THE ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACY TECHNICIANS UK

APTUK Position statement

October 2026

UK Pharmacy Research Strategy and Pharmacy Research Hub

APTUK warmly welcomes the launch of the UK Pharmacy Research Strategy, developed by the UK Pharmacy Research Advisory Group (PRAG) and hosted by NHS England on behalf of the four UK Chief Pharmaceutical Officers. The strategy sets out an ambitious and much-needed vision to make research an integral, accessible and inclusive part of every pharmacist's and pharmacy technician's career across all sectors of practice.

We strongly support the strategy's recognition that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians remain underrepresented in research activity despite their vital contribution to medicines optimisation, patient safety, service improvement and innovation. APTUK particularly welcomes the clear commitment that every pharmacy professional should be able to contribute to, support or lead research throughout their career, regardless of sector, setting or location.

The strategy's four strategic goals, building research skills and leadership, developing supportive systems and infrastructure, fostering a research-positive culture and embracing digital and technological innovation, provide a strong framework for strengthening research capacity across the pharmacy workforce. APTUK is especially encouraged to see pharmacy technicians explicitly included throughout the strategy and recognised as key contributors to the future research agenda.

APTUK also welcomes the launch of the Pharmacy Research Hub by Pharmacy Research UK (PRUK). The Hub provides pharmacy professionals with access to research training, learning resources, mentoring opportunities and research networks, helping to reduce barriers to research engagement and supporting professionals at all stages of their research journey.

The establishment of the Pharmacy Research Hub complements the ambitions of the UK Pharmacy Research Strategy by creating practical opportunities for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to develop research knowledge, build capability and connect with experienced researchers and local networks. APTUK believes these resources will be invaluable in supporting a more research-active pharmacy workforce.

As the professional leadership body for pharmacy technicians, APTUK looks forward to working with partners across the profession to support implementation of the strategy and to champion opportunities for pharmacy technicians to participate in, lead and influence research. We believe that increasing pharmacy technician involvement in research will strengthen the evidence base for practice, improve patient outcomes, enhance professional development and ensure that the valuable contribution of pharmacy technicians is recognised across health and care systems.

APTUK therefore welcomes both the UK Pharmacy Research Strategy and the Pharmacy Research Hub as significant developments for the pharmacy profession and looks forward to supporting their successful implementation for the benefit of patients, the workforce and the wider healthcare system.

Dr Gail Hall FAPhamT

APTUK Vice President

On behalf of the APTUK Board of Directors