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UKRIO welcomes widespread support for its work in 'A Consensus Statement on Research Misconduct in the UK'

The UK Research Integrity Office welcomes the publication today of 'A Consensus Statement on Research Misconduct in the UK'. UKRIO agrees that the UK's mechanisms for ensuring good research practice need to be sustained and strengthened. We particularly welcome the Statement's support for UKRIO and the recognition that our work deserves wider support from the research community.

Agreed at a high-level meeting convened by the British Medical Journal and the Committee on Publication Ethics, the Consensus Statement calls upon institutions and research funders to do more to prevent and detect misconduct and for UKRIO to receive long-term funding.

Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, Chair of UKRIO, said: 'UKRIO welcomes the publication of the Consensus Statement and its endorsement of our work. We will work with the research community to implement its conclusions, to help safeguard research integrity and enhance the UK's world-class reputation for conducting exceptional and innovative research.'

'We have long championed many of the findings of the Consensus Statement, as have organisations such as BMJ, COPE and the Department of Health. Research misconduct damages the scientific record and betrays the public's trust. It wastes public funds and risks harm to research participants, patients and the public. I am encouraged that the research community is uniting to do more.'

Professor Michael Farthing, Vice-Chair of UKRIO, added: 'UKRIO is the only body in this country which offers dedicated support to the research community and the public on issues of research integrity. We are committed to working with other organisations that take these responsibilities seriously. I am delighted the Consensus Statement calls for our role to be enhanced and we look forward to exploring with the research community, funders and regulators how this might be taken forward.'

- ENDS -

Notes for Editors

1. The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) is an independent, not-for-profit body which provides expert advice and guidance about the conduct of academic, scientific and medical research, whether promoting good practice or addressing misconduct. We cover all subjects and help all involved in research, from research organisations, including universities and the NHS, to individual researchers and members of the public. In both 2010 and 2011 we helped with more than one case a week and use of our services continues to grow each year. Our publications have been used or adopted by many organisations, including over 50 universities. For more information about the work of UKRIO please see: www.ukrio.org.
2. 'A Consensus Statement on Research Misconduct in the UK' can be found at: http://publicationethics.org/files/A_consensus_statement_on_research_misconduct_in_the_UK.pdf. Information on the high-level conference that produced it can be found at: <http://www.ukrio.org/research-misconduct-in-the-uk-time-to-act/>
3. For further information please contact the UK Research Integrity Office, Sussex Innovation Centre, Science Park Square, Falmer BN1 9SB. Tel: +44 (0) 1273 234 697, email: info@ukrio.org, web: www.ukrio.org.

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