



Research Integrity Annual Statement 2024

This report summarises the actions and activities undertaken by the Cancer Research UK Scotland Institute in 2024 to promote the generation of high quality, robust and ethical research and to embed an institutional culture of research integrity. The report content aligns with the template developed by the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) and the signatories to the Concordat to support research integrity.

Section 1 Key contact information

Question	Response
Organisation name	CRUK Scotland Institute (previously CRUK Beatson Institute)
Organisation type	Independent research performing organisation
Date statement approved by governing body	Statement covering period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 Approved by the CRUK Scotland Institute's Board of Director's on 03/03/2025
Institute's research integrity page web address	https://www.crukscotlandinstitute.ac.uk/about/research-integrity.html

Privacy - Terms



research
integrity

Named
member of
staff who will
act as a first
point of
contact for
anyone
wanting
more
information
on matters
of research
integrity

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Section 2 Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture. Description of actions and activities undertaken

Section 2A Description of current systems and culture

We advocate the core values of research integrity (honesty, ethics, rigour, openness, transparency, accountability and care & respect) in the entire research lifecycle, from experimental design through data generation, analysis, management and preservation, to the dissemination and publication of research outputs. Research integrity is fundamental to all aspects of our research and as such, all activities are overseen by the Head of the Research Integrity Service and endorsed by the Institute Director and Senior Management Team. We provide a positive workplace culture, where our research community is enabled to realise their full potential. This is championed by the People & Culture Team.

Policies





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- Code of Good Practice in Research
 - Data Preservation
 - Data Protection
 - Ethics
 - Financial Conflict of Interest
 - Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer
 - Misconduct in Research
 - Press and Social Media
 - Publishing and Open Access
 - Statement on Dealing with Allegations of Research Misconduct Under United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Research-related Activities for Foreign Institutions
 - Whistleblowing

In addition, we have policies that encompass generating a positive research culture: Career Development, Equal Opportunities, Bullying and Harassment, Adoption Leave and Pay, Maternity Leave and Pay, Paternity Leave and Pay, Shared Parental Leave and Pay, Special Leave, Flexible Working, Hybrid Working, Immigration and Visa and Long Service.

Systems

We have systems in place to ensure our research is conducted and disseminated in a responsible manner.

Researchers at the CRUK Scotland Institute are supported, advised and protected, by the Head of the Research Integrity Service, who oversees research integrity training and raises awareness of best practice; supports data stewardship; develops and implements research policies and guidelines; conducts pre-submission manuscript reviews; supports and assesses post-publication data queries; coordinates the research integrity champions; engages with the sector to share and identify best practice; and is the internal and external point of contact for matters relating to research





International licence and are archived at Europe PubMed Central to maximise readership and use. We encourage researchers to use the [CRediT](#) taxonomy to define authors' precise contributions and ensure appropriate credit is given and that authors are accountable for their data, as well as acknowledging other contributions to published work. To promote transparency and reproducibility in our papers, we encourage the publication of protocols, appropriate and responsible data presentation, such as the use of [SuperPlots](#), and clear and precise descriptions of data and metadata, in compliance with [FAIR](#) standards. We have a mandatory process for archiving data associated with all publications and depositing large data sets in repositories, as well as promoting the sharing of all other data. To facilitate best practice in reporting, we have guidelines for preparing manuscripts, which can be used in conjunction with our publication checklist (available from our inhouse research integrity toolkit). In addition, all manuscripts are reviewed by the Head of the Research Integrity Service prior to journal submission or posting on pre-print servers and checked for text plagiarism using [iThenticate](#) and for image anomalies using [Imagetwin](#).

We have over 40 [research integrity champions](#), embedded within each research group and each core facility team. This voluntary role, mainly undertaken by early career researchers, enables grassroots activity in promoting and supporting research integrity. The champions play an invaluable part in disseminating information, implementing research policies and supporting the stewardship of published data in their groups, as well as engaging in projects with the Head of the Research Integrity Service and attending a yearly meeting of the research integrity champions.

Training

Research integrity training is mandatory for all researchers at the CRUK Scotland Institute, from PhD students to group leaders, and forms part of the induction process for all new researchers and technicians. Attendance is monitored and recorded by the Head of the Research Integrity Service.





and responsible image processing. As well as outlining our policies and expectations the programme raises awareness of reproducible and responsible research practices, encourages behaviour change and offers opportunities to discuss important issues and new initiatives underpinning research integrity, and provides an opportunity to reflect on good research practises within specific fields. It also serves to highlight support and guidance available at the CRUK Scotland Institute. Our training is bespoke and covers generic issues, but course content is specific to the local environment and the research being conducted.

Good research practice training continues informally within research groups and guidance on experimental design, data acquisition, processing and analysis is also captured in the training researchers receive from the [CRUK Scotland Institute's Advanced Technology](#) facility staff.

In addition, researchers receive generic eLearning training to foster positive research culture; Developing Team Trust and Culture, Bullying and Harassment, Equity and Diversity, Unconscious Bias, Positive Mental Health at Work, Leadership Styles and Quality, Cyber Security and Phishing, and General Data Protection Regulation (UK).

The Senior Management Team and Group Leaders receive training in [lab leadership](#) and coaching in [leadership](#) and [strategic thinking skills](#) to support delivery of the Institute's vision.

Communications and engagement

To identify and share best practices and to stay up to date with current developments we are members of several national research integrity organisations:

- Cancer Research UK's research integrity group
- Scottish Research Integrity Network (SRIN)

