

## Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2017

The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) is committed to the highest standards of research integrity and to transparency around any allegations of research misconduct that may arise. The ICR subscribes to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (Universities UK, 2012). The five commitments of the Concordat are:

1. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research;
2. We are committed to ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards;
3. We are committed to supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers;
4. We are committed to using transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise; and
5. We are committed to working together to strengthen the integrity of research, and reviewing progress regularly and openly.

As recommended in the Concordat, this annual narrative statement reports any research misconduct allegations arising and sets out the steps that we have taken to promote a positive culture of research integrity.

### Formal investigations of research misconduct

There were no formal investigations of research misconduct in 2017.

### New actions and activities to support and strengthen research integrity

In 2017 a full review and update of the ICR's Good Research Practice Guideline, which covers a number of Research Integrity issues, was carried out. In order to solicit Faculty input on salient topics in Good Research Practice, three open discussion sessions were held on publication and authorship, robustness and reproducibility, and openness, each led by a senior academic. All three sessions featured substantial research-integrity content and their outcomes fed into the revision of the Guideline, which was completed by the end of 2017 (and approved by the ICR's Executive Board in January 2018).

In addition to the updated Guideline, other suggested actions arose from the sessions, including (i) instituting new training on authorship good practice and reproducibility/robustness, (ii) encouraging more discussion of research methods and reproducibility issues e.g. at the ICR Conference, and (iii) recognising both in-depth, robust work and development of initiatives promoting reproducibility in tenure and promotion decisions. These initiatives will be implemented in 2018, along with the publication of an external version of the Good Research Practice Guideline and the Research Integrity/Misconduct information suggested in the Concordat Progress Report.

2017 also saw the launch by ICR scientists of Probe Miner, a powerful, user-friendly web-based resource built on our computational and statistical analysis of more than 3.9 million experimental activities for more than 1.8 million compounds in curated, public, medicinal-chemistry databases. Probe Miner will promote research integrity by providing an objective evidence base for the deployment of chemical probes, which are commonly misused in biomedical and related research.

The leading involvement of the CEO in this initiative, as well as the discussion session on robustness and reproducibility, sends a message that the leadership of ICR is committed to the highest standards of rigour and integrity in our research.