



UK Research Integrity Office

4th Floor, Woburn House
20 Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9HQ

27th July 2009

Dear Colleague

Summary analysis of the consultation on the UK Research Integrity Office's draft *Code of Practice for Research: Promoting good practice and preventing misconduct*

Earlier this year, the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) consulted the research community on its draft 'Code of Practice for Research: promoting good practice and preventing misconduct'. The Code has been produced by UKRIO as part of our continuing work to support researchers and research organisations in the promotion of good practice in research and of the conduct of research of the highest quality.

The Code is applicable to all subject areas and draws upon existing good practice and the experiences of UKRIO in addressing good conduct and misconduct in research. Particular attention has been paid to areas where UKRIO has most often been approached for guidance, in the hope of passing on lessons to the research community. The Code complements existing and forthcoming guidance on research conduct, such as that provided by Research Councils UK, the Wellcome Trust or the Council for Science and Technology.

The response to the consultation was excellent. Over one hundred submissions were received, the vast majority of which were positive about the Code and the work of UKRIO. The submissions made valuable suggestions on the development of the Code and we are very grateful that the respondents considered the questions that we had asked, and wider issues of good practice in research, so thoroughly.

We have analysed the responses and discussed the issues that were raised, paying particular attention to those areas of the Code which were considered by some to be unclear or excessively prescriptive. The Code is now being revised based on the responses received during the consultation, with a view to launching the Code to the research community later this year. For your information, please find attached a summary of the analysis of the responses to the consultation.

UKRIO recognises that there are many organisations which issue guidance on the conduct of research to the UK research community. For some time, UKRIO has been working with organisations such as Research Councils UK, the Department of Health and Universities UK, with a view ultimately to streamline guidance on good practice in research, to ensure that it is clear for the research community, and to avoid duplication of effort. Further developments will be made known to the research community as they occur.

UKRIO would like to thank again the individuals and organisations who participated in the consultation for their contribution to the development of the Code.

Yours faithfully,



Professor Sir Ian Kennedy
Chair
UK Research Integrity Office

About the UK Research Integrity Office

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) is an independent body which offers advice and guidance to universities, other research organisations and individual researchers about the conduct of research.

Hosted by Universities UK and supported by government and by the major regulators and funders of health and biomedical research, our aims are to:

- promote the good governance, management and conduct of research;
- share good practice on how to address misconduct in research; and
- give confidential advice and guidance on specific cases and issues.

Although our formal remit is to provide support to the health and biomedical sciences research community, since our inception we have given advice and guidance to universities, NHS institutions, other research organisations and individual researchers across all subject areas.

UKRIO is not a regulatory body and has no formal legal powers. It was set up to provide independent support to employers, research organisations and researchers where there was none. The advice and guidance it offers is not mandatory but reflects best practice in the conduct of research and addressing misconduct.

For further information contact:

The UK Research Integrity Office
4th Floor, Woburn House
20 Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9HQ

Tel: +44 (0)20 7419 5499
Fax: +44 (0)20 7383 4573
Email: RIO@universitiesuk.ac.uk
Web: www.ukrio.org