

Annual St George's Research Ethics Committee (SGREC) Report 2022 - 2023

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 Research Committee 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

All research that is not being reviewed by a nationally recognised Research Ethics Committee (e.g., NHS REC), that is being conducted by St George's University London students or staff or research which involves St George's University London students, staff, or data, requires a favourable opinion from the St George's Research Ethics Committee (SGREC) and governance approval by the Research Ethics and Integrity Officer, prior to commencing. We believe that the high quality of the research ethics review is fundamental to our research integrity and culture. This annual statement covers the period 1st July 2022 to 1st August 2023.

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

- i) Research ethics webpage: The webpage has been continually updated with any new information and updated policies and forms (<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/research-ethics>).

During this period updates have been made to reflect the dates of SGREC meetings, committee updates, approved research and the most recent integrity statement has been uploaded.

- ii) Research Integrity Statement 2021-2022 was approved and uploaded to the website.
- iii) New Research Ethics and Integrity Officer – Chantelle Simpson. Started 30AUG2022.
- iv) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) has provided expert guidance on research ethics and integrity. REIO gave advice on study design, ethics application process, study documents and raised awareness on the potential ethical issues connected to research.
- v) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) undertook the following presentations/workshops:

Audience	Date	Subject	Attendance
New staff at SGUL – Welcome Seminar	06/10/2022	(15min) Research Integrity and Ethics	16 Online
Critical Care and Helicopter Emergency Medical Service Paramedics	26/10/2022	(1hr) Research Integrity, Culture, Transparency, Misconduct and Ethics	20 Online
ACP Students to Quality Improvements	08/11/2022	(1hr) Research Integrity, Culture, Transparency, Misconduct and Ethics	10 Online
Postgraduates	24/11/2022	(1hr15min) Research Methods/Research Project Planning and Management - Research Integrity	12 In Person

New staff at SGUL – Welcome Seminar	18/01/2023	(15min) Research Integrity and Ethics	26 Online
Graduate School Skills	31/01/2023	(30min) Introduction to Research Integrity and Ethics for Research Degrees Presentation	10 In person
Graduate School Skills	31/01/2023	(2hrs) Introduction to Research Integrity and Ethics Workshop for Research Degrees	5 In person
Level 6 EBP Paramedic Students	07/02/2023	(1hr) Research Integrity and Ethics	8 Online
BSc and MSc Physio students	22/02/2023	(1hr) Research Integrity and Ethics	60 Online
New staff at SGUL – Welcome Seminar	20/04/2023	(15min) Research Integrity	25 Online
New staff at SGUL – Welcome Seminar	04/07/2023	(15min) Research Integrity	20 Online
Research Aware Programme	11/07/2023	(1hr30min) Navigating the Ethical review process	25 Online
Joint Scholarly Activity Day	18/07/2023	(15min) Ethical Approval Process	12 In person
Collaborative Scholarly Activity Event	18/07/2023	(15min) Ethical Review Process	26 In person

- vi) The Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (REIO) provided drop-in sessions for students and staff. This was previously stopped due to the switch over in REIO. The drop-in sessions are now running again and are being held via teams. So far there have been **7 drop-in sessions**.
- vii) St George’s has renewed the subscription to the UKRIO in this year. The independent charity provides support and free webinars on research ethics, research integrity and culture and research misconduct.

- viii) St George's are also members of ARMA (UK) which is the professional association for research management in the UK.
- ix) The Committee worked together and discussed a number of topics in the committee meetings which included but were not exclusive to:
- Questionnaire exhaustion, this was in reference to the increasing number of questionnaires/surveys that are coming through to the SGREC for review. There is a concern that this may lead to a lesser response rate for some researchers.
 - The decline in the number of high-risk studies coming through to the committee. Possible explanations include the change in HRA guidance for student studies and the change in SGREC risk criteria.
 - Updating of the SGREC SOP, particularly regarding the reporting of AE's. Moving forward AE's will not be reported and only SAE's relating to the study will be reported. All AE's will still be reported in the annual reports.

2. Members of the Committee

Name	Position / Rep	Membership type	First meeting attended	3 years	6 years
Bridget Bax	Reader	MCS	10/01/2018	10/01/2021 Extended	10/01/2024
Christopher Carroll	Lecturer in Human Genetics	MCS	21/03/2022	21/03/2025	21/03/2028
Michael Perkin	Reader/Consultant Paediatrician	PH	10/01/2018	10/01/2021 Extended	10/01/2024
Nahiedh Khan	Lay member	LAY	12/09/2018	12/09/2021 Extended	12/09/2024
Paris Ataliotis	Reader & Deputy Chair	IMBE	10/01/2018	10/01/2021 Extended	10/01/2024
Phil Cooper	Professor of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases	I&I	10/01/2018	10/01/2021 Extended	10/01/2024
Sue Alexander	Lay member	LAY	12/09/2018	12/09/2021 Extended	12/09/2024
Victor Olisa	Lay member	LAY	15/02/2021	15/02/2024	15/02/2027
Damion Bailey	Lay member	LAY	20/05/2021	20/05/2024	20/05/2027

Paul Heath	Professor of Paediatric Infectious Diseases & SGREC Chair	I&I	13/03/2019	13/03/2022 Extended	13/03/2025
Georgia Bullock	Research Development and Governance Manager	JRES	29/11/2019	29/11/2022	29/11/2025
Ella Whittle	PhD student	STUDENT	20/01/2022	20/01/2025	20/01/2028
Gill Mein	Senior Lecturer in Health and Wellbeing	HSCE	18/07/2022	18/07/2025	18/07/2028
Dani Vasile	Student representative	STUDENT	21/02/2023 NEW MEMBER	20/12/2025	20/12/2028
Chantelle Simpson	REIO	JRES	21/02/2023 NEW MEMBER	30/08/2025	30/08/2028
Clare Thornbury	Clinical Research Associate	JRES	12/12/2022 NEW MEMBER	01/11/2025	01/11/2028
Kate Everett	Reader In Human Genetics	IMBE	18/05/2023 NEW MEMBER	18/05/2026	15/05/2029

Members who left the Committee:

- Angelika Kristek
- Faaiza Khan
- Irina Chis Ster
- Alice Reid
- Hannah Johnson

3. Number of meetings

Date	Discussed studies	Outcomes
18/07/2022	2022.0172 – Aviation Night Noise Effects (ANNE)	Favourable conditional ethics opinion
12/12/2022	Retrospective Review – Low Risk 2022.0252 - An evaluation of transgender education in pre and post-registration healthcare training 2022.0254 - What is the perceived value of emergency physiotherapy practitioners (EPPs) in A&E? A survey questionnaire of healthcare students at two London universities.	Questions raised re: 2022.0254 to be taken up with researcher.
21/02/2023	2023.0089 - HEATHROW NOISE INSULATION STUDY: QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY PILOT STUDY	Favourable conditional ethics opinion
18/05/2023	2023.0132 - The effect of an app on the performance and confidence of therapeutic radiography students	

	calculating isomoves using mental mathematics, a single centre study. Retrospective Review – Low risk 2022.0122 - A feasibility trial of Virtual Reality (VR) Hypnosis in perceived stress in healthcare students Virtual Reality Hypnosis in Healthcare Students Clinical Audit - AU0044 Service Evaluation - SE0117	Favourable conditional ethics opinion No concerns
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4. Protocol Deviations

There were no deviations however there was a protocol violation for study 2020.0308 EFFECT – Failure to adjust IMP dose by half due to lab results. Violation was reported to SGREC, sponsor and to National Institute for Medical Research ethics (Tanzania) as per local requirements.

5. The number of applications submitted and given favourable opinion by SGREC

2020/2021: 2020.0232 – 2021.0148

2021/2022: 2021.0128 – 2022.0151

2022/2023: 2022.0169 – 2023.0144

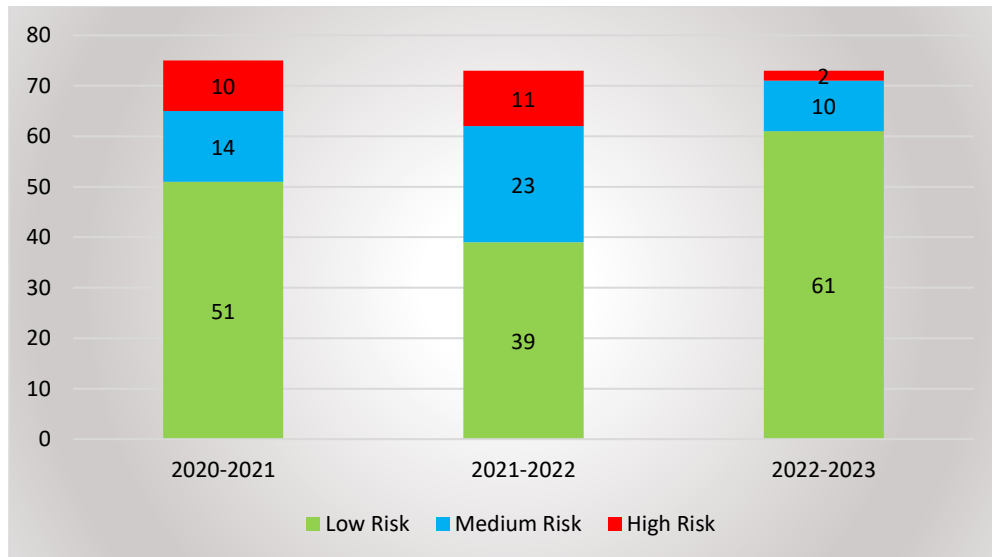
Type of study	Reviewed by	Number of studies Aug 2020-Jul 2021	Number of studies Aug 2021-Jun 2022	Number of studies Jul 2022-Jul 2023
High risk studies	Full SGREC	10	11	2
Medium risk studies	Proportional SGREC Reviewed by Chair, Research Ethics and Integrity Officer and one member of the SGREC	14	22	10
Low risk studies	Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	51	39	61
Total research studies	All	75	72	73
Student studies	All	50	54	47
Audit of Low-risk studies	Reviewed by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer and audited by full SGREC	4	2	6

Amendment	Chair (high risk) or Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (low, medium risk studies)	21	23	29
Service evaluation	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	20 SE0009-0029	43 SE0030-0072	46 SE0073-0121
Clinical audit	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	3 AU0011-0013	15 AU0014-0028	19 AU0029-0048
Projects involving human tissue	Registered by Research Ethics and Integrity Officer	N/A	3	1

All research projects with favourable SGREC ethics opinion are listed here:

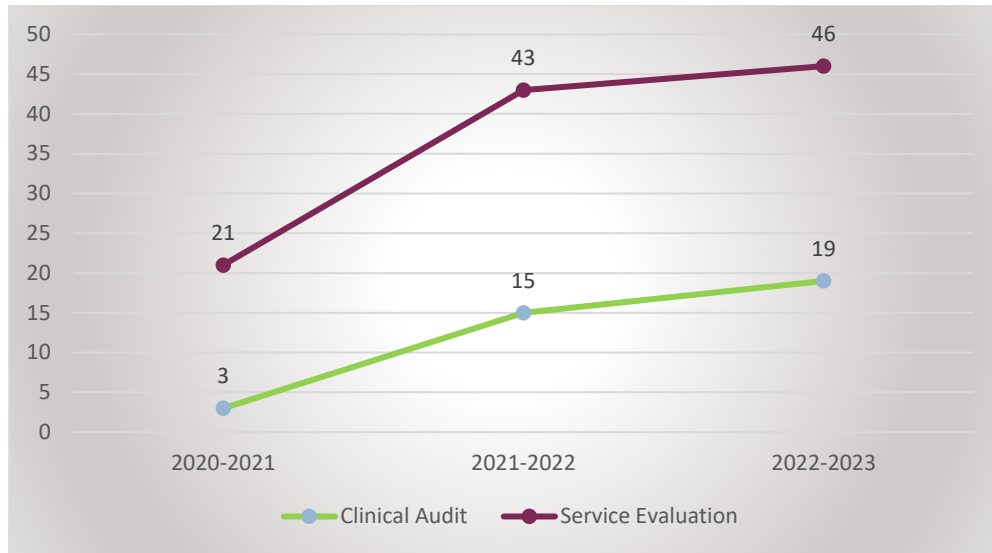
<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/ethical-review-process>

Number of research studies approved by SGREC 2020-2023



This year the number of low-risk studies has increased compared to the last 2 years, while the medium and high-risk studies have both decreased; the total number of all studies, however, is the same as for the last 3 years (72-75).

Number of Service evaluations and Clinical audits registered by SGREC 2020-2023



This year there has been a small increase in Clinical audits and Service evaluations; however, the numbers are very similar to last year.

Overall, we propose that the St Georges Research Ethics Committee has good visibility in the institutes, is efficient in reviewing applications and provides comprehensive ethics support for researchers.