Introduction

In response to the publication of the *Concordat*[1] the UCL Research Governance Committee set

The website acts as a living framework for research integrity. It is divided into five

Reviewing and streamlining processes to support a culture of research integrity

In 2014, a Working Group was set up to review the operation of the UCL Research Ethics Committee (UCL REC), routes for ethical approval of non-NHS research and current processes across UCL relating to research ethics. The aim of the Working Group was to make recommendations for improvements to a system which had not been reviewed for several years and in light of a number of identified issues and challenges. Following the merger with the UCL Institute of Education (IOE) in December 2014, another main driver was to harmonise the two pre-existing ethical review systems.

The Working Group consisted of members from across the institution, including members from the UCL REC, IOE REC as well as local faculty ethics committees, with the final report being presented to, and accepted by, the Research Governance Committee in June 2015. The main recommendation was the adoption of a formally devolved review structure, with authority being delegated to each faculty from the central UCL REC. The recommended system would be based on proportionate review with a risk checklist developed to enable researchers to ascertain the ethical risk of their project and therefore the level of review.

Taking into consideration the differences between the pre-existing UCL and IOE systems, a new Research Ethics Policy was developed along with standard ethics applications forms and guidelines to be used across UCL, as well as harmonised appeals and complaints processes.

The proposed new review structure and process should enable a unified approach to research ethics and ethical review, streamlining processes, and improving usability and accessibility through the new forms and guidelines. This should therefore benefit UCL researchers and reviewers alike. It allows for a more flexible approach through the delegation to faculties which would be able to create systems more suited to their needs but still within a unified framework.

The proposed system is due to be piloted and a report will be submitted to the Research Governance Committee during 2016.

Awareness Raising Activities

In a successful culture of research integrity, researchers at all levels should not only be able to recognise when behaviour falls below accepted standards, they should also feel able to raise and discuss these issues as and when they arise. Conversations regarding good practice and standards should be commonplace amongst all those involved with research at UCL.

Therefore an important aspect of building and supporting a culture of research integrity is awareness raising through discussions and open communication. UCL is of the firm view that creating an ingrained, widespread culture takes time and has therefore taken a long-term approach to its awareness raising plans.

Current Activities

A review of training opportunities showed that there were already a number of courses and training opportunities available throughout UCL in relation to research integrity, such as courses/workshop on areas relating to publication and authorship run by the Doctoral School and Organisational Development.

The Joint Research Office developed a template for a half-day introductory seminar on research integrity for the School of Life and Medical Sciences (SLMS) which has been very successfully delivered on a number of occasions and is a model which is also available for use outside of SLMS.

In February 2015 the Centre for Advanced Learning and Teaching (CALT) arranged an introductory workshop with a representative from the Erasmus University Rotterdam which centred on the Dilemma Game, a training device created by Erasmus University. Representatives from CALT, in addition to those working within research ethics, integrity, the