

**ANNUAL RESEARCH INTEGRITY STATEMENT  
2019**

**ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

## ST GEORGE'S COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH INTEGRITY

St George's, University of London (SGUL) is committed to promoting and ensuring research integrity and has systems and processes in place to achieve this. SGUL fully supports the principles documented in '[The Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#)'.

SGUL's 2017-22 [strategic plan](#) states that SGUL believes in acting with integrity in all of our interactions, and defines our core values as openness, respect, engagement and commitment.

SGUL was awarded the HR Excellence in Research Award in November 2013. We retained our HR Excellence in Research Award in June 2019, following a successful 4-year review. The retention of that award demonstrates our long-term commitment to the career development and working conditions of researchers.

SGUL is committed to ensuring that all research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and organisational policies, frameworks and standards.

This annual research integrity statement covers the reporting period August 2018 to July 2019.

## RESEARCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SGUL maintains a set of policies which provides guidance to staff and students but also enables stakeholders to have confidence in the outputs of the research conducted at SGUL. Policies can be found on the website: <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/about/governance/policies>

These policies include:

- Anti-Fraud
- Whistleblowing and Public Interest Disclosure
- Use of Animals in Research
- Research Misconduct Procedure
- Research Publications
- Research Data Management
- Data Protection
- Anti-Corruption
- Retention and Disposal

## RESEARCH ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN SGUL

### Joint Research and Enterprise Services (JRES)

The JRES provides the research governance and management functions for St George's, University of London and St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, including the oversight of St George's sponsored studies and clinical trials. More information on how the JRES supports clinicians and academic researchers can be found here: <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/about/our-professional-services/joint-research-and-enterprise-services>

The (JRES) maintains a comprehensive set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which describe the processes and required standards for the research studies and clinical trials being conducted across the organisation. <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/about/our-professional-services/joint-research-and-enterprise-services/research-support/performing-clinical-research>

## **St George's Research Ethics Committee (SGREC)**

The SGREC reviews research being undertaken by St George's staff or students that does not involve the NHS, and also research that is taking place on St George's, University of London property. From August 2018 – July 2019, the SGREC approved 10 research studies, comprising 8 student studies and 2 staff studies.

In 2019, SGUL created a Research Ethics and Integrity Officer role, based in the JRES. This role supports the SGREC, reviews the applications made to the Committee and provides advice and training for all staff and students on the SGREC processes. The role will also review and maintain SGUL's compliance, awareness and engagement with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (as revised in October 2019) across the organisation and will implement training on this for SGUL employees and students.

More information on the SGREC can be found here: <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/ethical-review-process>

## **Governance, Legal and Assurance Services Team (GLAS)**

GLAS works to ensure that effective decision-making structures are in place and has oversight of a wide range of areas that contribute to the integrity of research, including risk management, freedom of information, safety management, records management, and legal services. GLAS provides advice and training on these areas to staff across the institution.

GLAS has recently developed a policy on digital preservation in order to manage risk in relation to records held in a digital format.

More information on GLAS can be found here: <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/about/our-professional-services/governance-legal-and-assurance-services>

## **Library**

The library supports research at SGUL and provides researchers with help and guidance on topics such as managing research data and research publications. It also has systems in place to assist researchers in making their research publications openly available.

More information on the research services provided by the library can be found here: <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/about/our-professional-services/information-services/library/researchers>

## **Research Facilities**

St George's has several research facilities which facilitate research and encourage good research practice, including:

- Clinical Research Facility (provides staff and facilities to support the delivery of high-quality and compliant clinical trials)
- Biological Research Facility (has an important research integrity role in maintaining the highest possible standards of animal welfare)

More information on these, and other SGUL facilities, can be found here: <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/our-research-facilities>

## RESEARCH TRAINING AND INFORMATION

SGUL has recently launched its new website <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/> which includes a section on research and provides information to staff, students and the public.

The JRES facilitates Good Clinical Practice training throughout the university, which supports researchers and students to conduct their clinical research within the scope of the various legislative requirements.

SGUL offers a wide range of education opportunities and staff development activities for staff and students, including seminars, workshops and online courses. Research integrity is part of the curriculum on our undergraduate programmes. Workshops on research integrity are included within the Graduate School skills programme, which is compulsory for research degree students. As well as research integrity, these modules include lectures and tutorials on statistics, research methods and public engagement and are also open to clinical academic trainees.

The research degree student handbook includes a section on research integrity, which outlines SGUL's commitment to the 'Concordat to Support Research Integrity'.

A research culture is promoted within the organisation by events such as Research Day which is an annual event showcasing the world-class research done at St George's and which will take place this year on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

## RESEARCH MISCONDUCT POLICY

SGUL has a clear policy in place for investigating incidences of alleged research misconduct. The policy describes the principles by which allegations of research misconduct are processed and judged, thereby ensuring that investigations are carried out in a fair and transparent manner.

The Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure identifies a senior member of staff in both SGUL and in the St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (with which we share the same campus). Within the University, the key member of staff who oversees research integrity and is the first point of contact is the Deputy Principal for Research and Enterprise and within the Trust it is the Medical Director.

### Misconduct cases within reporting period

Misconduct Type	Referred for full investigation (Y/N)	Reported to Council (Y/N)
None for this reporting period	Not applicable	Not applicable

The point of contact in the University for Whistleblowers is the Deputy Principal for Institutional Affairs. Our policy is available on the St George's University website:

<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/whistleblowing-and-public-interest-disclosure>

**Named Contact for Misconduct:** Professor Jon S Friedland, Deputy Principal (Research & Enterprise)

**Named Contact for Whistleblowing:** Professor Deborah Bowman, Deputy Principal (Institutional Affairs)



## **EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT**

St George's has continued its subscription to the UK Research Integrity Office, a charity offering advice and guidance to universities, students and staff on matters of research integrity.

SGUL also collaborates with Kingston University and the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education, which is a joint enterprise of Kingston University and SGUL. Kingston University students/staff can seek ethical approval for their research studies from the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC).