

MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Pharmacy researchers secure lucrative funding script

The University of Tasmania's School of Pharmacy is leading a \$1.2m national collaboration to review the world's number one drug for major adverse events, Warfarin.

The 21-month study aims to determine the role of community pharmacy in post-hospital management of patients starting on Warfarin – a medication accounting for 10 per cent of all drug-related hospital admissions.

The School's clinical research group, Unit for Medication Outcomes, Research and Education (UMORE) chief investigator, Professor Gregory Peterson, said the Warfarin study would make a significant impact on medication safety in Australia.

He said this project would refine and further trial an improved model of patient care for the 200,000 Australians taking the drug.

“While being an important drug for the treatment of clots and the prevention of stroke in patients with a common heart rhythm abnormality, Warfarin requires very close monitoring and is the drug most commonly implicated in major side effects,” Prof Peterson said.

“Warfarin management is a therapeutic dilemma; while the benefits are greatest in the elderly, so are the difficulties of management and the risk of adverse outcomes such as haemorrhage complications.”

The project aims to develop a model for therapy management, involving community pharmacists in partnership with other health professionals. In doing so, the project will endeavour to establish the optimum service format which benefits the most patients and satisfies key stakeholders.

The project also aims to develop and implement a program for new and existing Warfarin patients including empowering users through training and encouraging self-monitoring among selected candidates.

Research centres involved in the project are the University of Sydney, University of South Australia, University of Wollongong and the Spencer Gulf Rural Health Centre in Adelaide; pharmacy practitioners and medical consultants.

The project has been funded by the Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement Research and Development Program managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

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