

Brief on grants conditions update regarding the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research

You may be aware that the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK was published recently (May 2014). The Academy is a signatory therefore the grant conditions of Starter Grant holders and Clinician Scientist Fellows have been updated to align with the Concordat. This is relevant for awards that involve the use of (non-human) animals.

The Concordat outlines best practise for being more open about animal research. The **four commitments** that signatories make are to:

1. Be clear about when, how and why animals are used in research.
2. Enhance communications with the media and the public about research using animals.
3. Be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals.
4. Report on progress annually and share experiences.

We would like to ask host institutions to ensure that award holders:

- **Read the information on the Concordat on our website**
<http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/policy-projects/the-concordat-on-openness-on-animal-research/>
- **Read our statement on animals in research**
<http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/policy-projects/the-concordat-on-openness-on-animal-research/>
- **Note the changes to the grant conditions** (downloadable from the appropriate link on <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/careers/funding-schemes/>), which now makes reference to the Academy being a signatory of the Concordat.
- Note clause 9(iv) in your grant conditions that requires you to '**inform the Academy of any significant increase to the number of animals originally funded by the grant**'.
- **Approach the Academy to request attendance at a workshop to develop skills in communicating animal research**, if interested, e.g. animal research specific media training. We are committed to help support you to engage with the media and the public about your research using animals and will do what we can to equip you with the necessary skills to do so.
- **Tell the Academy about any instances of Academy-supported research where animal research has led to benefits for patients**, or any research you have conducted that reduces, refines or replaces animals in research. We can work with you to develop it into online content that could be published on our website.
- **Follow the ARRIVE guidelines** (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) when conducting research using animals. These were developed as part of an NC3Rs initiative to improve the design, analysis and reporting of

maximising information published and minimising unnecessary studies and are available at:

<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/downloaddoc.asp?id=1206&page=1357&skin=0>

For more information please download the [Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK](#).

Thank you for your compliance.