



The James
Hutton
Institute

The James Hutton Institute

Annual statement on Research Integrity

2021-2022

Research Integrity at the James Hutton Institute

The James Hutton Institute Research Integrity Group (RIG) was established in 2019 in anticipation of the revised concordat to support research integrity. Each main science department within the Institute is represented, with support from the Institute Information Governance officer. The group aims to promote best research practice, advise Institute members on matters of research integrity, and investigate allegations of research misconduct. Since its inception the group has further developed and publicised Institute procedures and policies, based on current best practice guidelines, to ensure that the Institute and staff are able to comply with all commitments made under the revised concordat to support research integrity.

Summary of actions 2021-2022

During the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic all research integrity training was conducted online, but all institute members had access to live or pre-recorded training and information seminars. Since the end of the pandemic and with the rise of hybrid/flexible working, training is now conducted in a face-to-face format but with a recorded live stream for those off-site or unable to attend. To aid in training and understanding of specific research integrity issues, case studies representative of work undertaken at the Institute have been developed and are being used alongside the Dilemma game developed by Erasmus University Rotterdam. To support research integrity and open science agendas the active trial of electronic note taking and record keeping software options is still underway, with a view to Institute wide adoption. Efforts to collate best practice guidance from learned societies, professional bodies and publishers is ongoing.

Statement on procedures and processes

The procedure for investigating allegations of research misconduct has been revised to accommodate the changed needs of the Institute and is freely available to all Institute members via the Institute intranet. Persons making allegations of research misconduct are explicitly covered by the revised Institute Whistleblowing policy. All investigations are transparent, timely, robust and fair, and are conducted independently of the Executive or Governing Board.

Summary of formal investigations

No formal investigations have been conducted in the 2021-2022 period.

Promotion of a positive research environment

The Research Integrity Group has been active in informing Institute Science Department members about why research misconduct is damaging to science, their personal obligations under the

concordat to support research integrity and the processes involved in reporting and investigating allegations of research misconduct. Research integrity awareness now form a key part of the PhD student induction program. The Research Integrity Group has also held open fora where researchers can ask and discuss matters pertaining to research integrity. Multiple lines of reporting, both in person and anonymously, for allegations of research misconduct have been established and these are clearly indicated both on the Institute intranet and external web pages. The Institute Intranet is also used to host video presentations and training on research integrity, the procedure used to investigate research misconduct and links to various best practice resources for research and publication.



Professor Deb Roberts (09-09-22)

Director of Science with responsibility for Research Integrity