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## Council for Research Integrity

Misconduct and fraud in research have gained increasing prominence over the past decade. While other countries such as the USA and Denmark have introduced systems to deal with the problem the UK academic community has been slow to respond, although funding agencies such as the Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust have introduced guidelines and policies for those supported by them whilst the General Medical Council has recently published good practice guidelines.

A consensus meeting organized by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine recommended establishment of a Council for Research Integrity. A recent meeting of several major stakeholders in medical research agreed that such a body should be established in an advisory capacity. It would advise research institutions such as medical schools and NHS bodies on good practice and on investigation of suggested fraud. It could also recommend external individuals who would conduct rapid investigations when internal mechanisms suggested that there was a case to answer. It was also agreed that the Academy of Medical Sciences was the most appropriate body to oversee establishment of the Council.

**Professor Sir George Alberti**  
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