

Pharmacy Practice Research Methods

Zaheer-Ud-Din Babar
Editor

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Editor
Zaheer-Ud-Din Babar
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
University of Auckland
Auckland
New Zealand

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To Aneequa and Danyal

Foreword

The publication of this collection of methodologies and methods surely signals that Pharmacy Practice Research has come of age in providing an evidence base for the clinical effectiveness of pharmacy as an academic discipline and profession that places the person at the centre of care in medicine use.

Findings from gold standard research design and conduct must underpin pharmacy practice in the twenty-first century. The challenges of this century, including the discovery, delivery and use of medicines and therapeutic devices, revolve around the larger complex issues of climate change, border security, demographic changes, economic shifts, communications technology and resources sustainability all of which will impact the research in which pharmacists and their interdisciplinary colleagues engage. The role of the pharmacist will expand beyond medicines delivery, health education, public health, health promotion and policy development into areas that address health inequalities and their social determinants at the local level and on a global scale.

The various chapters in this edited volume provide a comprehensive but not exhaustive research toolkit for guiding the future practise of pharmacy in the technological age of the health literate patient requiring personalised pharmacotherapeutics for the chronic diseases of affluence and for understanding how to achieve equitable access to cost-effective medicines and culturally appropriate pharmaceutical care in developed and developing countries. Readers will find the descriptions helpful in building their own methodologies to address their diverse questions about the use of medicines, delivery of pharmaceutical services, pharmacists' employment and evidence-based policy to inform improvement in the quality and safety of pharmacy practice.

This book will be of interest to pharmacy students, academics, researchers and practising pharmacists. It provides general chapters on the broad paradigms of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research alongside chapters on specific research methods, including the application of methods from other disciplines, such as the social and behavioural sciences, economics and epidemiology, to the practice of pharmacy.

Melbourne, VIC, Australia
November 2014

Kath Ryan

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