Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

Swansea Trials Unit
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STU-POL-003 – Identifying and Managing Research Misconduct

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Description of changes:	Update to SOP number and new template		

1. BACKGROUND

Demonstrating evidence of good 'research practice and governance' is a responsibility of all staff and students. Researchers should comply with all applicable laws and regulations relevant to the conduct of their particular research area, Including the Data Protection Act 2017, GDPR, the Human Tissue Act 2004, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004, the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and the principles of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) as described in the International Council for Human Use Harmonised guideline for GCP.

A commitment to research governance and integrity should be reinforced through the research environment, research culture, research practices, standard operating procedures and the training of researchers.

The RCUK definition of research misconduct covers aspects of fabrication, falsification, deviation and plagiarism and can be found at https://www.swansea.ac.uk/research/research-integrity-ethics-governance/research-misconduct/

2. SCOPE

This policy details where information on the Swansea University (SU) policies and procedures on managing research misconduct can be found.

3. RESPONSIBLE PERSONNEL

All Swansea Trials Unit (STU) Staff should be familiar with the SU policy, understand how it applies to their work and support its implementation. All STU staff have a duty to report any incident of misconduct whether this has been witnessed or is suspected in respect of research conduct and management to a person independent of the incident. When this involves personnel external to STU this could be your line manager or STU executive member.

4. SU RESEARCH INTEGRITY REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

The SU research misconduct policy and procedure can be found on the SU webpages (see references). In addition, SU have produced an Ethics and Governance framework document which aims to set standards to enhance research quality, integrity and compliance to safeguard both the public and researchers. Where required, applicable policies for Research Sponsor or third-party organisations and individuals with honorary contracts will be informed of the intention to investigate.

5. OUTCOME OF AN INVESTIGATION

Following the outcome of any investigation all appropriate approval and regulatory parties will be notified e.g. funders of the research project, Research Ethics Committee, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Human Tissue Authority.

6. REFERENCES

Swansea University Research Misconduct policy and procedure:
https://www.swansea.ac.uk/research/research-integrity-ethics-governance/research-misconduct/

Swansea University Ethics and Governance framework:
https://www.swansea.ac.uk/research/research-integrity-ethics-governance/research-governance/

Swansea University GDPR page https://www.swansea.ac.uk/about-us/compliance/data-protection/