

Research Integrity Annual Report: 2015-2016

University Policies and Regulations (UPRs)

With ongoing implementation of enhancements following last year's gap analysis of our structures, policies and systems in respect of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, the two relevant UPRs were reviewed as part of our annual review process. No changes were recommended to either Studies involving the Use of Human Participants (RE01) or to the Research Misconduct UPR (RE02).

Cases of Research Misconduct

There were no cases of research misconduct, for either academic staff or research degree students, instigated during this period.

New Advisory Group

The University has established an Advisory Group on Research Governance for Clinical Studies (RGCS) in order to ensure good governance and management of all clinical studies sponsored or co-sponsored by the University of Hertfordshire. This will include undertaking an initial assessment of each study for sponsorship or co-sponsorship by the University and formulating a recommendation concerning the risks and benefits of sponsorship based on this assessment for consideration and approval by Professor John Senior, Chair of the Research Committee of the Academic Board, the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise).

Where a sponsorship role has been undertaken by the University, the Advisory Group will:

- ♦ be responsible for the oversight of each study to ensure they are properly initiated, managed and financed and that they meet all relevant standards
- ♦ ensure appropriate arrangements are put in place for management, monitoring and reporting of all clinical studies sponsored or co-sponsored by the University
- ♦ ensure the availability of a comprehensive set of up-to-date Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all clinical trials including Clinical Trials of Investigational Medicinal Products (CTIMPs)
- ♦ report to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise).

Dissemination and Training

Last year, the University's Doctoral College has made training on both Research Integrity and Plagiarism mandatory for all postgraduate research degree (PGR) students. Compliance has been high and this approach will continue for the PGR community. Our Researcher Development Programme, for both staff and students, additionally offers training on Research Ethics, NHS Ethics, Responsible Research, Applying for Ethical Approval for your Research Project and Data Management.

*Dr Susan Grey, Director of Research Degrees and Director of the Doctoral College,
Institutional Lead Research Integrity*