RESEARCH INTEGRITY

2017 –2018

LSHTM is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of research excellence and integrity, and is committed to delivering high quality, relevant research, underpinned by the highest ethical standards across the globe. LSHTM fully supports the Research integrity Concordat[1] and maintains an office dedicated to research governance, ethics and integrity to assure compliance with the Concordat, as well as regulations, guidance, standards governing research around the world.

This paper reports an annual summary of issues concerning research integrity, including research governance, and scientific misconduct at the School. This report is the School's annual public statement outlining the activities undertaken to strengthen integrity of research.

The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to note the report covering activities from *1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.*

1.   Research Governance Committee (RGC)

The Research Governance Committee (RGC) continues to meet termly (25 May 2017, 26 October 2017 and 15 February 2017). The next meeting is scheduled for 17 May 2018. The Research Governance Committee reports to Senate with the next report due to be submitted in June.

Following the transfer of the MRC Units, representatives from the Units have been welcomed onto the Committee and an updated Constitution and Terms of Reference reflecting this have been published.

2.   New or Amended Policies and Procedures

The RGC have commissioned a policy and procedure to ensure that research involving non-human genetic material is compliant with the Nagoya protocol[2]. This is due to be reviewed in May 2018.

The Human Tissue Act policy was updated as part of its biennial review and was approved at the Laboratory Safety Committee in February 2018.

A review of specific procedures and templates has been undertaken with the upcoming General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), namely the informed consent guidance and templates, as well as the procedure on confidentiality and anonymisation of research data.

A summary of research governance and integrity policies and procedures is listed in Appendix 1.

3.   Activities undertaken in Research Integrity

As part of its commitment to research integrity, LSHTM subscribed to UKRIO which enables access to teaching materials, the annual conference on research integrity, and other helpful guidance.

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[1] Universities UK (2012) Concordat to Support Research Integrity, available at: www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2012/the-concordat-to-support-research-integrity.pdf
[2] Further information on the Nagoya protocol can be found at: www.cbd.int/abs/about/

A database has been completed to record allegations of breaches of research misconduct and research integrity and has been populated from 2012 when the Quality and Governance Manager (Q&GM) became responsible for the management of investigations into research misconduct. The database allows a permanent record of investigations, as well, it allows interrogation to determine patterns and where training might be targeted when breaches re-occur in specific topics.

The Q&GM has developed training for research degree students on ethics, research governance and research integrity and has taught two sessions this past academic year (6 November 2017 and 12 February 2018). The course will be further improved with a view to eventually being made into an online module that will become mandatory for all RD students. The Q&GM will continue to deliver an introduction to research governance at the RD student orientation day which is held once per term. Discussions are ongoing as to whether this can be implemented into the new staff orientation day.

The Q&GM started a part-time doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) at the School in October 2018, focussing on Research Integrity.

4. Allegations of Breaches of Research Integrity/ Research Misconduct

In the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018, 11 complaints were made to the Research Governance and Integrity Office. Two were defined as proven incidents of breaches of research integrity and two investigations are currently ongoing and will be reported in the next audit and risk committee report in 2019.

The confirmed breaches of research integrity are summarised:

References	Topic Area	Specifics of Complaint	Outcome
RM-2017-018	Breach of ethics approval	Research conducted without valid ethics approval.	Resolved. Discussed at the RGC on 25 May 2017. Thesis re-written to exclude data obtained without ethics permission.
RM-2017-019	Authorship	Authorship on some papers disputed where staff were not thought to be instrumental in the study conduct or analyses.	Resolved. Discussed at the RGC on 25 May 2017. Felt that sufficient collaboration had not occurred to warrant authorship. The Good Publication Practice SOP (ref LSHTM-SOP-040) was examined to ensure that information is provided on who authorship

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Appendix 1: Summary of Research Governance and Integrity policies and procedures

RGIO Policies publicly available at: www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/research-governance-integrity

- Good Research Practice Policy, v3.2; 9 December 2016
- Human Tissue Act policy, v4; 19 January 2018
- Procedures for Inquiring into Allegations of Scientific Misconduct, v2.1; 24 April 2017
- Ethics Committee Terms of Reference, v2; 25 July 2017
- Statement on contact with the tobacco industry, from Prof Peter Piot, February 2018

Other School policies, available at: www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/organisation/regulatory-documents

- Animal research policy
- Anti bribery
- Conflicts of interest (currently being tested in EPH faculty)
- Data Protection policy
- Freedom of Information
- Information Management and Security Policy
- Intellectual Property policy
- Open-access publishing policy
- Records Management
- Research Data Management Policy
- Whistleblowing
- Health and Safety policies and guidelines (various, on intranet)

Under review:

- Guidelines on working with the Private Sector

On the RGIO section of the staff intranet:

- Standard Operating Procedures and templates on research oversight, regulatory applications and approvals, design, management, conduct, and completion of research