

## Introduction

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is the professional body for pharmacy and pharmacists in Great Britain. The RPS Research Ready accreditation scheme<sup>1</sup> ensures community pharmacies meet the minimum quality standards of the Research Governance Framework. It provides support for pharmacies to undertake research and embed research in professional development activities.

## Aim

In September 2015, the RPS carried out an assessment of how Research Ready (ResR) accredited community pharmacies engaged with the programme during its first two years of operation. The aim was to:

- quantify ongoing involvement in research studies
- qualitatively assess the overall experiences of ResR accreditation among accredited community pharmacies, and
- identify any developmental opportunities for the scheme.

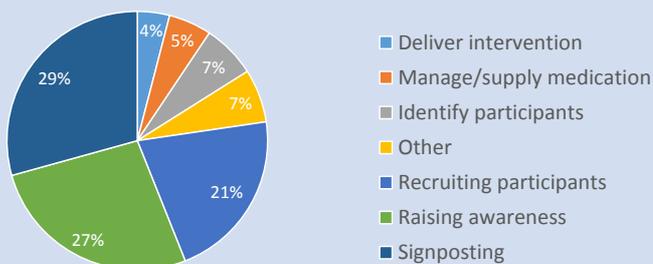
## Method

The named research leads at ResR accredited pharmacies (n=176) were invited by email to complete an online questionnaire using SurveyMonkey®. Only those pharmacies which had been accredited for more than three months were included (176/182). Results were analysed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. Project measures included: ResR demographics, reasons for engagement with the programme, and benefits/advantages of ResR accreditation.

## Results

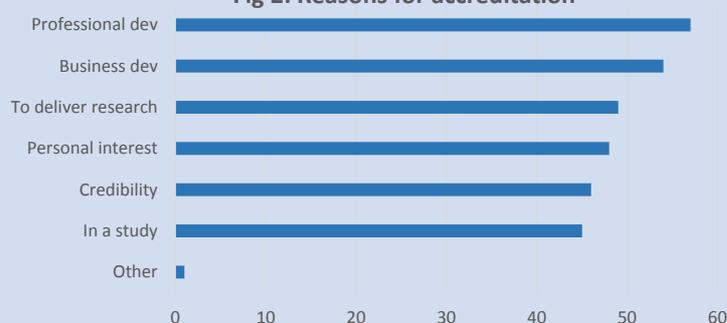
A total of 72 responses were received (response rate = 40.9%). ResR accredited pharmacies were actively involved in research including recruitment – i.e. formally taking consent from participants (16), study signposting (22) and raising awareness of research (20) among other activities (see Fig 1). A small number of community pharmacies were also involved in managing and dispensing clinical trials medication, and delivering a study intervention.

Fig 1: Research activities



Participants identified professional and business development as the main reasons for seeking accreditation in addition to improved accessibility of research and improved quality of care for patients and the public (see Fig 2). Respondents also stated ResR would increase their credibility as a high quality research provider, allow service innovation and build stronger links with industry and academia.

Fig 2: Reasons for accreditation



## Conclusion

Professional and business development were identified as the main drivers for ResR research leads to seek accreditation. ResR accreditation enables community pharmacy to meet the relevant research governance requirements, providing an opportunity for pharmacies to engage in research and build research skills as part of professional development. Accreditation is perceived as an indicator of high quality service provision which supports improved quality of care.

## Recommendations

1. Identify avenues for programme development by exploring why pharmacy professionals who are not RPS members engage with the ResR programme.
2. Engage community pharmacy RPS Faculty members in ResR and, vice-versa, to engage ResR members in the RPS Faculty (RPS Faculty is a professional development and recognition programme).
3. Introduce a bi-annual review of the ResR programme.
4. Work with national partners to breakdown perceived barriers to community pharmacy engagement in research.
5. Improve the ResR system functionality (e.g. the issue of not being able to use the same IP address to accredit more than one premises).
6. Better map and curate potential and active engagement opportunities for community pharmacy with national partners.
7. Facilitate networking opportunities for ResR pharmacies. This will include the set up of a Primary Care/Community Pharmacy network.
8. Provide additional training and support for pharmacists on research activities.
9. Evidence and embed the ResR competencies within other RPS resources.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Research Ready. Royal Pharmaceutical Society. 2017. Available at: <https://www.rpharms.com/about-us/our-services/research-ready>. [Accessed 05 April 2017.]