

# **Concordat between the Health Departments and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council**

## **Background**

1. The Health Departments and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) have recognised a significant number of areas of potential synergy in technologies of common interest, and wish to develop a closer working relationship in order to promote innovation in areas of strategic importance. This Concordat follows the model recommended in the 1993 White Paper *Realising our Potential* (Cm 2250).

## **Purpose of the Concordat**

2. Having regard to the respective roles of the Health Departments and PPARC, this Concordat establishes a framework to promote effective interaction between the organisations where:
  - ◆ there are complementary roles or an overlap of interests
  - ◆ there is mutual advantage in co-operation
  - ◆ benefit can be gained from shared experience and cross-representation.

## **The Role of PPARC**

3. The role of PPARC, compatible with its mission as defined in *Realising our Potential*, is to pursue a programme of high quality basic research in astronomy, space science and particle physics which furthers our understanding of fundamental questions, trains high quality scientists and engineers, increases UK industry's competitiveness, attracts future generations of scientists and engineers and stimulates the public's interest.
4. Specific to this Concordat is PPARC's responsibility to fund only the highest quality research in astronomy, space science and particle physics. In order to carry out research at the highest level in these sciences, researchers need to develop innovative technologies for the instruments necessary for internationally competitive research. PPARC is working to ensure that industry and other research sectors benefit from the leading

edge technology developed for these scientific instruments through supporting knowledge transfer and joint research projects with the hope of leading to longer term collaborations.

### **The Role of the Health Departments**

5. The Health Departments are jointly responsible for formulating policies on health and social/community care. The principal aim of these policies is to improve the health and well-being of the UK's population and to secure the provision of high quality care for those who need it. The Health Departments endeavour to ensure that policy, management and professional decisions involved in health care delivery are, where possible, based on high quality research and take advantage of current advances in science and technology. Research and development is an integral part of the national strategy to improve health.
6. Independent funding mechanisms for programmes of research and development operate through the Director of Research, Analysis and Information (England), the Chief Scientist Office (Scotland), the Wales Office of Research and Development, National Assembly for Wales and the R&D Office for Health and Social Services, Northern Ireland.
7. The Health Departments support research in a number of Non-Departmental Bodies which fulfil advisory, monitoring, regulatory or statutory functions, in a number of Special Health Authorities, some of which have significant production capabilities, and in the university/teaching hospital environment.

### **Objectives of the Concordat**

8. The agreed forms of action and concordat review procedures described in the remainder of this document are designed to:
  - ◆ identify possible areas of mutual co-operation in terms of the missions and objectives of the Health Departments and PPARC
  - ◆ explore the potential development of Health Department/PPARC collaborations on specific research topics
  - ◆ avoid unnecessary duplication of research
  - ◆ ensure the effective and efficient management and co-ordination of activities of mutual interest.
9. Procedures governing assessment, monitoring, technology transfer, intellectual property and financial arrangements will be agreed before any

specific collaborative programme is initiated. Research undertaken within the health and social/community care systems will conform to standards set out in the *Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care*. Research collaboration with the NHS will be in accordance with the *Guide to collaboration in R&D between the NHS and other research funders*.

### **Areas of Common Interest**

10. The Health Departments and PPARC have common interest in a range of areas including (but not restricted to):

- ◆ Imaging
- ◆ Sensors and Detectors
- ◆ Nanotechnology
- ◆ Grid/Information Technology
- ◆ Optics
- ◆ Microscopy techniques
- ◆ Bioinformatics
- ◆ Instrumentation for Life sciences

### **Types of Collaboration**

11. Types of collaborative activity may include the following:

- ◆ information exchange
- ◆ workshops and other joint events which promote networking in areas of mutual interest
- ◆ jointly funded (HD/PPARC) collaborative projects where appropriate
- ◆ cross-representation at meetings of appropriate bodies/committees containing external members which normally deal with matters of common interest.

## **Monitoring Arrangements**

12. Officers from the Health Departments and the PPARC will meet at least annually to review interactions and specific developments and to discuss the operation of the Concordat.

## **Timing and Review**

13. This Concordat will take immediate effect from and apply for an initial period of five years. It will be reviewed before the end of that period to decide what arrangements should apply thereafter.

## **Signatures:**

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**Chief Executive, Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council**

**Professor Sir John Pattison**  
**Director of Research, Analysis and Information, Department of Health**

**Professor Roland Jung**  
**Chief Scientist, Scottish Executive Health Department (SEHD)**

**Mr Gerry Evans**  
**Acting Director, Wales Office of Research and Development (WORD),**  
**The National Assembly for Wales**

**Professor Robert W Stout**  
**Director, R&D Office - Health and Personal Social Services Northern Ireland**