# THE CONCORDAT TO SUPPORT RESEARCH INTEGRITY

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# SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS

This concordat seeks to provide a national framework for good research conduct and its governance. As signatories to the concordat to support research integrity, we are committed to:

- 1. upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
- 2. ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards

Research integrity is an issue that must be continually revisited, to ensure that its principles are widely understood and accepted. In 2018, the Science and Techniced c6.36 T  $\,$ 

# **INTRODUCTION**

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### 5 H V H D U Fakettelsplonsible for:

- x understanding the expected standards of rigour and integrity relevant to their research
- x maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in their work at all times

### COMMITMENT

We are committed to ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.

- x only provide funding to organisations that can demonstrate that appropriate structures are in place to ensure research integrity in their research activities
- x clearly identify and indicate any specific codes of practice and other policies that researchers and employers of researchers are expected to comply with, beyond those that might be generally expected

Other organisations working to support research and researchers should continue with their efforts to further strengthen the integrity of research. In particular, the work of organisations to develop recognised ethical guidelines and codes of conduct for different research disciplines is invaluable. Collaboration between organisations has led to the development of shared approaches to cross-institutional ways of working, and the further development of this guidance should be encouraged.

# EMBEDDING A CULTOFFREE SEARISMEGRITY

### COMMITMENT

We are committed to supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and

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- x embed these features in their own systems, processes and practices
- x reflect recognised best practice in their own systems, processes and practices
- x implement the concordat within their research environment
- x participate in an annual monitoring exercise to demonstrate that the institution has met the commitments of the concordat
- x promote training and development opportunities to research staff and students, and encourage their uptake
- x identify a named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity and ensure that this information is kept up to date and publicly available on the institution's website
- x identify a named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for

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### **ANNEXÆDEFINITIONS**

5 H V H D WFaking on the UK funding bodies' definition used in the Research Excellence Framework, as described in *Assessment framework and guidance on submissions* (Hefce, Hefcw, SFC, DEL, 2011), 'research' is defined as, 'a process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared... It includes work of direct relevance to the needs of commerce, industry, and to the public and voluntary sectors; scholarship; the invention and generation of ideas, images, performances, artefacts including design, where these lead to new or substantially improved insights; and the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products and processes, including design and construction'.

5 H V H D U F Kolldwing the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) *Code of practice for research* (2009), 'researchers' are defined as any people who conduct research, including but not limited to: as an employee; as an independent contractor or consultant; as a research student; as a visiting or emeritus member of staff; or as a member of staff on a joint clinical or honorary contract.

5 H V H D U F K L Q Wherle it Into Whiversal definition of research integrity. This concordat identifies five core elements of research integrity, and these are described under commitment 1. The Singapore Statement on Research Integrity (2010), referenced within this concordat, provides a further definition. In addition, the UKRIO has set out principles of research integrity in its Code of Practice (UKRIO, 2009).

(PSOR\HUV RI UHVDrawing KnHhe VKRIO Code of practice for research (2009), a broad definition of 'employer' is used. 'Employers of researchers' are any bodies that: conduct or host research; employ, support or host researchers; teach research students; or allow research to be carried out under their auspices.

) X Q G H U V R | FUKTIVeste Entry be in the public-, third- or private sector. Funders may also be employers of researchers, and they may also commission research, and/or provide block grants or hypothecated funds. The definition includes organisations that provide financial sponsorship for research and/or researchers.

2 W K H U R U J D Q LAVdD ethse range of other organisations are involved in

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