PRESS RELEASE:

Embargoed until 00.01 1 October 2009

The UK Research Integrity Office launches its *Code of Practice for Research: Promoting good practice and preventing misconduct*

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO), the independent body which offers advice about the conduct of research, today launches its *Code of Practice for Research: Promoting good practice and preventing misconduct*.

The Code of Practice addresses long-standing concerns in the research community about research misconduct. The UK has a world-class reputation for conducting exceptional and innovative research and for producing researchers of the highest calibre.

UKRIO has now produced the Code of Practice for Research, a reference tool to support researchers and research organisations in the conduct of research of the highest quality. The Code can help research organisations ensure that important issues have not been overlooked and applies to all types of research.

Drawing upon UKRIO's experiences in addressing good conduct and misconduct in research, the Code provides principles and standards for researchers and research organisations and also includes a *Recommended Checklist for Researchers*: a one-page, non-technical checklist for the key points of good practice in research, based upon the more detailed standards provided by the Code.

Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, Chair of the Board of UKRIO said:
"UKRIO is increasingly providing support to universities and NHS Trusts which recognise that research misconduct and questionable practices can tarnish the UK's well-earned reputation as a centre of excellence in research. The Code is a vital part of our continuing work to encourage good conduct in research and to help to prevent misconduct, setting out the responsibilities and values critical to research, as well as providing practical guidance for researchers and their employers."

Professor Michael Farthing, Vice-Chair of the Board of UKRIO and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex said:
"I am sure this code will be of practical help to researchers and research offices and really hope it is used on a day-to-day basis. The checklist will be particularly useful. Research involves many complex processes and we do not always remember to do everything!"

Professor Dame Sally C Davies, Director-General of Research and Development at the Department of Health said:
"I am delighted to see the UK Research Integrity Office continuing to deliver tools that enable researchers and their employers to maintain this country's international reputation in research and innovation. We rely on excellent, sound research to help improve health and health care for patients and their families."

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) is an independent body which offers confidential and expert advice and guidance to universities, other research organisations, individual researchers and members of the public about the conduct of research. UKRIO also publishes guidance on good research practice and operates a help line service where concerns can be reported in complete confidence. Further information about UKRIO and its programme of work is available from its website www.ukrio.org

2. Electronic versions of the *Code of Practice for Research: Promoting good practice and preventing misconduct* and the *Recommended Checklist for Researchers* are available from UKRIO's website www.ukrio.org .

3. The Code will be reviewed regularly, initially on an annual basis. UKRIO welcomes feedback from organisations and researchers on the current edition, to inform the review. To that end, the Code will be published as an online document on the UKRIO website (www.ukrio.org), as well as hard copy and PDF versions. This online Code will include a mechanism for the research community to submit feedback on specific sections and suggest new developments in good practice in research for inclusion.

4. For further information contact the UK Research Integrity Office, Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HQ. Tel: +44 (0)20 7419 5499, email: RIO@universitiesuk.ac.uk, web: www.ukrio.org .