



FACULTY OF
PHARMACEUTICAL MEDICINE
OF THE ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

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Professor Sir Ian Kennedy
Chair
UK Research Integrity Office
4th Floor, Woburn House
20 Tavistock Square
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29th May 2009

Dear Professor Sir Ian

The Committee of Professional Standards of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine would like to respond to the request you made for comments on the draft Code of Practice for Research from the UK Research Integrity Office that you chair.

We strongly support the draft Code of Practice for Research and believe that it describes the principles and practices that are necessary but also offers with the checklist, a *valuable aide memoire* to those embarking on research.

The fellows and members of the Faculty work in an area of research that because of its role in developing medicines is highly regulated and has powerful codes of practice such as a Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Good Clinical Practice (GCP). Adherence to these codes is regularly tested during inspections from both UK and International Regulatory Agencies.

In support of the legal requirements upon our members, the Faculty has established a highly successful training programme, Pharmaceutical Medicine Specialty Training (PMST), that enables practitioners to achieve practical and theoretical knowledge in all aspects of the research necessary to bring new medicines to the market. We also have the Diploma in Human Pharmacology for those requiring a proper grounding in this specialised field of medicine.

The training programmes are coupled with the intent of the Faculty to be fully compliant with the appraisal and validation process that has been developed for Medicine. The ideal will be for regular assessments and retraining to provide a highly trained and accredited Pharmaceutical Medical Researchers who retain registration within this field of Medicine.

In summary we support the proposed extension of good research practice within the scientific community in the UK and would offer to you any support that you need in implementation.

Best wishes
Yours sincerely

Professor Tim Higenbottam FFPP FRCP DSc
Chairman of the Professional Standards Committee