



Media Release – embargoed until 10:00 13 September 2012

UKRIO responds to ‘MMR and the development of a research governance framework in UCL’

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) welcomes today’s statement from University College London (UCL) on the steps it has taken in recent years to improve its research governance systems. UKRIO assisted with this process and recognises the work UCL has done to strengthen its mechanisms for safeguarding research participants and ensuring the quality and ethical standards of its research.

It is essential that institutions have robust systems in place so that they can deal confidently with challenges to research integrity and patient safety should they arise. Research organisations must look carefully at the collaborative mechanisms that will allow them and their partners to live up to best practice guidance such as UKRIO’s *Code of Practice for Research* or the recent *Concordat to Support Research Integrity*.

James Parry, Chief Executive of UKRIO, said: ‘The UK has a well-earned reputation for excellent and innovative research but there is no reason for complacency. UKRIO hopes that UCL’s statement will prompt other research organisations to check that their own research governance systems are fit for purpose, ensuring that senior staff step up to the leadership roles set out in guidance from the Department of Health, regulators and other bodies.’

He added, ‘We welcome UCL’s recognition of the need to raise the profile of research governance issues in the UK, something that UKRIO has been doing for some time through our advice and support services, guidance publications and training courses. We will continue to identify and share good practice, providing expert support for researchers and the public.’

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Notes for Editors

1. The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) is an independent charity which provides expert advice and guidance about the conduct of academic, scientific and medical research, whether promoting good practice or addressing misconduct. We cover all subjects and help all involved in research, from research organisations, including universities and the NHS, to individual researchers and members of the public.
2. UKRIO received more than 60 formal requests for assistance in both 2010 and 2011 and use of our services continues to grow each year. Our publications have been used by many leading research organisations, including over 50 universities. Advice from UKRIO is not mandatory but reflects and reinforces best practice. Our guidance and training go beyond what can be achieved through contractual standards and complement the work of regulatory, professional and funding bodies. UKRIO’s services are in-depth but light-touch: practical without additional burdens.
3. UKRIO is funded by subscriptions from research organisations. Over 30 universities subscribe to us, including University College London. We are an independent body and our subscribers do not influence whom we help or what advice we give, nor do they receive confidential information on our work.
4. ‘MMR and the development of a research governance framework in UCL’ can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ras/acs/resgov
5. For further information please contact the UK Research Integrity Office, Sussex Innovation Centre, Science Park Square, Falmer BN1 9SB. Tel: +44 (0) 1273 234 697, email: info@ukrio.org, web: www.ukrio.org .

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