most important, followed by those related to communication, collaboration and professionalism.

#### **Q. How will the results of your research project be used?**

**A.** The competencies can help pharmacists understand their potential roles in primary care and can be used to develop measures for assessing their performance and impact. This research supported the development of an online educational program for pharmacists working in primary care. It also created an inter-professional research network with skills in competency validation and Delphi consensus processes.

#### **Q. What impact will your research have on hospital pharmacy and patient care?**

**A.** Many of the competencies identified may be important to hospital pharmacists as they focus more on a patient care role. This work will also facilitate effective communication and collaboration between the two care settings. It provides direction for consistent pharmacist roles in primary care, the competencies upon which to base educational programming for pharmacists, and a means to develop performance assessment measures. These will in turn support the consistent provision of quality patient care.

#### **Q. Why should healthcare professionals, key decision makers and the general public pay attention to the research done by pharmacists?**

**A.** Pharmacists have a unique perspective to contribute to research that is important to the other professionals who collaborate with them, who make decisions about regulatory policies and who create payment systems. Finally, the patient benefits from improved quality of care.

#### **Q. Why is an organization like the CSHP Foundation important to hospital pharmacists?**

**A.** The CSHP Foundation provides an opportunity to obtain small research and education grants that ultimately have the potential to improve the care that pharmacists provide to their patients.

#### **Publications:**

Kennie N, Farrell B, Ward N, Johnston S, Gubbels A, Egualé T, Dolovich L, Jorgenson D, Waite N, Winslade N. Pharmacists' provision of primary health care: a modified Delphi validation of pharmacists competencies. BMC Family Practice 2012;13:27.

**The role of the hospital pharmacist is changing; research and education will support the change.**

**CSHP Foundation grant and scholarship recipients are changing the face of pharmacy practice.**

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