Sarah Thomas MPharm, MRPharmS, PgD

NIHR Doctoral Research Fellow
Content and Editorial Manager for SCRIPT eLearning

Pharmacy and Therapeutics

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About

Sarah is a clinical pharmacist and NIHR Doctoral Research Fellow. She is currently working as the Content and Editorial Manager for the SCRIPT eLearning programme and completing her PhD investigating pharmacist-physician communication in the hospital setting.

Qualifications

- Member of the General Pharmaceutical Council 2010
- Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy 2007
- Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain 2004
- Master of Pharmacy 2003

Biography

Sarah Thomas gained her Masters in Pharmacy (MPharm) from Aston University in 2003, and became a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in 2004 (and General Pharmaceutical Council in 2010). In 2007 she gained her Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy at Keele University and worked as a hospital pharmacist in a number of specialities, including paediatrics and older adult mental health.

In 2010, Sarah became the Content and Editorial Manager for the SCRIPT eLearning programme at the University of Birmingham. The SCRIPT project, commissioned by Health Education West Midlands, aimed to improve the prescribing knowledge and skill of Foundation trainees, in order to reduce medication errors and improve patient safety. She supervised the development of 40 eLearning modules related to prescribing and therapeutics. Although this work was completed in August 2011, Sarah continues to ensure the content remains up-to-date and relevant to clinical practice. She now supervises the development of SCRIPT modules for Dentists, Nurses, and Doctors undergoing their Specialist Training in Paediatric Medicine.

Sarah is currently working towards her PhD, investigating how electronic prescribing systems impact on pharmacist-physician communication in the hospital setting. In August 2013, she was awarded a Doctoral Fellowship from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to complete her research.

Teaching

MBChB (Year 5)

- Therapeutics in clinical practice

MPharm

- The Professional Pharmacist modules

Research

Sarah was awarded a Doctoral Research Fellowship from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in 2013. Her research focuses on how computerised physician order entry (or electronic prescribing) impacts on pharmacist-physician communication in the hospital setting.

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Other activities

- Honorary Pharmacist at the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
- Writing and reviewing exam questions for the national Prescribing Safety Assessment

Publications

McIlroy G, Thomas SK and Coleman JJ (2014) **Second generation antipsychotic drug use in hospital inpatients with dementia: the impact of a safety warning on rates of prescribing (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Second+generation+antipsychotic+drug+use+in+hospital+inpatients+with+dementia%3A+the+impact+of+a+safety+warning+on+rates+of+prescribing)**. *Journal of Public Health (Oxford)* [EPub ahead of print]

Thomas SK, McDowell SE, Hodson H, Nwulu U, Howard R L, Avery A J, Slee A and Coleman J (2013) **Developing consensus on hospital prescribing indicators of potential harms amenable to decision support. (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Developing+consensus+on+hospital+prescribing+indicators+of+potential+harms+amenable+to+decision+support.)** *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* 76(5):797-809

McDowell SE, Thomas SK, Coleman JJ, Aronson JK and Ferner RE (2013) **A practical guide to monitoring for adverse drug reactions during antihypertensive drug therapy: synthesis from a systematic review (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=A+practical+guide+to+monitoring+for+adverse+drug+reactions+during+antihypertensive+drug+therapy%3A+synthesis+from+a+systematic+review)**. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* 106(3):87-95

Thomas SK, Hodson J, McIlroy G, Dhami A and Coleman J (2013) **The impact of direct healthcare professional communication on prescribing practice in the UK hospital setting: an interrupted time series analysis (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=The+impact+of+direct+healthcare+professional+communication+on+prescribing+practice+in+the+UK+hospital+setting)**. *Drug Safety* 36(7):557-64

Nwulu U, Thomas SK, Hodson J, Westwood D, Griffin C and Coleman JJ (2013) **Variation in cost of newly-qualified doctors' prescriptions: a review of data from a hospital electronic prescribing system (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Variation+and+cost+of+newly-qualified+doctors%E2%80%99+prescriptions%3A+a+review+of+data+from+a+hospital+electronic+prescribing+system)**. *Post Graduate Medical Journal* 89(1052):316-22

Thomas SK and Coleman JJ (2012) The impact of Computerised Physician Order-Entry (CPOE) with integrated Clinical Decision Support (CDS) on pharmacist-physician communication in the hospital setting: A systematic review of the literature. *European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy: Science and Practice* 19(4):349-354

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