



## ***Annual St George's Research Ethics Committee (SGREC) Report 2021 - 2022***

This statement has been produced by the Research Ethics and Integrity Officer, St George's University of London, in accordance with the SGREC Modus Operandi. It has been approved by St George's Council and will be made publicly available on the University website.

In accordance with the Modus Operandi, this statement includes:

- a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support the work of the Committee
- the members of the Committee
- the number of meetings
- protocol deviations
- the number of applications submitted and given favourable opinion by the SGREC

All research that is not being reviewed by a nationally recognised Research Ethics Committee (eg: NHS REC), that is being conducted by St George's University London students or staff or research which involves St George's University London students, staff, or data, requires a favourable opinion from the St George's Research Ethics Committee (SGREC) and governance approval by the Research Ethics and Integrity Officer, prior to commencing. We believe that the high quality of the research ethics review is fundamental to our research integrity and culture. This annual statement covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 to 30 June 2022.

**1. Summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support the work of the Committee**

- i) Research ethics webpage: The webpage has been continually updated with any new information and updated policies and forms (<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/research-ethics>).

During this period important additions to the webpage included new information on:

- International Research Studies Sponsored by SGUL
- Research ethics for projects which involve human tissue samples

- ii) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) provided expert guidance on research ethics and integrity. REIO gave advice on study design, ethics application process, study documents and raised awareness on the potential ethical issues connected to research.
- iii) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) undertook the following presentations/workshops:

<b>Audience</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
MSc students, healthcare practice 40 participants	22/09/2021 90 min, LIVE	Research integrity, ethics – ethics workshop
2nd and 3rd year students BSc, Cardiac/Respiratory physiology 20 participants	04/10/2021 90 min, LIVE	Research integrity and ethics presentation, Research ethics workshop
BSc and MSc physiotherapy students 58 participants	19/10/2021 4 hours, ONLINE	Research ethics and integrity 2 workshops
Biomedical final students, intercalated BSc 11 participants	25/10/2021 90 min, LIVE	Research integrity, ethics – presentation, workshop
PHRI seminar - Staff 19 participants	02/11/2021 60 min, HYBRID	Research integrity, Research culture Presentation
I&I institute - Staff 20 participants	03/11/2021 60 min, ONLINE	Research integrity, Research culture Presentation
MCS - Staff	05/11/2021	Research integrity, Research culture

12 participants	60 min, HYBRID	Presentation
PHRI seminar - Staff 10 participants	23/11/2021 60 min, HYBRID	Vitae, research integrity workshop collaboration with HR
Diagnostic Radiography students 40 participants	22/11/2021 90 minutes, ONLINE	Research integrity and ethics presentation and workshop
Third years Radiographer students 10 participants	20/01/2022 90 minutes, LIVE	Research integrity and ethics presentation and workshop
PG students, lab Masters research projects and some clinicians on the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice, Trans Med, and PGCert Healthcare Skills and Methods 13 participants	25/11/11  60 minutes, LIVE	Research integrity presentation
PGR students 11 participants	31/01/2022 2.5h, ONLINE	Research Integrity and Research Ethics Presentation, followed by the workshop
MCS staff 35 participants	04/02/2022 60 minutes, ONLINE	Vitae, research integrity workshop collaboration with HR
BSc and MSc physiotherapy students 57 participants	23/02/2022 60 minutes, ONLINE	Research ethics presentation
MCS staff 10 participants	04/03/2022 60 minutes, ONLINE	Research integrity workshop collaboration with a Lega Team Misconduct, Harassment
I & I journal group meeting 19 participants	16/03/2022 60 minutes, ONLINE	Research ethics presentation
Second years Radiographer students 8 participants	19/03/2022 60 minutes, ONLINE	Research ethics and integrity workshop
I&I 10 participants	22/03/2022 60 minutes, ONLINE	Vitae Workshop (collaboration with HR)

- iv) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) provided drop-in sessions for students and staff. This year there were **72 drop-in sessions**:

Drop in sessions	
August 2021	0
September 2021	4
October 2021	11
November 2021	14
December 2021	10
January 2022	5
February 2022	9
March 2022	6
April 2022	5
May 2022	5
June 2022	3

- v) St George's has renewed the subscription to the UKRIO in this year. The independent charity provides support and free webinars on research ethics, research integrity and culture and research misconduct.
- vi) The Committee discussed specific concerns over international studies and student studies.
- International studies conducted from UK without local collaborators. This was noted on several applications and it was agreed that this was not acceptable. A statement has now been added to the relevant guidance on the website.
  - Studies which are led by Students and are missing appropriate Supervisor support for aspects of the research (e.g. qualitative research). A statement has now been added to the relevant guidance on the website.
- vii) A new Code of Conduct for researchers has been published <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/research-ethics>

## 2. Members of the Committee

Name	Position / Rep	Membership type	First meeting attended	3 years	6 years
Bridget Bax	Reader	MCS	10/01/2018	10/01/2021 Extended	10/01/2024
Christopher Carroll	Lecturer in Human Genetics	MCS	21/03/2022 NEW MEMBER	21/03/2025	21/03/2028
Irina Chis Ster	Senior Lecturer	I&I	09/12/2015	09/12/2018 Extended	09/12/2021 Extended
Faaiza Khan	Student representative	STUDENT	21/06/2021	21/06/2024	21/06/2027
Michael Perkin	Reader/Consultant Paediatrician	PH	10/01/2018	10/01/2021 Extended	10/01/2024
Alice Reid	Monitor	JRES	20/01/2022 NEW MEMBER	20/01/2025	20/01/2028
Nahiedh Khan	Lay member	LAY	12/09/2018	12/09/2021 Extended	12/09/2024
Paris Ataliotis	Reader & Deputy Chair	IMBE	10/01/2018	10/01/2021 Extended	10/01/2024
Phil Cooper	Professor of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases	I&I	10/01/2018	10/01/2021 Extended	10/01/2024
Sue Alexander	Lay member	LAY	12/09/2018	12/09/2021 Extended	12/09/2024
Victor Olisa	Lay member	LAY	15/02/2021	15/02/2024	15/02/2027
Damion Bailey	Student representative	STUDENT	20/05/2021	20/05/2024	20/05/2027
Paul Heath	Professor of Paediatric Infectious Diseases & SGREC Chair	I&I	13/03/2019	13/03/2021 Extended	13/03/2024
Georgia Bullock	Research Development and Governance Manager	JRES	29/11/2019	29/11/2022	29/11/2025
Angelika Kristek	Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	JRES	26/02/2020	26/02/2023	26/02/2026
Ella Whittle	PhD student	LAY	20/01/2022 NEW MEMBER	20/01/2025	20/01/2028
Hannah Johnson	PhD student	LAY	20/01/2022 NEW MEMBER	20/01/2025	20/01/2028

The Committee increased the student representatives with two PhD students.

### Members who left the Committee:

- Malou Van Zanten
- Miguel Sequeira Campos
- Elena Sviderskaya
- Elizabeth Stovold

### 3. Number of meetings

Date	Discussed studies	Outcomes
23/09/2021	2020.0317 - A placebo controlled clinical trial investigating the safety and immunogenicity of GBS6 in pregnant women with and without human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and their infants PREPARE: WP4	Favourable conditional ethics opinion
18/10/2021	2021.0230 - Solastalgia The impacts of Environmental Change on Mental Health Land Body Ecologies	Need resubmission
18/11/2021	2021.0230 - Solastalgia The impacts of Environmental Change on Mental Health Land Body Ecologies	Favourable conditional ethics opinion
	2021.0258 - The analysis of platelet function and thrombus formation under flow	Favourable ethics opinion
	2021.0264 - Understanding knowledge, beliefs, values and barriers towards cervical cancer screening, self-sampling and HPV vaccination amongst migrant Muslims and stakeholders in South West London: An in-depth qualitative interview study	Favourable conditional ethics opinion
	2021.0265 - Understanding knowledge, beliefs, values, and barriers towards breast and cervical cancer screening amongst women in Sarawak: An in-depth qualitative study	Favourable ethics opinion
20/01/2022	2022.0004 - A pilot study to investigate the metabolic response to intermittent fasting in young adults from different ethnic background	Favourable ethics opinion
22/02/2022	2022.0045 - Pathophysiology and clinical outcomes of subclinical cryptococcal meningitis Subclinical Cryptococcal Meningitis in patients excluded from participation in the EFFECT Study (Sub-EFFECT)	Favourable conditional ethics opinion
17/03/2021	2022.0059 - Knowledge and Perceptions of Fibroids in a Resource Poor Country: An Exploration into Health Seeking Behaviours of Symptomatic Women with Uterine Fibroids Uterine Fibroids knowledge and perceptions and effect on seeking treatment	Favourable conditional ethics opinion
16/05/2021	2021.0121 - A qualitative study to identify barriers and facilitators to adopting healthier, high fibre diets in primary school children CRUNCH2: Identifying barriers and facilitators to increasing fibre intakes in primary school children	Favourable ethics opinion
	2021.0122 - A feasibility trial of Virtual Reality (VR) Hypnosis in perceived stress in healthcare students Virtual Reality Hypnosis in Healthcare Students	Favourable ethics opinion

### 4. Protocol deviations

One protocol deviation has been reported in the period August 2021 to June 2022.

The research group made an Amendment which was approved by local ethics but the site had implemented the changes prior to SGUL REC approval.

The deviation has been reported to Research Ethics and Integrity Officer. No further action needed.

5. **The number of applications submitted and given favourable opinion by SGREC**

2019/2020: 2019.0274 - 2020.131

2020/2021: 2020.0232 - 2021.0183

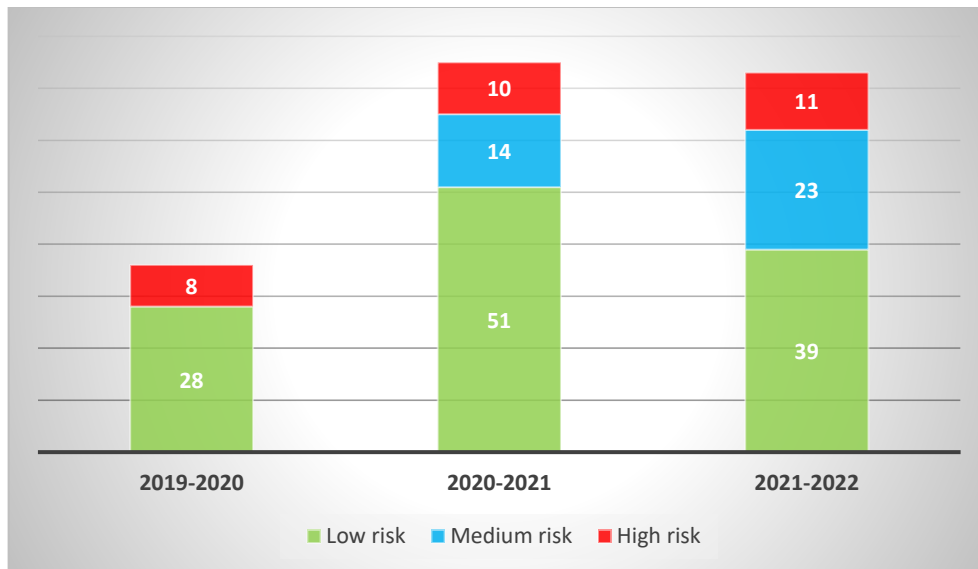
2021/2022: 2021.0128 - 2022.0151

Type of study	Reviewed by	Number of studies 2019-2020	Number of studies 2020-2021	Number of studies 2021-2022
High risk studies	Full SGREC	8	10	11
Medium risk studies	Proportional SGREC Reviewed by Chair, Research Ethics and Integrity Officer and one member of the SGREC	0	14	22
Low risk studies	Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	28	51	39
Audit of Low risk studies	Reviewed by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer and audited by full SGREC	4	2	2
Amendment	Chair (high risk) or Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (low, medium risk studies)	4	21	23
Service evaluation	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	8 SE0001-0008	21 SE0009-0029	43 SE0030-0072
Clinical audit	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	10 AU0001-0010	3 AU0011-0013	15 AU0014-0028
<b>Projects involving human tissue</b>	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	-	-	3

**All research projects with favourable SGREC ethics opinion:**

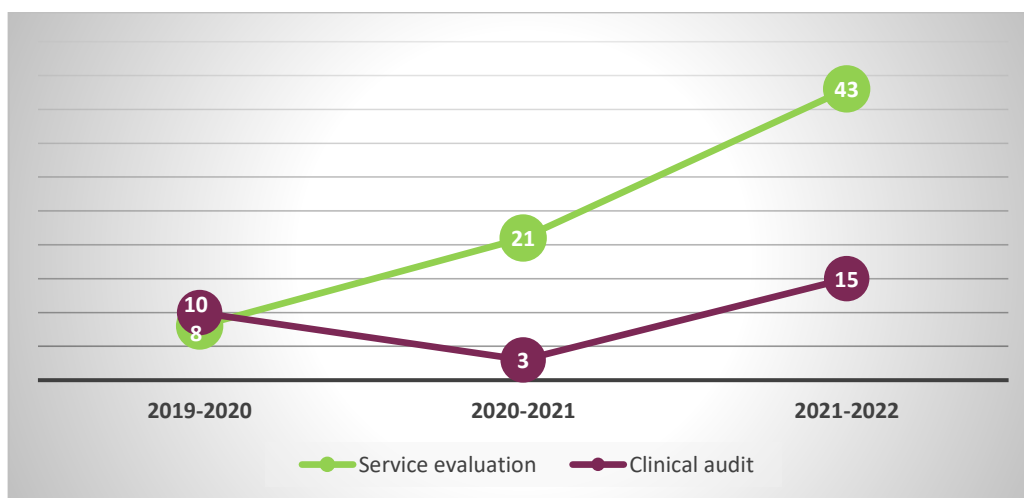
<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/ethical-review-process>

**Number of Research studies approved by SGREC 2019 -2022**



*The number of studies increased remarkably from 2019/20 to 2020/21, from 36 research study cases to 75, and stayed at the same level in 2021/2022 with 72 research study cases with more proportional reviews. This year the annual report was produced one month earlier than usual (generally produced by end of July, but end of June this year) to allow the Report to be provided to the Research Committee for the July meeting*

**Number of Service evaluation and Audit registered by SGREC 2019 -2022**



*This year there has been a significant increase in the Audit and Service evaluations registered, compared to previous years.*

*Overall, the St George`s Research Committee has good visibility in the Institutes, efficiency in reviewing cases and support provided to Researchers.*