

Impact of the Pandemic on the work of Research Integrity Practitioners

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Pablo Fernandez FFPM (UKRIO)

Addressing members concerns

An example from UKRIO

- Hosting small virtual round table events (12-15 attendees)
- Targeting Research Integrity leads/senior representatives
- Open and frank discussion
 - Share concerns from the front line
 - Positive changes arising from changes in practice (for instance, impact of remote working)

Rapid transition to online remote working

Positive changes

- Improvements in Ethics Review
 - Faster and streamlined submission of applications
 - Improved review times and clearer communication
- Increased attendance to Research Integrity training
- Less time travelling to meetings
- Better work-life balance
- Opened conversations on research culture and desire to change

Remote working pitfalls (i)

Negative impact

- Issues/problems with supervision of researchers
- Impact of childcare responsibilities during lockdown
- Moving data collection remotely
 - Issues with consent in video call rather than face to face interviews
- Burden of amending project plans and ethical reviews
- Impact on PhD programmes

Remote working pitfalls (ii)

Negative impact

- Having to run misconduct investigations remotely
- Too much time on Zoom/Teams
- Unrealistic expectation of timescales
- Adding 'COVID' to a grant (when it wasn't about COVID at all)

Research culture

The good, the bad and the ugly

- The pandemic has highlighted the systemic issues within research
- Peer review pitfalls were often mentioned
- The importance of a team environment rather than one famous PI
- Bullying and harassment
- Public engagement and understanding of research
- Greater scrutiny by the general public
- Waste in research

On a positive note

Overall takeaway message

“From these events we have found that there has been some excellent progress in areas of research integrity/culture at our subscribing institutions and it has aided some institution to share new policies and ideas with others”

Dr Josephine Woodhams (Senior Project Officer, UK Research Integrity Office)

UKRIO RESOURCES (i)

Past Webinar series: <https://ukrio.org/events/webinar-series/webinar-series/>

- An Introduction to Research Integrity – 21 April 2021
- Research Involving Animals – 24 February 2021
- Good research practice from the publishers' perspective – 20 January 2021
- Research Culture – 9 December 2020
- Data Sharing and Ethics – 11 November 2020
- Clinical Trials – 14 October 2020
- Consent – 9 September 2020
- Research Ethics – 5 August 2020
- Research Integrity: a landscape study – 8 July 2020
- Publication Ethics – 10 June 2020
- Sector Update – 6 May 2020

Annual conference 2021 - available presentations

- Conference Programme - https://ukrio.org/wp-content/uploads/UKRIO_AnnualConf_EventProgramme.pdf
- Presentations - <https://ukrio.org/events/annual-conference/2021-annual-conference/>

And finally...

A new checklist

- Published in October 2020
- “Recommended Checklist for Research Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic” for both existing and new research
- <https://ukrio.org/wp-content/uploads/UKRIO-Recommended-Checklist-for-Research-Communities-During-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf>

**Thank you for your
attention**

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