

RESEARCH INTEGRITY

2018 –2019

LSHTM is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of research excellence and integrity, and is committed to delivering high quality, relevant research, underpinned by the highest ethical standards across the globe. LSHTM fully supports the Research integrity Concordat¹ and maintains an office dedicated to research governance, ethics and integrity to assure compliance with the Concordat, as well as regulations, guidance, standards governing research around the world.

This paper reports an annual summary of issues concerning research integrity, including research governance, and scientific misconduct at the School. This report is the School's annual public statement outlining the activities undertaken to strengthen integrity of research.

The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to note the report covering activities from *1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019*.

1. Research Governance Committee (RGC)

The Research Governance Committee (RGC) continues to meet termly (17 May 2018, 16 October 2018, and 19 February 2019). The Research Governance Committee reports to Senate and the annual report has been submitted for the June meeting.

2. New or Amended Policies and Procedures

The Good Research Practice policy (v4.1, 10/04/2019) was updated as part of the biennial review. This was reviewed at Research Governance Committee, Senate and Policy Advisory Board, received Chair's Approval on 02/05/2019)

The Human Tissue Act policy (v5.2; 10/04/2019) was updated following the Human Tissue Authority inspection in July 2018. This was reviewed at Lab Safety Committee, Senate and Policy Advisory Board, and received Chair's Approval on 02/05/2019.

A summary of research governance and integrity policies and procedures is listed in Appendix 1.

3. Activities undertaken in Research Integrity

As part of its commitment to research integrity, LSHTM is a subscriber to UKRIO which enables access to teaching materials, the annual conference on research integrity, and other helpful guidance. The Head of Research Governance and Integrity attends their annual meetings.

The Head of Research Governance and Integrity continues to deliver training on Ethics and Good Research practice which meet the standards of a Responsible Conduct of Research course. The training is provided to doctoral students as part of the transferable skills programme. Courses were held 3 October 2018, and 4 February 2019.

¹ Universities UK (2012) Concordat to Support Research Integrity, available at: www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2012/the-concordat-to-support-research-integrity.pdf

It is anticipated that the online version of the course will be ready for the start of the 2019-2020 term. The Head of Research Governance and Integrity will continue to deliver an introduction to research governance at the doctoral student orientation day which is held once per term, as well as the staff induction days held each term.

The Head of Research Governance and Integrity continues with her part-time doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) at the School in October 2018, focussing on Research Integrity.

Following the publication of the Science and Technology Committee report on Research Integrity, the Head of Research Governance and Integrity is reviewing current practices and procedures in preparation for the updated Concordat to Support Research Integrity which will likely be published in late summer/early autumn 2019. To this end, she has developed a dedicated page on the School's website to research integrity to make finding contacts easier.

4. Allegations of Breaches of Research Integrity/ Research Misconduct

In the period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019, 5 complaints were made to the Research Governance and Integrity Office, through the MRC Units. One was proven as an incident of a breach of research integrity and two incidents are still under review.

The confirmed breach of research integrity for 2018-2019 is summarised:

References	Topic Area	Specifics of Complaint	Outcome
RM-2019-031U	Plagiarism	Staff member from the MRC Unit in Uganda admitted a complaint of plagiarism.	The staff member was dismissed for gross misconduct.

In last year's audit and risk committee report (2017-2018), there were 2 investigations ongoing at the time the report was issued; one incident was proven as a breach of research integrity:

References	Topic Area	Specifics of Complaint	Outcome
RM-2017-016	Breach of ethics approval	Research conducted without valid ethics approval.	Resolved. The external audit confirmed that the PhD students in the group did not have valid ethics approvals for their own projects, but had been included in the lead PI's overall programme of research. This has been notified and rectified going forward with each student submitting their own ethics application.

The audit and risk committee are asked to note that this report will be made publicly available.

Patricia Henley
Head of Research Governance and Integrity
28 May 2019

Appendix 1: Summary of Research Governance and Integrity policies and procedures

RGIO Policies publicly available at: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/research-governance-integrity>

- Good Research Practice Policy, 4.1; 10 April 2019
- Human Tissue Act policy, v4; 19 January 2018
- Procedures for Inquiring into Allegations of Scientific Misconduct, v2.1; 24 April 2017 (this will be reviewed once the new Concordat to Support Research Integrity is published)
- Ethics Committee Terms of Reference, v2.2; 25 March 2019
- Statement on contact with the tobacco industry, from Prof Peter Piot, February 2018

Other relevant LSHTM policies, available at: www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/organisation/regulatory-documents

- Animal research policy
- Anti bribery
- Conflicts of interest
- Data Protection policy
- Freedom of Information
- Information Management and Security Policy
- Intellectual Property policy
- Open-access publishing policy
- Records Management
- Research Data Management Policy
- Whistleblowing
- Health and Safety policies and guidelines (various, on intranet)

Under review:

- Guidelines on working with the Private Sector (to be redrafted as Engaging with External Partners guide)

On the RGIO intranet page:

- Standard Operating Procedures and templates on research oversight, regulatory applications and approvals, design, management, conduct, and completion of research