



Project Title: Pharmacist-led collaborative screening and referral for the early intervention of depression among older Australians in the community: training package development		Code: SPS10
Host School / Institute: Sydney Pharmacy School		Address: Pharmacy and Bank Building A15, The University of Sydney
Certificates & Clearances required: No		
Primary Supervisor: Dr Claire O'Reilly		
Phone: 02 9351 2729		Email: claire.oreilly@sydney.edu.au
Co-Supervisor/team: Dr Sarira El-Den , Sydney Pharmacy School and Dr Natasa Gisev, NDARC, UNSW		
Project Type: Literature Review; Clinical; Design		
Project Category: Mental Health; Pharmacy		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: This project would suit an organised and motivated student who has a strong interest in mental health care and developing new health service models.		
Project Keywords: depression; screening; pharmacist; late-life depression; training		
<p>Project Description: Late-life depression affects 10-15% of Australians and can lead to catastrophic outcomes (i.e. suicide) if untreated. The timely identification, referral and treatment of older Australians at risk of depression is important in ensuring improved health outcomes for this patient group.</p> <p>'Pharmacist-led collaborative screening and referral for the early intervention of depression among older Australians in the community: A pilot study', has recently been funded through the 2019 UNSW Sydney – University of Sydney seed funding scheme: Mental Health and Wellbeing – Early Intervention and Prevention (Older People). It is a collaborative project between Sydney Pharmacy School, UNSW Sydney (National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre and Psychiatry), Brain and Mind Centre, WentWest PHN (Western Sydney Primary Health Network) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA NSW).</p> <p>This project involves piloting a pharmacist-delivered screening and referral model in community pharmacy for older people (≥65 years) at risk of depression. Pharmacies in Western Sydney will be recruited and will undertake a 1-day training course consisting of Blended-Mental Health First Aid training and a specialised training package in the identification and management of depression in older people (developed by the project team). Pharmacists will recruit older people and conduct a screening assessment, using the Geriatric Depression Scale-15, and report to the patient's GP using an online screening/referral tool that will be developed and tested as part of the study.</p> <p>The student will work in conjunction with the broader research team on the first phase of the project. Specifically, they will contribute to the development and pilot testing of a new training package and depression screening model. This will involve conducting literature searches, consulting with experts in the field and developing pharmacist training materials. This practice-based project provides a great opportunity to learn about conducting health services research, develop a research network across multiple institutions/organisations, and contribute to improving mental health service provision. It is anticipated that the student may also have an opportunity to co-author a publication in a peer-reviewed journal.</p>		