



RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2003/2004

Submitted to the Meeting of the Governing Authority of 25 January, 2005

At its meeting on 20th November 2001 the Governing Authority approved the establishment of a Research Ethics Committee and approved the Operating Procedures and Policies for the Committee. The Governing Authority approved revised operating procedures and policies on 17 June 2003. The Operating Procedures and Policies document provided that "the Governing Authority will receive a brief overview of the activities of the Research Ethics Committee in an annual report".

The Governing Authority has approved the membership of the Research Ethics Committee on the nomination of the President. Lists of the membership of the Committee and Sub-Committees are attached. The Research Ethics Committee, the Human Research Ethics Sub-Committee and the Animal Research Ethics Sub-Committee have met approximately every two months.

The "Code of Good Practice in Research" which was noted by the Governing Authority on 17th June 2003 has been slightly amended and a copy is attached for noting. The two sub-committees have considered and granted ethical approval to a number of protocols for individual projects submitted by researchers. As yet no decisions of the Sub-Committees have been appealed to the REC. The Committee has reviewed and approved the detailed procedures from the Human and Animal Research Ethics Sub-Committees and these are posted on the University web site at <http://www.ucd.ie/~ofrss>.

The Human Research Ethics Sub Committee has liaised with the Irish Council for Bioethics in relation to implementation by the Department of Health and Children of the E.U. Directive on the Clinical Trials in Medicinal Products for Human Use Regulations 2004. The Sub Committee will review the necessity to register with the Department of Health and Children

as a review body for the conduct of clinical trials. The Committee maintains close liaison with Biosafety Officer and the Biosafety Advisory Committee. The Sub Committee maintains a close working relationship with the research ethics approval systems in the main UCD affiliated teaching hospitals.

The Animal Research Ethics Sub Committee and the Biomedical Unit Director operate within a legislative framework which has been most recently updated in the European Communities (Amendment of Cruelty to Animals Act 1876) Regulations 2002. The membership of the AREC includes the named veterinary surgeon for the biomedical facilities including the Biomedical Unit, Veterinary Faculty, and the Conway Institute.

The Research Ethics Approval System was formally launched to the staff of the University by letters from the President and Vice-President for Research during November 2004.

Action required:

1. Adopt annual report 2003/2004
2. Note the Code of Good Practice in Research (attached)

Professor Des Fitzgerald
Vice President for Research

Peter Wilson
Chair
Research Ethics Committee

John Coman
Corporate and Legal Affairs Secretary

10 December 2004