

Annual St George's Research Ethics Committee (SGREC) Report 2023 - 2024

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 (e.g.: 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 1st August 2023 to 31st August 2024.

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 updates have been made to reflect the dates of SGREC meetings, committee updates, approved research.

- ii) Research Integrity Statement 2022-2023 was approved and uploaded to the website.
- iii) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) has 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.
- iv) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) undertook the following presentations/workshops:

Audience	Date	Subject	Attendance
New staff at SGUL – Welcome Seminar	04/07/2023	(15min) Research Integrity	14 Online
Research Aware Programme	11/07/2023	(1hr30min) Navigating the Ethical review process	25 Online
Joint Scholarly Activity Day	18/07/2023	(15min) Ethical Approval process	12 In person
Level 5 Research and Evidence Based Practice & Radiotherapy	09/10/2023	(2hours) Research Ethics and Navigating the Ethical Review Process	50 Online
New staff at SGUL – Welcome Seminar	10/10/2023	(15min) Research Integrity	Video Recording
Postgraduates	23/11/2023	(1hr15min) Research Methods/Research Project Planning and Management - Research Integrity	15 In person
Level 6 Dissemination of Research	04/12/2023	(2hours) Research Ethics and Navigating the Ethical Review Process	60 Online
Graduate School Skills Programme	30/01/2024	(30min) Introduction to Research Integrity and Ethics	15 In person

Graduate School Skills Programme	30/01/2024	(1hour) Research Integrity and Ethics workshop	10 In person
Evaluation & Research Module	14/02/2024	(1hour) Ethics applications at St Georges	Online
New staff at SGUL – Welcome Seminar	18/04/2024	(15min) Research Integrity	20 Online
Graduate School Skills Programme	22/04/2024	(30min) Introduction to Research Integrity and Ethics	10 In person
Graduate School Skills Programme	22/04/2024	(2hours) Research Integrity and Ethics workshop	7 In person

- v) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) provided drop-in sessions for students and staff. This year there have been **24 drop-in sessions serving 36 attendees.**
- vi) 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.
- vii) St George's are also members of ARMA (UK) which is the professional association for research management in the UK.
- viii) 3 members reached the end of their 6-year term on the SGREC and left the committee. 1 student representative left the committee, and 6 new members were recruited to the SGREC.
- ix) The Committee has welcomed 3 observers to SGREC meetings this year.
- x) UKRIO provided a half-day research ethics training session in November 2023 for the members of the REC.
- xi) The Committee worked together and discussed a number of topics in the committee meetings which included but were not exclusive to:
 - The changes in the SAFE form and how these have affected the ethics application process and risk categorisation.
 - Guidance on HRA Applications, these will now be processed as proportionate reviews.
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Trusted Research and SGUL's policy
- xii) The Chair (and especially the REIO) have undertaken multiple discussions with equivalent members of the City ethics committee in preparation for the merger and to ensure standardisation of processes and procedures.

Members of the Committee

Name	Position / Rep	Membership type	First meeting attended	3 years	6 years
Paul Heath	Professor of Paediatric Infectious Diseases & SGREC Chair	I&I	13/03/2019	13/03/2022	13/03/2025
Paris Ataliotis	Reader & Deputy Chair	IMBE	10/01/2018	10/01/2021	10/01/2024
Christopher Carroll	Lecturer in Human Genetics	MCS	21/03/2022	21/03/2025	21/03/2028
Sue Alexander	Lay member	LAY	12/09/2018	12/09/2021	12/09/2024
Nahiedh Khan	Lay member	LAY	12/09/2018	12/09/2021	12/09/2024
Victor Olisa	Lay member	LAY	15/02/2021	15/02/2024	15/02/2027
Damion Bailey	Lay member	LAY	20/05/2021	20/05/2024	20/05/2027
Gill Mein	Senior Lecturer in Health and Wellbeing	HSCE	18/07/2022	18/07/2025	18/07/2028
Dani Vasile	Student representative	STUDENT	21/02/2023	20/12/2025	20/12/2028
Georgia Bullock	Research Development and Governance Manager	JRES	29/11/2019	29/11/2022	29/11/2025
Chantelle Simpson	REIO	JRES	21/02/2023	30/08/2025	30/08/2028
Clare Thornbury	Clinical Research Associate	JRES	12/12/2022	01/11/2025	01/11/2028
Kate Everett	Reader In Human Genetics	IMBE	18/05/2023	18/05/2026	15/05/2029
Sarah Stewart	Research Data Manager	Professional Services	18/12/2023 NEW MEMBER	18/12/2026	18/12/2029
Hamin Lee	Student Representative	STUDENT	18/03/2024 NEW MEMBER	18/03/2027	18/03/2030
Elizabeth Staddon	Reader in Higher Education Practice and Development	CIDE	18/03/2024 NEW MEMBER	18/03/2027	18/03/2030
Promi Kamali	Clinical Trial Coordinator	I&I	25/04/2024 NEW MEMBER	25/04/2027	25/04/2030
Ioana Cociasu	Clinical Researcher and Consultant Neurologist	NCBR	25/04/2024 NEW MEMBER	25/04/2027	25/04/2030
Sabrin Mohamed	Student Representative	Student representative	25/04/2024	25/04/2027	25/04/2030

			NEW MEMBER		
Samantha Laws	Lecturer in the Multi-Professional Education Section	HSCE	19/08/2024 NEW MEMBER	19/08/2027	19/08/2030

Members who left the Committee:

- Bridget Bax
- Michael Perkin
- Phil Cooper
- Ella Whittle

2. Number of meetings

Date	Discussed studies	Outcomes
18/09/2023	Retrospective Audit 2023.0231 - Assessing the validity and inter-rate reliability of a tool that determines the complexity of dietetic patients. 2023.0144 - Paramedics' perceptions and experiences of the administration of adrenaline to patients in traumatic cardiac arrest: an exploratory qualitative study	Queries raised, no major concerns. Favourable opinions still agreed.
18/12/2023	IRAS Applications 2024.0042 - A Work-based Project Examining Patient Safety Incident Reporting Habits of Ambulance Crew: A Questionnaire Study 2024.0006 - A phenomenological study of Critical Care Paramedics' perceptions and lived experiences of breaking bad news in the out-of-hospital cardiac arrest setting	Questions raised re: 2022.0254 to be taken up with researcher.
25/01/2024	- No studies for discussion - Topics discussed: - HRA guidance on applications - Environmental Sustainability - Trusted Research Recruiting new members to the SGREC	Committee agreed that HRA studies will be treated as proportionate reviews, Environmental sustainability section to be put on SGREC webpage, REIO explained Trusted Research and to put an advert in George's weekly to identify new members.
18/03/2024	High-risk applications 2024.0090 - Using machine learning to model early-onset neonatal sepsis risk in late preterm and term neonates in Uganda 2020.0024 - Seroepidemiology of maternally-derived antibody against Group B Streptococcus (GBS) in Mulago/Kawempe Hospitals Uganda Retrospective Audit 2024.0010 - A survey and analysis of the self-perceived competence in radiation protection of London based 3rd year Diagnostic Radiography students.	Committee had various questions regarding 2024.0090, the researcher was present as was able to answer all questions – favourable opinion was granted. 2020.0024 committee and research team agreed that the study team would amend submission and resubmit as an

		amendment to a pre-existing study. No queries regarding audit case 2024.0010
25/04/2024	High-risk applications 2024.0149 - Comparing Antibiotic Susceptibility and resistance in the community to WHO-GLASS submitted national hospital surveillance data: samples and determinants of care seeking among patients with Urinary Tract Infections (CAST-UTI) Retrospective Audit 2021.0019 – Exploring perceptions of clinical stressors amongst final year diagnostic radiography students whilst on clinical placement SE0201 – MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice	The committee were happy to grant favourable opinion of 2024.0149 on the condition that documents were updated as per committee suggestions. No queries regarding audit cases.
19/08/2024	High-risk application An open-label randomised controlled trial comparing novel combination and currently used antibiotic regimens for the empiric treatment of neonatal sepsis with a run-in confirmatory pharmacokinetic phase: NeoSep1	Committee were happy to grant favourable opinion on the condition that documents were updated, and points raised by the committee were clarified.

3. Protocol Deviations

There were no deviations noted.

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

2021/2022: 2021.0128 – 2022.0151

2022/2023: 2022.0169 – 2023.0144

2023/2024: 2023.0145 – 2024.0206

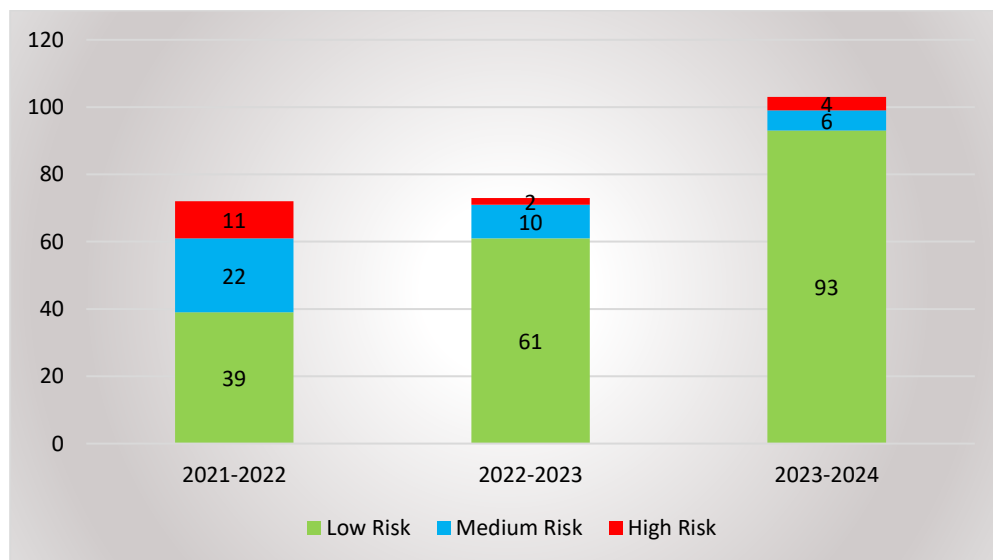
Type of study	Reviewed by	Number of studies Aug 2021- Jun 2022	Number of studies Jul 2022- Jul 2023	Number of studies Aug 2023- Aug 2024
High risk studies	Full SGREC	11	2	2
Medium risk studies	Proportional SGREC Reviewed by Chair, Research Ethics and Integrity Officer and one member of the SGREC	22	10	6
Low risk studies	Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	39	61	

				93
Audit of Low-risk studies	Reviewed by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer and audited by full SGREC	2	6	2
Study Amendments	Chair (high risk) or Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (low, medium risk studies)	23	29	33
Service evaluation	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	43 SE0030-0072	46 SE0073-0121	109 SE0122-0231
Clinical audit	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	15 AU0014-0028	19 AU0029-0048	23 AU0049-0071
Projects involving human tissue	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	3	1	2

All research projects with favourable SGREC ethics opinion:

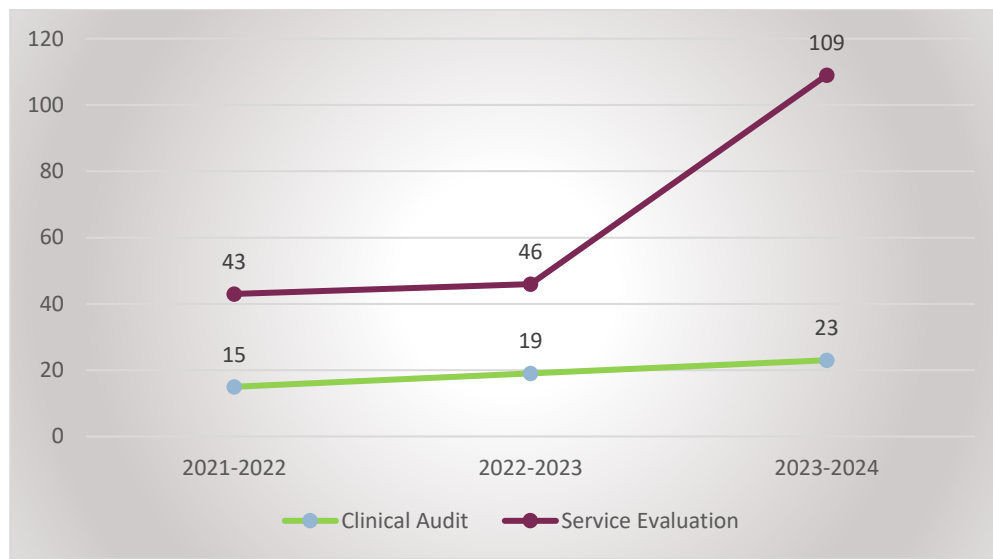
<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/ethical-review-process>

Number of research studies approved by SGREC 2020-2023



This year the number of low-risk studies has significantly increased compared to last year and the number of overall studies has increased from **73** (in both 2021/2022 and 2022/2023) to **103**.

Number of Service evaluations and Clinical audits registered by SGREC 2021-2024



This year there has been a 136% increase in Service evaluations however the numbers for Clinical Audits are very similar to last year.

Overall, the St Georges Research Ethics Committee has good visibility in the institutes, efficiency in reviewing cases and support provided to researchers.