University of Birmingham

Dr Christine Hirsch

Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy

Pharmacy and Therapeutics

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About

Christine is a lecturer in clinical pharmacy and member of the team leading the new pharmacy developments within the College of Medical and Dental Science.

She has a longstanding involvement in learning and teaching clinical pharmacy both at postgraduate and undergraduate level and also has a research interest in this area. She has a keen interest in interprofessional learning, and is committed to evidence based practice in education particularly with regard to the role of technology in curriculum learning and development.

Her other areas of research interest include medicines management in palliative care and associated areas of clinical pharmacy.

Qualifications

Practice Certificate in Pharmacist Independent Prescribing 2011

PhD ‘Anticholinergics in treatment of oropharnygeal secretions at the end of life’ 2007

Advanced Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy Teaching 1993

Member of the College of Pharmacy Practice (MCPP) 1991

MSc Hospital Pharmacy 1988

MRPharm S 1983

BPharm 1982

Biography

Christine Hirsch gained a BPharm (Hons) from U.W.I.S.T in Cardiff in 1982 and completed her pre-registration year at the Royal London Hospital in 1983. After registration as a pharmacist she joined the pharmacy department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham in 1984 developing the cytotoxic reconstitution service for oncology.

In 1988 she gained an MSc in clinical hospital pharmacy and in 1989 returned to the Queen Elizabeth hospital in Medicines Information and managerial roles. Her interest in learning and teaching led to her appointment as a clinical tutor on the Keele clinical pharmacy diploma, the Aston undergraduate pharmacy program and as an examiner for the College of Pharmacy Practice.

In 1997 Christine moved to a palliative care post in the West Midlands, based at St Mary’s Hospice, Birmingham and later Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton and in 2007 she completed her PhD.

Following a period of teaching clinical pharmacy part-time at Aston University Pharmacy School, she gained a lectureship in 2009. During this time she maintained her interest in evidence based education becoming a champion in learning and teaching for the School of life and health sciences.

In 2011 Christine joined the College of Medicine and Dentistry as a lecturer in clinical pharmacy as part of the team to assist in development of new pharmaceutical initiatives

Teaching

Pharmacy postgraduate programs

MSc Clinical Oncology (Palliative Care)

Postgraduate supervision

Christine’s areas of research interest are

- Pharmaceutical care
- Clinical Pharmacy
- Palliative care
- Pharmaceutical (and inter-professional) education

Research

Christine's main research interests lie in End of Life Care and Pharmacy Education.

End of life care

Recently she has collaborated with colleagues at Birmingham University in the delivery and evaluation of interprofessional simulation-based training in End of Life care for final year undergraduate students funded by SHA. September 2011.

Recent collaborative projects with NHS partners have focused on access to end of life care drugs in primary care. 2008-2010

Her PhD (2007) focussed on the use of anticholinergic agents to treat excessive oropharyngeal and tracheal secretions at the end of life in palliative care.

Healthcare Education

Christine is a member of editorial committee and collaborator in SHA funded SCRIPT project, an initiative between Aston, Birmingham and Warwick Universities to provide a package of online learning modules for FY1 doctors. 2010 – 2011.

Christine carried out a preliminary evaluation of Pebble Pad ePortfolio as a tool for submission of undergraduate pharmacy student reflection during professional experience placements. 2008

Other activities

Member of the working group for NPC guidance on mixing medicines. 2010

Publications

Hirsch C, McKenna M.(2011) 'Medicines management in palliative care'. In Nicholson A, Faull C. (eds) **Handbook of Palliative Care**. 3r Ed . 2011 In Press

Hirsch C, Morrison H, Boulstridge L .Ed .West Midlands Palliative Care Physicians. Palliative Care, **Guidelines for the Use of Drugs in Symptom Control**. 2007.

Selected Conference Abstracts

Availability of Palliative Care Medication provided by 'Just in Case' boxes. Sacharewicz K, BlackwellS, Hirsch C. Poster. Palliative Care Research Conference. Belfast. 2011.

Teaching and learning applied clinical pharmacy skills – piloting virtual patient case scenarios in an IT based learning environment. Hirsch C and Marriott J F. e-learning in Health Conference. Warwick University. 2009

Access to palliative care drugs 'out-of-hours' - a preliminary evaluation of two West Midland's models. Hirsch C A, Hayer B, Salih Z, Marriott J F. British Pharmaceutical Conference. 2009

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