



Annual St George's Research Ethics Committee (SGREC) Report 2019 - 2020

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.

St George's is strongly committed to carry out the research to the highest ethical standards. This includes not only the researchers, but staff in policy and management roles, along with the chair and members of the research ethics committee. We believe that the quality of the research ethics review is fundamental to our research integrity. We have the policies, processes, governance and culture to promote and ensure research integrity across St George's.

This annual statement covers the period 1st August 2019 to 31st July 2020.

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

- i) Research ethics webpage: In May 2020, we created a new research ethics webpage (<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/research-ethics>) which provides information for researchers on the ethics review process and St George's Research Ethics Committee.
- ii) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) provided expert guidance on research ethics.
 - 13.03.2020 – Team meeting of Molecular & Clinical Sciences Research Institute (15 participants)
 - 01.06.2020 – Seminar for staff - Molecular and Clinical Sciences Research Institute (20 participants)
 - 21.07.2020 - Seminar for staff - Institute of Medical and Biomedical Education (6 participants)
- iii) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) provided drop-in sessions for students.
- iv) St George's has a subscription to the UKRIO, which is an independent charity which provides support and webinars in relation to matters of research ethics, research integrity and research misconduct. The UKRIO provided training to the SGREC members on Research Ethics in March 2020.
- v) An audit of the St George's University of London Research Ethics Committee (SGREC) was conducted in May 2020. The review was based on the requirements set out in the 'Research Ethics Support and Review in Research Organisations' guidance of UK Research Integrity Office and Association of Research Managers and Administrators (2020). The audit established that the SGREC is 95% compliant with these requirements.
- vi) **The identified fields for improvement in the Audit:**
 - Increase the diversity of the SGREC with people from other institutes such as Population Health, Joint Faculty, St George's NHS Trust medical staff, industry and the local community
 - Develop a policy for the SGREC recruitment and training

- Develop and update institutional research ethics and integrity policies (such as a Code of Conduct for researchers, Research misconduct procedures)
- Update the Constitution and Terms of Reference for the ethics committee
- RECs should normally expect reports from researchers detailing any serious and unanticipated adverse events arising during the research
- Provide supportive ethics reviews

vii) Actions for improvement:

- SOP for recruitment and training policy for SGREC was approved in May 2020
- The Code of Conduct for researchers has been drafted and is awaiting approval
- The research misconduct procedures, the feedback from UK Integrity Office (UKRIO) received, updates are in progress
- The SGREC SOP has been updated with the actions for serious and unanticipated/significant adverse events arising during the research
- The Terms of Reference and the Modus Operandi was updated in May 2020
- SOP for monitoring of high risk SGREC cases was approved in July 2020
- The SGREC forms and templates were updated in May 2020 to provide further support for researchers

2. The members of the Committee

The Term of Office for Committee members is 3 years, renewable once.

Name	Position / Rep	Membership type	First meeting attended	3 years	6 years
Bridget Bax	Reader	MCS	10/01/2018	10/01/2021	10/01/2024
Elena Sviderskaya	Senior Lecturer in Cell and Molecular Biology	MCS	14/02/2018 Att.22/05/2018	14/02/2021	14/02/2024
Irina Chis Ster	Senior Lecturer	I&I	09/12/2015	09/12/2018 Extended for 6 years	09/12/2021
John Ward	Student representative	STUDENT	13/04/2016	13/02/2019 Extended for 6 years	13/02/2022
Michael Perkin	Senior Lecturer/Consultant Paediatrician	PH	10/01/2018	10/01/2021	10/01/2024
Michelle Harricharan	Research Data Manager	DATA	08/03/2017	08/03/2020 Extended for 6 years	08/03/2023

Nahiedh Khan	Lay member	LAY	12/09/2018	12/09/2021	12/09/2024
Paris Ataliotis	Reader	IMBE	10/01/2018	10/01/2021	10/01/2024
Phil Cooper	Professor of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases	I&I	10/01/2018	10/01/2021	10/01/2024
Sue Alexander	Lay member	LAY	12/09/2018	12/09/2021	12/09/2024
Suzie McCluney	Lay member	LAY	12/09/2018	12/09/2021	12/09/2024
May Al-Shawk	Student representative	STUDENT	14/11/2018 Att.9/01/2019	14/11/2021	14/11/2024
Paul Heath	Professor of Paediatric Infectious Diseases & SGREC Chair	I&I	13/03/2019 Att.12/06/2019	13/03/2021	13/03/2024
Abdifatah Mohamud	Lay member	LAY	29/11/2019	29/11/2022	29/11/2025
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

3. Number of meetings

Date	Discussed studies	Outcomes
29/11/2019	2019.0345 Is the physiotherapy MMI racially biased against BME groups? 2019.0346 Perceptions of Leadership in Physiotherapy Education	Favourable ethics opinion for both studies
30/01/2020	2020.0024 Seroepidemiology of Maternally derived antibody against Group B Streptococcus (GBS) in Mulago/ Kawempe hospitals, Uganda. 2020.0023 Does Increasing Step Rate Improve Running Economy in Recreational Runners? 2020.0025 The perceived impact of cycling partnerships on the biopsychosocial health of refugees living in London: The Bike Buddy scheme.	Favourable ethics opinion for all studies
26/02/2020	2020.0058 Analysing the views of recently arrived migrants around catch-up vaccination in the UK 2020.0059 NeoCHG: Efficacy and safety of whole-body chlorhexidine (CHG) cleansing in reducing bacterial skin colonisation of hospitalised neonates: A pilot trial 2020.0037 Factors affecting female medical student interest in surgical training: A national UK survey 2020.0005 Physiotherapy students understanding of health promotion with obesity and weight management	Favourable ethics opinion for all studies
29/05/2020	2020.0146 Prevention of invasive Group B Streptococcus disease in young infants: a pathway for the evaluation & licensure of an investigational maternal GBS vaccine PREPARE Work Package 2 (WP2) -"Maternal, neonatal and infant outcomes at Kawempe National Referral Hospital"	Favourable ethics opinion
26/06/2020	2020.0147 Evaluation of emergency remote online problem-based learning using Microsoft teams 2020.131 'How Diagnostic Radiography students' knowledge in recognising sub optimal plain films develops throughout the levels of education?' The accuracy of recognising sub optimal plain film images by student diagnostic radiographers	Favourable ethics opinion for both studies

4. Protocol deviations

No protocol deviations have been reported in the period August 2019 to July 2020.

5. The number of applications submitted and given favourable opinion by SGREC for the period August 2019 to July 2020 (2019.0274 - 2020.131)

Type of study	Reviewed by	Number of studies
High risk studies	Full SGREC	8
Medium risk studies	Proportional SGREC Reviewed by Chair, Research Ethics and Integrity Officer and one member of the SGREC	0
Low risk studies	Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	28
Audit of Low risk studies	Reviewed by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer and audited by full SGREC	4
Amendment	Chair (high risk) or Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (low, medium risk studies)	4
Service evaluation (from 10/19/2019) SE0001-SE0008	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	8
Clinical audit (from 10/19/2019) AU001-AU0010	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	10