Annual Research Integrity Statement 2020- 21

This statement has been produced by St George's, University of London in accordance with The Concordat to Support Research Integrity 2019. It has been approved by St George's Council and will be made publicly available on the University website.

In accordance with the Concordat, this statement includes:

- a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and the application of research integrity issues

- a statement to provide assurance that the processes the institution has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, timely, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation

- a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken, which will include data on the number of investigations

- a statement on what the institution has learned from any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken, including what lessons have been learned to prevent the same type of incident re-occurring

- a statement on how the institution creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct

St George's is strongly committed to research integrity and we fully support, promote and have embedded the commitments set out in the updated Concordat. We believe that research integrity is fundamental to our research and its outcomes. We have the policies, processes, governance and culture to promote and ensure research integrity across St George's.

This annual statement covers the period August 2020 to July 2021.

1. **Guidance, support and training for researchers**

i)   Research integrity presentations: Our Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) has delivered research ethics and integrity presentations and workshops for St George's students and staff. Presentations and workshops have taken place online.

The presentations and workshops in 2020/21 are listed below.

Presentations:
- 24/09/2020 – Seminar for 2nd year Clinical Pharmacology and 3rd Year medical students (24 participants)
- 30/09/2020 - Welcome seminar for new staff (9 participants)

- 01/10/2020 - Seminar for Staff - Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education (15 participants)
- 11/11/2020 – Seminar for Staff – Infection and Immunity Research Institute (37 participants)
- 16/11/2020 - Seminar for Staff – Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education (5 participants)
- 09/02/2021 - Seminar for Staff - Population Health Research Institute (30 participants)
- 16/03/2021 – Student and Staff Partnership Grant (20 participants)
- 22/04/2021 – Student presentation - MSc Global Health (25 participants)

Workshops (2 hours unless otherwise indicated):
- 28/10/2020 - Students - MSc Healthcare Practice (12 participants)
- 29/10/2020 - Students – BSc Clinical Pharmacology (40 participants)
- 04/11/2020 – Students – BSc Healthcare Science (15 participants)
- 16/11/2020 - Students - MRes (4 participants)
- 17/11/2020 – Students – BSc Occupational Therapy (25 participants)
- 08/12/2020 – Students – MSc Physiotherapy students (26 students)
- 03/12/2020 – 4-hour session on Research Integrity - Postgraduate London Intercollegiate Doctoral Training Partnership (18 participants)
- 17/12/2020 – 4-hour session on Research Ethics - Students – Postgraduate London Intercollegiate Doctoral Training Partnership (19 participants)
- 26/04/2021 – ResearchAware programme– Session on Research Ethics (15 participants)
- 15/06/2021 – ResearchAware programme – Session on Research Integrity (7 participants)

ii)   <u>Virtue-based ethics and integrity of research:</u> Following completion of the Virtue Trainer learning programme, which is a "train the trainer" programme teaching how to foster reflection on scientific virtues in researchers, the REIO implemented these exercises and tools in St George's research integrity workshops.

iii)   <u>Data protection training:</u> Training on managing personal information is mandatory for all staff handling personal data.

iv)   <u>Research ethics webpage:</u> The <u>research ethics webpage</u> is kept updated and provides information for researchers on the ethics review process and St George`s Research Ethics Committee.

v)   <u>Research integrity webpages</u>: Webpages bringing together all of our information on research integrity policies, guidance, training and support are under development and will be published in the current academic year.

vi)   <u>Code of practice for research</u>: A research code of practice, defining St George's policies and expectations in relation to the conduct of research, is being developed. Feedback on a draft code has been sought from the research community. The code of practice will be finalised in the current academic year.

2. **Policies, processes and governance**

A full list of all our policies and processes relating to research integrity, with links to our website, is contained in Appendix one.

i)   Code of Conduct on Personal Relationships: This code was updated in May 2021. The main change in the new Code of Conduct is to expressly prohibit relationships between staff and students where there is direct supervision.

ii) Data Protection: The Data Protection policy was updated in June 2021 to fully list of the rights of the individual where previously it had focussed on exercising the 'right of access' only.

iii) Information Management: Our Information Management policy was reviewed in August 2020. No changes were made.

iv) Dignity at Work and Study: The Dignity at Work and Study policy has been replaced with two policies as a result of St George's Race Equality Review. A Dignity at Work policy for employees was introduced in May 2021 and Dignity at Study policy for students was introduced in November 2020.

v)   St George`s Research Ethics Committee (SGREC) audit: In 2020, an audit of the SGREC was undertaken. The audit was based on Research Ethics Support and Review in Research Organisations guidance from the UK Research Integrity Office and Association of Research Managers and Administrators The outcome was that that the SGREC is 95% compliant with the Research Ethics Support and Review in Research Organisations guidance.

The actions resulting from the Audit which have been implemented in the 2020/21 year are:

Deadline	Actions
May 2021	Updated Constitution and Terms of Reference for the ethics committee.
May 2021	Updated of SGREC SOP with the actions for any deviations occurring during a research project.
July 2021	New members have been recruited from St George's NHS Trust, along with lay members, and student representatives.
July 2021	An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form has been introduced to monitor the diversity of the membership, based on the advice of the SGUL Diversity and Inclusion Adviser.

3. External engagement

i)   UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO). St George's has continued its subscription to the UKRIO, which is an independent charity which provides support and webinars in relation to matters of research integrity, research ethics and research misconduct.

4. Research misconduct

i)   Formal research misconduct investigation: There were no formal research misconduct investigations in 2020/21.

ii) <u>Learning from misconduct investigation</u>: This isn't relevant for 2020/21 as there were not any research misconduct investigations.

iii) <u>Research environment</u>: We are committed to ensuring that St George's has a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct. We ensure this by having procedures on and a named contact for research misconduct and whistleblowing, by dealing with allegations robustly and in a timely manner, by St George's leaders promoting research integrity and through our training for researchers.

iv) <u>Assurance:</u> The Research Misconduct procedure is available on our website. The procedure contains timelines within which the different aspects of the investigation need to be conducted. The procedure has an informal stage, a screening panel and an investigation panel, which provides for robust review of allegations. An individual cannot be a member of both the screening panel and the investigation panel. The procedure is based upon the 'Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research' authored by the UKRIO. The procedure was last reviewed in 2017 and is due for review in the current academic year.

Appendix one

- Clinical Trial Transparency

- Cloud Computing

- Conflicts of Interest and Financial Dealings

- Data Protection Policy

- Data Quality Policy

- Dignity at Study

- Dignity at Work

- Disciplinary Procedure

- Freedom of Information policy

- Grievance Procedure

- Health and Safety Policy Statement

- Human Tissue Act

- Information Governance Framework

- Information Management Policy

- Information Sharing Protocol

- Research Data Management Policy

- Research Ethics

- Records Management Policy

- Removable Media Policy

- Research Misconduct Procedure

- Research Publications Policy

- Research Related SOPs/templates

- Retention and Disposal Policy

- Use of Animals in Research

- Whistleblowing and Public Interest Disclosure