

Chair
Professor Iain Cameron
MD FRCOG FRCP Edin

Chief Executive
Dr Katie Petty-Saphon

Sent by email

Friday 22 May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Medical Schools Council as a signatory to the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research is required to provide an annual report on progress in relation to the commitments contained within the Concordat. In June 2014 the MSC as an organisation published an updated statement on the use of animals in medical research on its website <http://www.medschools.ac.uk/News/Pages/MSC-updates-statement-on-animal-research.aspx>.

Members were invited to provide information about activities that they have undertaken to meet the aims of the concordat within their own institutions.

The University of Glasgow has published specific information about its use of animals on its website. The page includes a statement on its position on animal research, the benefits of such research, statistics on animal use which are updated annually, and FAQ s which give examples of procedures and the use of a scale to assess pain levels. The website also links to other organisations such as UAR, NC3Rs, and the Home Office. Information is provided to staff and students on research which is undertaken on animals. The communications office liaises closely with Understanding Animal Research on media enquiries and activities related to animal research for support and advice. Research staff have been encouraged to take opportunities to talk about animal research at public engagement events – an example of this being Professor Sue Barnett talking about 3Rs methods in research into spinal injury at the Pint of Science festival in Glasgow on 19 May 2015 - <http://pintofscience.co.uk/event/curing-the-brain/> . The communications office also provides media training to staff which can help them to handle questions and interviews related to animal research. Press releases issued by the University that relate to research involving animals will in the future be more explicit in mentioning the use of animals, both in the body of the text and in notes to editors.

At Swansea University NC3Rs material is circulated to relevant individuals within the University via the Named Animal Care & Welfare Officer (NACWO). Regular newsletters and media articles on the research carried out in the Aquaculture Centre promote these activities to staff, students and members of the public. The Department of Biosciences is also heavily involved in in-field studies of endangered animals and this work has a high media profile. There have been TV news items on the work carried out by the Department of Biosciences and full programmes on its tracking and observational studies. Local schools and communities have been invited to attend tours of the Aquaculture Centre.

University College London has launched an open access website, which was announced on the central university home page and in the academic media <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/ucl-launches-website-on-animal-research/2017510.article> <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/animal-research> The website provides a background to when and why animals are used in research, welfare concerns, and the ways in which UCL protects animals in its care. It provides a brief background to alternative models that may be used, and the benefits of using animals including specific case studies. The site also provides statistics of numbers of animals used by UCL. Where research findings are the result of animal work this is specified in subsequent press releases. For example, in this recent release describing the use of mice and the subsequent use of imaging from mouse brains: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/news-articles/0515/190515-missing-molecule-puberty>. The UCL Media Relations Team works with researchers across the university on a wide range of issues, including animal research. They engage with researchers on issues including animal welfare and fully support researchers who work with animals when their work is criticised in the media. UCL Media Relations also encourage staff to speak out against poor practice, e.g. this column published in the Times: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/headlines/0614/260614-sunbathing-mice>

Professor John O'Keefe, 2014 Nobel Laureate, spoke about the importance of the use of animals in research, <http://speakingofresearch.com/tag/nobel-prize/>. UCL takes part in Open Labs Week, sponsored by Understanding Animal Research (UAR), and has facilitated visits to UCL by schools. The visit comprises talks about animal research by researchers using animals in their research, activities, and visits to Biological Services Units to see animals and meet the staff who care for them.

The University of Sheffield provides a clear declaration on its website stating its involvement with animal research. In addition the individual department websites detail the type of research that is performed. The aquarium has taken the lead in providing and facilitating outreach <http://www.bateson.group.shef.ac.uk/about-us/community-and-outreach/>. The University will be attending the Royal Society's Summer Science Exhibition 2015 highlighting the types of research that currently is underway with zebrafish as the model organism. <http://sse.royalsociety.org/2015/>

The University of Cambridge website details how animals are used in research, the numbers of animals used and examples of research projects. As part of this section, a video has been produced that goes behind the scenes at an animal research facility, showing how mice are housed and looked after and how they are being used in cancer research. The film shows an anaesthetised mouse undergoing a scan as well as mice carrying human tumour grafts. The film concludes with an explanation of the 3Rs and showing that its researchers are actively looking for alternatives. <http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/research-at-cambridge/animal-research>. The website of the University is open access to all staff and public and available within 'two-clicks' from main university front page

The Concordat has been promoted through the use of the Concordat logo on all email signatures and letter heads of facility managers and Named Persons. Administrative and support staff and lay members of AWERB within each department were invited to visit and look around animal facilities. Lectures have been provided to second year students on lab animal research within the University, the implications of the law and animal models,

and followed up with visits to facilities. Cambridge has actively taken steps to be open about partnerships, collaborations and its involvement with third parties regarding animal research. The links with Cancer Research UK form part of the University and are completely entwined in mutual harmonisation to the extent they were involved in the first film on animal research. Scientists from other organisations (nationally and internationally) are invited to attend research meetings large and small, thus disseminating information across a broad spectrum. Year 10 students are allowed to undertake work experience in the facilities. Any press release that relates to a study carried out with animals explicitly mentions the animal model used. These stories are tagged as 'animal research', allowing a news feed to aggregate them: <http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/research-at-cambridge/animal-research/news> Intensive media training for people involved in animal research has been undertaken. The communications team when giving presentations to both researchers and the University communications network, raises the issue of animal research and encourages individuals to speak openly.

During the Cambridge Science Festival, a number of public talks included mention of the use of animals in research. In particular, at a day of hands-on, drop-in workshops held at the local theatre, a team from AstraZeneca showed members of the public the cages used to house mice and discussed how the animals are helping with drug discovery. The university is actively involved in student classroom practicals demonstrating animal care technology at the University Technical College; UTC Cambridge is a new centre of excellence for Biomedical and Environmental Science and Technology for 14 to 19 year-olds, working with other partners at MRC, Sanger and Babraham. Animal care staff have provided work experience and lectures (local colleges) on the care and welfare of research animals showing practically the use of animals in research and tours of facilities.

The University of Dundee maintains an ethical review process, through which policy on all matters relating to animals on University premises is determined. The Welfare and Ethical use of Animals committee meets regularly to discuss all aspects of animal work undertaken at the University of Dundee, including applications for Home Office Project Licences and matters pertaining to training and ethics. The minutes of each committee meeting are made available to the University Court. The University has a statement on its website regarding the use of animals at the institution:

http://www.dundee.ac.uk/media/dundeewebsite/pgla/documents/policies/roa_statement.pdf and has previously hosted public seminars by speakers from UAR. University staff regularly participate in Open Days, the local Science Festival and also host laboratory tours for fundraisers and other interested parties, during which issues surrounding the use of animals for research are openly discussed.

King's College London provides lectures and workshops for first year Medical students in conjunction with BSc Biomedical students on animal experimentation and ethics/good practice. Students are encouraged to visit the animal research laboratories on organised visits. Seminars are provided for the animal house staff from the scientists about the work they are doing and why they are doing it. A number of scientists at KCL regularly engage with the public to discuss animal research, for example talks at local schools (which are invited to visit the animal facilities), public debates at Science festivals and facilitating tours for MPs, MEPs, patient groups and the Women's Institute amongst others. KCL also supplies speakers and comments to journalists discussing items in the media concerning animal experimentation, via organisations such the Science Media Centre and its own press office.

Newcastle University seeks to provide openness in relation to animal research in press-releases, public engagement activities and communications with groups of students. The amount of information available on the website has been expanded <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/research/ethics/animal/> . In addition to publishing information on the number of animals used in research at Newcastle each year, a list of all of the project licence titles is included. This enables the public to obtain an overview of the range and type of work that is undertaken. Seminars are provided on ethics of animal use to medical students and a module on the 3Rs of animal research is included in the MRes programme. A programme of visits to the animal facility (specifically to explain the work with non-human primates) for university staff has been arranged. This has involved groups of staff from a range of administrative support offices.

Newcastle has provided images and video material to a number of organisations. This has been included in press releases associated with its research work. Several websites have been developed, which although directed primarily at those involved in animal research, are open access for the public www.procedureswithcare.org.uk , www.flairelearning.com , www.ahwla.org.uk . A number of staff members take part in the school visits scheme, originally established by UAR. In addition visits have been facilitated to its animal facilities for MEPs, school children, and other individual members of the public. Members of staff have also participated in radio phone-ins, TV debates and given press interviews on the topic of animal research.

The University of Nottingham website on animal research is publicly available and details the UoN involvement with and support for animals in research. Presentations are given to post -graduate students on the ethical issues surrounding the use of animals in research. The University has provided information to the Science Media Centre when issues around animal research at the UoN have been raised in the press; an example was the use of animals for research into drugs of abuse that featured in the Times in April. When David Greenaway presented the UoN film clip for the Technician of the Year Award featuring work of technical staff at Nottingham, footage was included of animal technicians working with animals in BSU to illustrate the wide range of work conducted by technical staff. Nottingham will look to take further steps to outline good news stories and promote openness on animal research on its website in the future.

Oxford University provides lay summaries within all Project Licence Applications as required under the Animals [Scientific Procedures] Act 1986 Amended Regulations 2013. These lay summaries whilst not attributed to the University are displayed on the Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) with open access. These lay summaries attempt to describe the harms and benefits of the animal research to be conducted under the licence. The University has employed a member of staff who, as part of their duties, will be responsible along with the Public Affairs department for developing open information on animal use to be displayed on the University website. It is anticipated that by 2017 this will contain the lay summaries of all current Project Licences. The University Policy on Animal Research can be found at: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events/animal-research/university-policy-on-the-use-of-animals-in-scientific-research>

In 2014 the Director of Biomedical & Veterinary Services and a leading Professor within the Medical Sciences Division gave an interview to the University Students Newspaper, *The Cherwell* on the topic of animal research. A 3Rs Research event was held at the University in conjunction with the NC3Rs to promote the use of the 3Rs across the biomedical research community. In May 2015 the Oxford sent a representative to give a keynote

presentation to a meeting of the Canadian Universities on the necessity for openness and transparency and how this is being approached in the UK. During 2014 the University co-operated with the NC3Rs on the development of a new online resource aimed at improving the welfare of laboratory macaques. Improving welfare will in turn improve the quality of the research carried out using these animals. In 2014 the BBC Chief Medical correspondent (Fergus Walsh) was given filming access to the main animal facility and a short piece of the visit was subsequently broadcast on the BBC and it was itself the subject of a considerable amount of publicity and discussion <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-25888372> . Most recently, Professor Dame Kay Davies provided an editorial piece for Nature on the importance of animals in medical research.

Plymouth University and the Medical School have already put in place several measures to provide accurate descriptions of the work that is carried out on-site. The Medical School currently has three Home Office project licence holders and non-technical summaries explaining the background to the work are published on the Home Office public website. The University has published a policy statement explaining the controls on and use of animals for research in the University:

<http://www1.plymouth.ac.uk/research/support/Ethics/Pages/Use-of-animals-and-animal-tissue-in-research.aspx>

This site also has links to the Home Office website, Understanding Animal Research, the NC3Rs and the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME) website, to ensure a balanced view.

Researchers, students and lab heads give regular research seminars that are both open to staff and students. These form part of a research seminar programme that includes speakers from other research institutes; these seminars are advertised to both University staff and students. As part of the Wellcome Trust/Academy of Medical Sciences funded Inspire Scheme, both Medical and Dental students have been able to spend time (either one day placements or 4 week summer projects) in research labs using animals for research. The present Inspire scheme is co-ordinated between Plymouth, Exeter, Bristol and Cardiff medical schools, so students have also been able to see the uses of animals in research at other institutes. In addition to this, the Medical school students have a research-based student selected component (SSC) in year 4. Many of the students on these SSCs are taught about the uses of animal work and appreciate the need for this work. Part of this SSC is the writing of a research proposal for future work during which they may consider the best approaches for animal work, including minimizing animal numbers and making power calculations for such experiments.

Much of the undergraduate teaching to medical and dental students also contains details of the use of animals, particularly transgenic mice, for both basic science and drug testing. A presentation has been delivered to an undergraduate audience, in which students are introduced to the regulatory framework of animal research by animal husbandry staff. Press releases from the Peninsula medical school, together with pieces on both radio and television have fully recognized both the importance and use of animals in these new research findings. Recent press releases from two medical school scientists, Dr Shouqing Luo and Dr Kim Tieu are also made in conjunction with patient groups and the medical charities involved; The Huntington's Disease Association and Parkinson's UK respectively. As much as possible and, as required, research papers are published as open access articles. In addition to this, the personal webpages of researchers are up to date with both their research areas and a current list of publications. The University runs a number of outreach activities, including both talks and lab tours, to public groups (Rotary society, British Science Association as well as local patient groups). Finally, a schools science day has been organised for Year 9 schoolchildren to visit the medical school, with 150

children from 12 local secondary schools attending over two days during National Science Week. Both students and staff are encouraged to talk about the use of animals in research during these visits and this has led to several schools extending invitations to visit and talk to their A-level classes about the ethics and use of animals in research.

At St George's University of London replies have been provided to all Freedom of Information requests made by the general public on matters of animal welfare and research. The disclosure log of all these FOI returns can be found on the University web-site, under research governance. A research group has been founded, the London Large Animal Research Network, with a focus on Translational Research. This grouping will provide a forum for the development of images and media releases appropriate to this area of animal research. A research half-day scheduled for September 16th, will feature presentations on the use of genome modified pigs to provide chronic models of common human diseases. This will be open to the general public in addition to academics. The communications team recently provided a media release on animal research specifically relating to the treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms. The initial comments were published in George's News, which is freely available to the public and was later picked up by the American Health News Media (Medical News). These articles are open about the fact that mice were used as a model of human abdominal aortic aneurysm. In November 2014, a stand at the St George's NHS Hospital Trust Community Open Day highlighted the importance of animal research in achieving medical breakthroughs. The demonstration was facilitated by static images and materials used in animal housing and environmental enrichment. In the coming year the University will host an ethical debate on animal research for both undergraduate students at the medical school and students in local high school, and facilitate a half-day visit of students from local secondary schools.

At Lancaster University staff and graduate level students within Biomedical and Life Sciences (BLS) are aware of the Home Office-licensed animal-based research that takes place within the Division's physiological support unit. Animal welfare is informed by Home Office policy and approved project licences. The nature of work ongoing at Lancaster is not advertised widely at present. Lay summaries provide information to members of the public on the content and the rationale for work carried out in Lancaster.

We hope that you find these examples useful and will look to facilitate further sharing of best practice between members in the coming year. For more information, please contact admin@medschools.ac.uk

Yours faithfully,



Dr Katie Petty-Saphon