

## **Annual statement of compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity**

### **Statement for 2020/2021**

During 2020/2021, the University has undertaken the following actions and activities to support and strengthen the understanding and application of research integrity:

#### **COVID-19**

The University continued to set high standards of research integrity despite the changes imposed by the pandemic. COVID-19 guidance was published on the University website and updated regularly in line with changing Government guidance. We will continue to be mindful of the ongoing impacts on Covid-19 in our ongoing interactions with research participants.

#### **REF 2021**

The University has made its submission to REF 2021 and we are pleased to report that research integrity was a major part of our institutional and unit of assessment narratives. Compliance with the Concordat featured heavily and written accounts included the steps we have taken to enhance standards of governance, improvements to administrative and professional support, the introduction of EthOS and associated training, misconduct reporting processes and the roles and responsibilities of key staff such as Faculty Heads of Research Ethics and Governance. We have no doubt that this focus on the Concordat for Research Integrity will be assessed as a positive aspect of the quality of our research environment.

#### **Update to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and ethical approval processes**

Ethical approval processes have been updated for taught projects in Education and Psychology that require a second independent reviewer to comply with external accreditation such as the British Psychological Society. This route is now available to all taught courses subject to University REGC approval.

SOPs have been updated for NHS sponsorship and the Human Tissue Authority.

#### **Actions undertaken in relation to the Human Tissue Authority (HTA)**

An internal audit of the University's processes for compliance with the Human Tissue legislation was undertaken by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Knowledge Exchange and the Research Ethics and Governance Manager for Health, Psychology and Social Care and Science and Engineering. The audit found that considerable progress has been made across all aspects of our work in this important area. Investment in new freezers and tracking software, changes to roles and responsibilities and the efforts of colleagues including the Designated Individual Professor Hans Degens and the team of Persons Designate (including technicians and academic staff) provides further assurance that we are compliant with the terms of our license.

## **‘Beyond compliance’ sessions**

We have a regular ‘beyond compliance’ slot at the University’s Research Ethics and Governance Committee where we invite speakers to discuss emerging areas of interest in relation to research integrity. Over the past academic year we have hosted sessions on the ethics of conducting research overseas, the Nagoya Protocol and its implications for biological research, Artificial Intelligence and we had a visit from James Parry, the Chief Executive of the UK’s Research Integrity Office.

## **Formal investigations of research misconduct**

Following the procedure for the investigation of misconduct in research:

- 1 allegation of research misconduct against a staff member has been raised and the case is ongoing.

## **Research Integrity Statement 2021-22**

The next Annual Statement will be published in November 2022.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the evidence presented, we believe that Manchester Metropolitan University complies with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity.