



UK Research Integrity Office

4th Floor, Woburn House
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1st May 2009

Dear Colleague

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

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) has produced a draft Code of Practice for Research. May we invite you to submit your views on the draft document and how you might make use of it in your organisation. The Code forms part of UKRIO's ongoing work to support researchers and research organisations in the promotion of good practice in research.

The Code of Practice for Research is a reference tool for research organisations to use when revising their codes of practice for research. It complements existing and forthcoming guidance on research conduct, such as that provided by Research Councils UK, the Wellcome Trust and the Council for Science and Technology.

The Code has been designed to encourage good conduct in research and help prevent misconduct. It provides general principles and standards for good practice in research, applicable to both individual researchers and to organisations that conduct, fund, host, or are otherwise involved in research. It also includes a Recommended Checklist for Researchers: a one-page, non-technical checklist for the key points of good practice in research, based upon the more detailed standards provided by the Code.

The Code is applicable to all subject areas and does not attempt to micro-manage research.

Recognising that some organisations have developed their own guidance, the intention is that research organisations can use the principles and standards outlined as benchmarks when drafting or revising their own, more detailed, codes of practice. Use of the benchmarks contained in the Code can assist research organisations in fulfilling the requirements of regulatory, funding and other relevant bodies.

We would value your comments on the draft Code of Practice for Research. Page two of the document lists the questions which UKRIO would like you to consider and describes how to respond to the consultation. We ask that you submit any comments on the Code by 31st May 2009.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Kennedy', written in a cursive style.

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. 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:

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