



RESEARCH INTEGRITY OFFICE

Promoting integrity and high ethical standards in research  
Providing confidential, independent and expert support

# **UKRIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023**

## **Event Programme**

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## Welcome

### Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to UKRIO's 2023 conference, bringing together researchers, policy makers, and research integrity professionals from across the UK and beyond to discuss the latest developments in research integrity.

This year marks our tenth annual event. We are indebted to the community of research professionals who have helped us to shape these events, and the many expert speakers that have contributed their time and insights.

As the research landscape evolves, it is essential that we continue to uphold the highest standards of integrity and transparency in all aspects of research. This year's conference will explore a range of relevant topics designed to appeal to a broad audience, from early-career researchers to senior academics and policymakers.

Our keynote speakers and panellists represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives, providing valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of research integrity. The conference will also provide opportunities for attendees to engage in meaningful discussions and exchange ideas with colleagues.

Those ideas are important to us. Shaping the future of research integrity is a collective effort and the discussions from our annual conference will help inform the continuing work of UKRIO. Please visit [our website](#) to find out more about our charity, from the [resources](#) we provide to how [individuals](#) and [organisations](#) can access our vital support.

**James Parry, FRSB**  
**Chief Executive, UK Research Integrity Office**

## Event overview

The theme of our annual virtual conference for 2023 is 'Research integrity - culture and confidence'.

We are celebrating ten years since the first UKRIO conference, when our staff, volunteers, subscribing institutions, and the wider research community explore practical ways to ensure good research practice.

Experts in research integrity will discuss how we can create a culture and systems that promote high-quality, ethical research. As with our [bimonthly research integrity webinars](#), this two-day event will be entirely online and free to attend, taking place on **Wednesday, 24 May, and Thursday, 25 May. Please note the second day is for UKRIO subscribing institutions only.**

Conference sessions will explore how the research community can work together to:

- Ensure research is high quality and worthy of public trust.
- Embed a culture of integrity in the research that we do, in the organisations in which we work, and in the systems which fund, monitor, assess and disseminate research.
- Ensure that research environments and systems promote good practice and high ethical standards and respond to society's wider issues.
- Share perspectives and knowledge to support each other and to help ensure diversity and equality of participation.

The keynote speakers for our 2023 conference are:

- **Petra Boynton**, Consultant, The Research Companion
- **Ivan Oransky**, Retraction Watch

**This conference is aimed at** anyone interested in good research practice, research integrity, research ethics, improving research culture, ensuring quality and high ethical standards in research, or addressing sloppiness or misconduct in research.

**The event will be of particular interest to** researchers, research students, technicians, and research professionals; people with managerial, supervisory or leadership roles in research; and people working in the fields of research integrity, research ethics, research culture, research governance or research policy.

# Schedule

Wednesday 24 May 2023, 10.00am-4.00pm



**10.00 am** *EVENT OPEN*

**10.02 am** **Introduction and welcome**  
**James Parry** FSRB, Chief Executive, UK Research Integrity Research Office

**10.10 am** **Welcome from Chair**  
**Sir Ian Boyd**, FRS FRSE FRSB, Chair, UK Research Integrity Office

**MORNING SESSION - CAREER PROGRESSION AND EFFECTS;  
 RESEARCH CULTURE**

**10.15 am** **What the neglected 'How to's of research have to do with ethics and integrity**  
**KEYNOTE** **Petra Boynton**, Consultant, The Research Companion

**11.00 am** **Research culture: a technician lens**  
**Dr Sarah Bennett**, University of Warwick and Catrin Harris, MI TALENT

**11.40 am** **A taste of 'Fierce Conversations'**  
**Dr Naomi Irvine**, Associate, People Development Associates

**12.20 pm** **Improving research culture: confidence in qualitative assessment approaches**  
**Dr Karen Stroobants**, Vice-Chair, CoARA - Director, CultureBase Consulting

**1.00 pm** ***LUNCH** (event paused)*

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**2.00 pm**      **AFTERNOON SESSION: CONFIDENCE IN RESEARCH; TO TRUST OR VERIFY**

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**2.05 pm**      **Retractions are on the rise, but not enough**  
**KEYNOTE**      **Ivan Oransky**, Retraction Watch

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**2.50 pm**      **Panel discussion: Is there a missing step in the research process?**

**Chair:** Matt Hodgkinson, Research Integrity Manager, UKRIO

**Dr Daniël Lakens**, Eindhoven University of Technology

**Professor Paul Ralph**, Dalhousie University

**Dr Esther Murray**, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London

**Dr Andrew Porter**, Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute

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**3.50 pm**      **Poll and audience participation**

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**4.00 pm**      **MAIN CONFERENCE CLOSED**

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## Speaker biographies

### Introduction and Welcome



**Professor Sir Ian Boyd FRS FRSB FRSE**  
**Chair, UK Research Integrity Office**

Professor Sir Ian Boyd is a professor at the University of St Andrews and Chair of the UK Research Integrity Office. He was Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government on Food and the Environment (2012-2019).

He is a marine and polar scientist, a board member of UKRI (UK Research and Innovation), President of the Royal Society of Biology and is co-chair of the Environment Council for Scotland with Scotland's First Minister.



**James Parry FRSB**  
**Chief Executive, UK Research Integrity Office**

James is the Chief Executive of the UK Research Integrity Office. Joining UKRIO in 2006, he took up his current role in 2008, overseeing UKRIO's transition to a registered charity supported [by over 110 research organisations](#).

James has collaborated in numerous initiatives to support research integrity. He contributed to the Royal Society-UKRIO project [Integrity in Practice](#), a tool kit examining ways to effect positive change to research culture, and is an Observer on the Concordat Signatories Group, helping with the ongoing development of the [UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#).

Prior to joining UKRIO James worked as an archaeologist and a university administrator. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology in 2023.

## Morning session - Career progression and effects; research culture



**Petra Boynton**  
Consultant, *The Research Companion*

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Petra Boynton is a social psychologist who supports universities, charities, research organisations and government departments to undertake and use research in inclusive, accessible, ethical, and safe ways, with a key focus on mental health and wellbeing.

Petra's self-help books for scholars include *The Research Companion: a practical guide for the social sciences, health, and development* (2nd Ed, 2016) and *Being Well in Academia: ways to feel stronger, safer, and more connected – a practical and supportive mental health guide for students and staff* (2020), both Routledge.



**Dr Sarah Bennett**  
University of Warwick

Dr Sarah Bennett is a scientist, technician, and an advocate for good research culture. She has spent 20 years working in higher education and research facilities, specialising in a range of scientific disciplines.

She now manages a bioanalytical technology facility at the University of Warwick, which she established in 2015. In her role, she has worked with a full range of stakeholders and can understand the pressures and demands in the system. Sarah represents technicians on the University of Warwick Research Culture Forum, chaired by the Universities' Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research).





**Catrin Harris**  
**MI TALENT**

Catrin is a Research Fellow for the Midlands Innovation TALENT project, which seeks to raise the status and opportunities for technicians in higher education and research. She was the lead for qualitative research for the TALENT Commission, with a particular focus on the perception, visibility, and recognition of technical staff within UK higher and research.

More recently she has led a project on research culture, exploring technicians' perspectives of, and experiences in, the research community, which has led to the report *Research Culture: A Technician Lens*, published in September 2022. She has worked in a research role for three years and previously held roles in university administration.



**Dr Naomi Irvine**  
**Associate, People Development Associates**

Dr Naomi Irvine has a German PhD from the University of Cambridge and built her early career in the Higher Education sector across a range of research and professional service roles. For the past five years, she has run her own business specialising in leadership and organisational culture. Her expertise is sought to help leaders to name and tackle their toughest people challenges by lessening their fear around ‘difficult conversations’, through the flagship programme ‘Fierce Conversations’. Her notable assignments include:

- Keynote speeches on leadership and the gender pay gap for public and private sector senior leaders
- Leadership interventions to support organisational change and restructuring for academic heads of departments in schools and universities
- Dignity and respect and anti-bullying and harassment interventions for higher education clients
- Group career coaching and leadership development for emergent leaders in the wider university sector
- A knowledge transfer collaboration with the University of Nottingham Business School to understand the professional experiences of women in STEMM
- Diagnostic, design and delivery of inclusive leadership at the executive and senior leadership levels in the travel industry

Naomi has worked with a variety of private and public sector clients, including but not limited to the University of Warwick, UK Cabinet Office, Nottingham Trent University, University of Nottingham, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Leicester, University of Lincoln, Black Country Housing Association, National Grid, Audley Travel, and Ada – the National College for Digital Skills.



**Dr Karen Stroobants**

**Vice-Chair CoARA, Director, CultureBase Consulting**

Karen Stroobants is a policy adviser and consultant on research policy and strategy, with a specific focus on research culture. She combines roles as director of CultureBase Consulting and as a lead policy advisor on research landscape and economy at the Royal Society of Chemistry.

She is a Vice-Chair of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (**CoARA**) and a Governing Board Member for Euro Science. She was part of the team that drafted the Agreement on reforming research assessment, through an extensive co-creation process with stakeholders in the research landscape in Europe and beyond.

Previously, Karen held roles at RAND Europe, and the Royal Society where she led the development of the narrative Resumé for Researchers that since has been introduced by UK Research and Innovation. Karen moved to the UK initially as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie post-doctoral Fellow at the University of Cambridge. Prior to this, she obtained her PhD in chemistry at KU Leuven in Belgium.

## Afternoon session - Confidence in research; to trust or verify



**Dr Ivan Oransky**  
**Retraction Watch**

Ivan Oransky, MD, is co-founder of Retraction Watch, editor-in-chief of Spectrum, and distinguished writer-in-residence at New York University's Arthur Carter Journalism Institute. Ivan previously was president of the Association of Health Care Journalists and vice president of editorial at Medscape.

He has also held editorial leadership positions at MedPage Today, Reuters Health, Scientific American, and The Scientist. He is the recipient of the 2015 John P. McGovern Medal for excellence in biomedical communication from the American Medical Writers Association, and in 2017 was awarded an honorary doctorate in civil laws from The University of the South (Sewanee).

In 2019, the judges for the John Maddox Prize, which promotes those who stand up for science in the face of hostility, gave him a commendation for his work at Retraction Watch.



**Matt Hodgkinson**  
**Research Integrity Manager,**  
**UK Research Integrity Office**

Matt has a BA (Hons) in Biological Science and an MSc in Genetics. He worked in open-access science journal publishing for 18 years, developing expertise in peer review, critical appraisal, editorial policy, and publication ethics as an editor at BMC and PLOS and then heading the Research Integrity team at Hindawi.

He is a council member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), Treasurer of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), and a mentor for AuthorAID.

Matt has joined UKRIO as a Research Integrity Manager to support the work programme of the charity, including the advisory service and the development of policies and publications.



**Dr Daniël Lakens**  
**Eindhoven University of Technology**

Dr Daniël Lakens is an experimental psychologist working at the Human-Technology Interaction group at Eindhoven University of Technology. He works actively on improving research methods and statistical inferences and has published on the importance of replication research, sequential analyses and equivalence testing, and frequentist statistics.

He was involved in establishing dedicated grants for replication studies by the Dutch science funder NWO, and with Brian Nosek co-edited a special issue with the first Registered Reports in psychology in 2014.

He teaches about better research practices on Coursera, published a free open textbook on statistics, and received the Leamer-Rosenthal Prize for Open Social Science in 2017 for his course 'Improving Your Statistical Inferences' in which more than 70,000 learners have enrolled, and in 2023 won the Ammodo Science award for fundamental research in the Social Sciences.



**Professor Paul Ralph**  
**Dalhousie University**

Dr D. Paul Ralph, PhD (British Columbia), B.Sc. / B.Comm (Memorial), is an award-winning scientist, author, consultant, and Professor of Software Engineering at Dalhousie University. Dr Ralph's research intersects software engineering, sustainable development, human-computer interaction, and project management.

He has published more than 80 peer-reviewed articles in premier venues including IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering and the ACM/IEEE International Conference on Software Engineering. Dr Ralph is editor-in-chief of the SIGSOFT Empirical Standards for Software Engineering Research.



**Dr Esther Murray**  
**Barts and the London School of Medicine and**  
**Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London**

Esther has been a health psychologist since 2007, initially working in cardiac care, both in service improvement and psychological interventions for patients, and later going on to a career in academia. In her current role, Esther is chair of the Institute for Health Sciences Education Peer Review and Ethics Committee and course lead for the Intercollegiate Degree in Medical Education.

Her early research was on chronic pain and its effect on doctor-patient communication. Esther has previous experience in psychological intervention in cardiac care and training NHS staff in communication skills.

Esther is the first researcher in the UK to explore the concept of moral injury in medicine, and since being invited to present on the topic of moral injury at the Institute of Pre-hospital Care Performance Psychology Symposium in June 2017, Esther has been invited to present at national and international conferences for both healthcare professionals, educators, and students.

Esther also delivers training on the topic to London Ambulance Service's Advanced Paramedic Practitioners, the Counter Terrorism Specialist Firearms Officers of the Metropolitan Police and is a regular contributor to London HEMS Clinical Governance Days.



**Dr Andrew Porter**  
**Cancer Research UK,**  
**Manchester Institute**

As Research Integrity and Training Adviser at the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute, Dr Porter supports researchers with research integrity matters through workshops, inductions, seminars, and one-to-one discussions.

He runs a Pre-Submission Review on all research manuscripts from which authors receive guidance on current best practices in areas such as reproducibility, statistics, accessibility, data management and sharing, research ethics and authorship. This also provides a platform for sharing learning and best practice across the Institute, and for planning training provision to fill any gaps identified in research practice.

Dr Porter also supports early-career researchers in running research engagement activities, providing wider professional development training, and science communication, and is part of the Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body.

Prior to taking on this role, he was a postdoctoral researcher in the Cell Signalling Lab at the Institute, and before that did his PhD at the Laboratory of Molecular Cell Biology at UCL, studying neurotransmitter release in *C. elegans*.

## Additional material

**In case you are not already aware, here are the different ways you can get involved with UKRIO:**

Has your organisation [subscribed to UKRIO?](#) Sign-up as an institution to receive in-depth, long-term support on good research practice, ethics, and culture. Plus access to bespoke events and training.

Join our [mailing list](#) today to hear more about future UKRIO research integrity events!

UKRIO is actively recruiting volunteers. If you are interested in good research practice, why not [volunteer with UKRIO?](#)

For advice and guidance on publication ethics, authorship, or any other aspects of good research practice, please [visit our advice page](#).

Explore our frequently updated [resource library](#).

Follow us on social media





RESEARCH INTEGRITY OFFICE

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Providing confidential, independent and expert support

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) is an independent charity, offering support to the public, researchers and organisations to further good practice in academic, scientific and medical research. We pursue these aims through a multi-faceted approach:

- Education via our guidance publications on research practice, training activities and comprehensive events programme.
- Sharing best practice within the community by facilitating discussions about key issues, informing national and international initiatives, and working to improve research culture.
- Giving confidential expert guidance in response to requests for assistance.

Established in 2006, UKRIO is the UK's most experienced research integrity organisation and provides independent, expert and confidential support across all disciplines of research, from the arts and humanities to the life sciences. We cover all research sectors: higher education, the NHS, private sector organisations and charities. No other organisation in the UK has comparable expertise in providing such support in the field of research integrity.

UKRIO welcomes enquiries on any issues relating to the conduct of research, whether promoting good research practice, seeking help with a particular research project, responding to allegations of fraud and misconduct, or improving research culture and systems.

### **UK Research Integrity Office**

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