

Research Integrity Annual Report: 2017-18

Introduction

This is our fifth annual report since we signed up to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity in 2012 and we have ongoing activity and engagement with its commitments including monitoring, reviewing and the provision of training. In addition to this ongoing activity there are below a number of additional points to note for this reporting year.

Clinical Trials

Based in the Centre for Health Services and Clinical Research, the Clinical Trials Support Network (CTSN) provides advice and assistance to University of Hertfordshire staff and students as well as NHS clinicians and researchers in all aspects of the management and conduct of clinical trials. CTSN offer services which include:

- research design
- study set-up
- study documentation design
- research management and conduct
- statistical design and data analysis
- data management
- study monitoring
- reporting and publishing of clinical trials and other research projects in health-related topics.

The overriding principle is to enable trials to be conducted according to current safety and quality regulations as stipulated by EU and UK directives.

Reporting to our Health Advisory Group, which was established in 2016 and reported upon previously, the CTSN has developed a range of Standard Operating Procedures which include set-up, conduct, monitoring and completion. The Advisory Group reviews the SOPs and subsequently recommends these, or otherwise, for ratification by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise).

Concordat on Openness in Animal Research

Animal Research at the University is overseen by our Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body which oversees animal welfare, care and accommodation and conducts ethical review of animal research applications. This reporting year, we signed up to the Concordat on Openness in Animal Research and our policy statement on animal research, together with FAQ Links, are below.

Policy statement on Animal research at UH

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/research/research-management/governance/animal-research-at-the-university-of-hertfordshire/policy-statement-on-research-involving-the-use-of-animals>

Animal research FAQ

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/research/research-management/governance/animal-research-at-the-university-of-hertfordshire/animal-research-faqs>

Cases of Research Misconduct

There were no formal cases of research misconduct, for either academic staff or research degree students, instigated during this period. There was one reported informal review where the allegation proved non-substantive.

Dr Susan Grey, Institutional Lead Research Integrity