Annual Research Integrity Statement 2022- 23

This statement has been produced by St George's, University of London in accordance with The Concordat to Support Research Integrity 2019. It has been approved by St George's Council and will be made publicly available on the University website.

In accordance with the Concordat, this statement includes:

- a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and the application of research integrity issues

- a statement to provide assurance that the processes the institution has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, timely, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation

- a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken, which will include data on the number of investigations

- a statement on what the institution has learned from any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken, including what lessons have been learned to prevent the same type of incident re-occurring

- a statement on how the institution creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct

St George's is strongly committed to research integrity and we fully support, promote and have embedded the commitments set out in the Concordat. We believe that research integrity is fundamental to our research and its outcomes. We have the policies, processes, governance and culture to promote and ensure research integrity across St George's.

This annual statement covers the period August 2022 to July 2023.

1. **Guidance, support and training for researchers**

i)   <u>Research integrity presentations:</u> Our Research Ethics and Integrity Officer has delivered several research ethics and integrity presentations for St George's students and staff.

The presentations/workshops in 2022/23 are listed below.

- 26/10/2022: Paramedic Science Students (20 participants)
- 08/11/2022: Advanced Clinical Practice Students (10 Participants)
- 24/11/2022: Postgraduate Students (12 Participants)
- 31/01/2023: Graduate School Skills Workshops (10 Participants)
- 31/01/2023: Graduate School Skills Workshop (5 Participants)

- 07/02/2023: Paramedic Science Students (8 Participants)
- 22/02/2023: Physiotherapy Students (60 Participants)
- 11/07/2023: Research Aware Programme (25 Participants)
- 18/07/2023: Joint Scholarly Activity Day (12 Participants)

ii)   Data protection training: Training on managing personal information is mandatory for all staff handling personal data.

iii)   Research ethics webpage: The research ethics webpage is kept updated and provides information for researchers on the ethics review process and St George`s Research Ethics Committee.

iv)   "How to Arrive and Thrive at St George's" guide: This guide covers a range of topics to support researchers, including matters pertaining to research integrity.

v)   Code of practice for research: A research code of practice, defining St George's policies and expectations in relation to the conduct of research, is available for our researchers.

vi)   Trusted research: The University has developed Trusted Research Guidance, which provides guidance for researchers on security issues in international collaborations.

2.   Policies, processes and governance

A full list of all our policies and processes relating to research integrity, with links to our website, is contained in Appendix one.

Those which were new or updated in 2022/23 are:

i)   Freedom of Information Policy: This procedure was updated in September 2022. An annual review of the publication scheme was added, as was the requirement to offer advice and assistance to those making Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. A requirement that a clear statement should be made regarding why an FOI exemption was applied was added. Further updates were also made, for clarification and due to other changes.

ii)   Open Access Publications Policy: This policy was introduced in September 2022, to provide guidance for authors to support the publishing process. The policy encourages open access publishing as best practice across the University.

iii)   Records Management Policy: This policy was updated in September 2022. A point that accessibility to records is maintained for as long as they are required was added, along with some other updates which were mainly for clarification.

iv)   Research Data Management Policy: This policy was updated in January 2023, with an addition that there should be a review if research data has commercial potential.

v)   Whistleblowing Policy: This policy was reviewed in February 2023. The only change was to reflect changes in personnel.

3. External engagement

i) <u>UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO).</u> St George's has continued its subscription to the UKRIO, which is an independent charity which provides support and webinars in relation to matters of research integrity, research ethics and research misconduct.

4. Research misconduct

i) <u>Formal research misconduct investigations:</u> St George's did not undertake any formal research misconduct investigations.

ii) <u>Learning from misconduct investigations:</u> Not applicable for 2022/23.

iii) <u>Research environment:</u> We are committed to ensuring that St George's has a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct. We have procedures on and a named contact for research misconduct and whistleblowing, we deal with allegations robustly and in a timely manner, and we provide training for our researchers. St George's leaders promote research integrity and create a safe environment to raise concerns, including through our Dean for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and our Associate Dean for Research Culture.

iv) <u>Assurance:</u> The Research Misconduct procedure is available on our website. The procedure contains timelines within which the different aspects of the investigation need to be conducted. The procedure has an informal stage, a screening panel and an investigation panel, which provides for robust review of allegations. An individual cannot be a member of both the screening panel and the investigation panel. The procedure is based upon the 'Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research' authored by the UKRIO and is appropriate for the needs of the University. We intend to review the procedure given the 2023 update to the UKRIO template.

Appendix one

- Clinical research governance SOPs/Templates

- Clinical Trial Transparency

- Cloud Computing

- Code of Conduct on Personal Relationships

- Conflicts of Interest and Financial Dealings

- Data Protection Policy

- Data Quality Policy

- Dignity at Study

- Dignity at Work

- Disciplinary Procedure

- Freedom of Information Policy

- Grievance Procedure

- Human Tissue Act

- Information Governance Framework

- Information Sharing Protocol

- Open Access Publications Policy

- Records Management Policy

- Removable Media Policy

- Research Data Management Policy

- Research Misconduct Procedure

- Use of Animals in Research

- Whistleblowing policy