

Audit Committee Agenda 15.05.2012

RESEARCH GOVERNANCE AND SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

Note by Quality Assurance Manager

This paper reports an annual summary of issues concerning research governance and scientific misconduct at the School. The Audit Committee is asked to note the report.

1. Research Councils UK (RCUK) require organisations in receipt of funding to annually report to respective Audit Committees (or other appropriate fora) on matters concerning research governance and scientific misconduct including confirming the existence of appropriate policies and procedures, their review (if relevant) and any issues which have arisen (in particular concerning scientific misconduct). This report is in accordance with RCUK reporting requirements.
2. Guidelines on Good Research Practice have been implemented and disseminated to all staff. The Guidelines set out the framework for good research practice at the School and align with national guidance published by the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) and Research Councils UK (RCUK).
3. Responsibility for Research Governance and Scientific Misconduct is now the responsibility of the LSHTM Quality and Governance Manager. The post-holder regularly undertakes research audits of clinical trials to ensure compliance with the study protocol, all applicable regulations, as well as Good Clinical Practice.
4. Planned activity for the forthcoming year, include:
 - a. development of a local induction checklist for use with new staff and research degree students covering research governance arrangements/requirements at the School;
 - b. completion of revising procedures for investigating allegations of scientific misconduct (concerning staff);
 - c. revision of student disciplinary procedures (includes scientific misconduct);
 - d. revising guidelines on working with the private sector;
 - e. revising intellectual property policy, and
 - f. developing guidance on conflicts of interest.
5. There have been no allegations or proven incidents of scientific misconduct at the School during the last year.
6. The Audit Committee is asked to NOTE the foregoing report.

Patricia Henley
8 May 2012