



UK Research Integrity Office Annual Conference 2013

The **UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) Annual Conference 2013** was hosted by CMS Cameron McKenna in the City of London on Wednesday 6th March 2013. It was attended by over 60 delegates from more than 25 higher education institutions in the UK and invited guests from learned societies and other organisations. The event was highly significant for UKRIO, marking the charity's seventh year of providing direct support to researchers, research organisations and members of the public. UKRIO has received extremely positive feedback on the conference. Delegates found it an informative and valuable event, and welcomed the chance to share their experiences.

The conference opened with a welcome from Sir Ian Kennedy, Chair of UKRIO. Professor Michael Farthing then discussed the formation and future of UKRIO. He stated that UKRIO will continue to enhance the quality of its activities and provide an excellent and cost-effective service to its subscribers. Professor Tony Segal, Director of Centre for Molecular Medicine, University College London discussed the lessons that could be learnt from a laboratory fraud. Professor Acton, Vice-Chancellor of the University of East Anglia considered the implications of the so-called 'Climategate affair.' He discussed how research integrity is viewed within a paradigm of political discourse and public policy, and noted the influence of the world media and freedom of information requests.

Dr Elizabeth Wager presented findings from a recent research project, highlighting the difficulties that journal editors and external whistleblowers face when trying to raise concerns about suspected research misconduct with institutions. This was followed by an interactive case study session from Dr Richard Smith, demonstrating the complexity of publication ethics dilemmas. James Parry, Chief Executive of UKRIO discussed the challenges faced by universities when implementing The Concordat to Support Research Integrity. A Panel Discussion opened the session to the floor, inviting questions concerning UKRIO and research integrity. Professor Michael Farthing summed up the day, stressing the need for UKRIO to grow organically through knowledge-sharing and strong partnerships with fellow research integrity institutions.

