**Research integrity annual statement (2017-18)**

**1. Background**

The QMUL [Research Integrity Policy](http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/media/arcs/policyzone/QMUL-Research-Integrity-policy-Dec14-final.pdf) (approved in 2014) provides a high level statement regarding research integrity and outlines the structures for oversight of the policy. A further document outlines the policy and processes for [Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research](https://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/media/97948/Research-Management-Policies-QMBH-230812.pdf)

As part of QMUL’s commitment to upholding the highest standards of research integrity we have adopted the five commitments of the [2012 UUK Concordat to Support Research Integrity](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/research-concordat.aspx). The Concordat recommends that institutions publish an annual report that

* summarises actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues;
* provides assurance that the processes for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair;
* provides a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken.

This report will be published in the Research Integrity section of the Queen Mary website.

**2. Actions taken to support research integrity and provide assurance on processes**

A Task and Finish Group was convened to review our policies and procedures on research integrity. This included the VP Research and representatives from the Research Office, Academic Registry and Council Secretariat, Research Governance, Research Degrees Office, Human Resources, Barts Health Trust, the academic community and the student body.

The group assessed current documentation, taking account of advice from members as to issues that had arisen during the application of the policies and procedures to past cases. Improvements and simplifications were proposed, and incorporated into a new policy, which was approved by Senate in June 2018, and new procedures, which are going to Senate for review in October 2018. These new documents will be made available to staff on the intranet, and awareness of them promoted through news communication channels such as the VP Research Staff Updates.

**3. Summary of research misconduct investigations (2017-18)**

Three cases of potential research misconduct were reported to the end of August 2018 and investigated according to our policies and procedures. In two cases no misconduct was found. In the third case evidence supporting a case for action under the Disciplinary Procedures was found. This led to the dismissal of two academics for gross misconduct.

Prof WJ Spence

VP Research