



Scientific Research Publications Policy

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| Responsible Officer: | Manager, PHRN Policy and Client Services |
| Contact Officer: | Dr Angela Rate (08) 63897304; angelar@ichr.uwa.edu.au |
| Superseded Documents: | PHRN Scientific Research Publications Policy v1.0 |
| Review: | To be reviewed in February 2013 |
| Associated PHRN Documents | PHRN Communications Policy PHRN Communications Guidelines PHRN Conflict of Interest Policy PHRN Privacy Policy PHRN Consumer and Community Participation Policy PHRN Intellectual Property and Commercialisation Policy |

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| Version | 2.0 |
| Authorisation | Authorised by Professor Brendon Kearney |
| Approval Date | 3 February 2012 |
| Effective Date | 3 February 2012 |

1. Preamble

The Population Health Research Network (PHRN) considers the dissemination of scientific research findings to serve important public interests including:

- dissemination of knowledge;
- freedom of discussion throughout society;
- openness and transparency; and
- good stewardship of public resources used to conduct research.

The PHRN also recognises there are a number of different audiences for scientific research publications including:

- the national and international scientific community;
- policy makers and government departments;
- health and human services providers;
- consumer groups; and
- the general public.

The publication of scientific research findings involving the PHRN infrastructure will form a key component of the PHRN's quality review system, providing a measure of the overall effectiveness of the Network infrastructure and a feedback loop for improvement in service provision and uptake.

2. Purpose

The aim of this policy is to provide principles for the dissemination of scientific research findings from the use of the PHRN infrastructure that is in accord with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* and the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all forms of dissemination of scientific research findings, including academic journals and books as well as non-refereed publications, such as web pages, and other media such as conference presentations and professional or institutional repositories.

4. Policy Statement

4.1 The PHRN supports an environment of honesty, integrity, accuracy and responsibility in the dissemination of the findings of scientific research.

4.2 Data users using the PHRN infrastructure for scientific research have a responsibility to their colleagues and the wider community to disseminate a full account of their research as broadly as possible. As part of this process, data users are required to:

4.2.1 appropriately acknowledge the role of others involved in their scientific research including collaborating researchers and institutions, and funding bodies;

Acknowledgement of the Australian Government Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research should be done either by the use of an approved logo or by the following written statement:

'This project is supported by the Population Health Research Network which is a capability of the Australian Government National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy and Education Investment Fund Super Science Initiative.'

4.2.2 promptly inform those directly impacted by the research, including interested parties, before informing the popular media in order to minimise misunderstanding about scientific research outcomes;

4.2.3 take account of any restrictions relating to intellectual property or culturally sensitive data; and

4.2.4 ensure that the identity of individuals' whose information is contained in the data sets used in research studies cannot be reasonably ascertained in any publication of research findings.

4.3 The PHRN Program Office for Data Linkage will maintain an up-to-date register of all scientific research publications involving the PHRN infrastructure.

4.4 Data users undertaking scientific research involving the PHRN infrastructure are required to provide a lay summary of their study and its findings to the PHRN Program Office for Data Linkage for display on the PHRN website, in accordance with the PHRN Consumer and Community Participation Policy.

5. Associated Documents

5.1 National Guidelines and Relevant Legislation

- *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* developed jointly by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Research Council and Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee
- *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* jointly issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Research Council and Universities Australia

5.2 PHRN Documents

- PHRN Communications Policy
- PHRN Communications Guidelines
- PHRN Conflict of Interest Policy
- PHRN Privacy Policy
- PHRN Consumer and Community Participation Policy
- PHRN Intellectual Property and Commercialisation Policy

6. Implementation

6.1 Roles & Responsibilities

6.1.1 PHRN Management Council

The PHRN Management Council has responsibility for endorsement of the PHRN Scientific Research Publications Policy and related procedures and guidelines. The Council will also be responsible for endorsing any amendments to these documents recommended as a result of any review undertaken.

6.1.2 PHRN Program Office for Data Linkage

The PHRN Program Office for Data Linkage will ensure that as part of the application and approval process for national linkage projects, all data users will be made aware of the PHRN Scientific Research Publications Policy and related procedures and guidelines. The Program Office for Data Linkage will also maintain an up-to-date register of all publications pertaining to the PHRN.

6.1.3 Principal Investigator

Each Principal Investigator (PI) will be responsible for ensuring that all authors of any peer-reviewed publications generated from their PHRN project are familiar with the PHRN Scientific Research Publications Policy and related procedures and guidelines. It is their responsibility to notify the PHRN Program Office for Data Linkage when a paper describing research using the PHRN infrastructure is accepted for publication.

6.2 Support & Advice

The PHRN Program Office for Data Linkage will be the central contact point for support and advice relevant to this policy:

- Phone: (08) 6389 7300
- Email: phrn@ichr.uwa.edu.au
- Address: 105 Hay St Subiaco WA 6008

6.3 Communication

A hard copy of this policy will be available in the central offices of all PHRN Project Participants. In addition, an electronic copy will be available on the PHRN website (www.phrn.org.au) and will be referenced in all information available to data users as part of the application process.

7. Review

Evaluation of this Policy and associated procedures and guidelines is to be undertaken by the PHRN on an annual basis.

8. Definitions

Data user means a person who performs research using data provided in the course of a PHRN project. This includes investigators, analysts and others who work for a range of organisations including academic institutions and government organisations;

Participant organisations means an organisation that will provide services and functions to the Project Participants but will not be party to a legal contract with The University of Western Australia;

PHRN Funding Agreements means the agreements between the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and the University of Western Australia regarding funding for implementing the Investment Plans for the research capability known as the Population Health Research Network, under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy and the Education Investment Fund Super Science Initiative, respectively;

PHRN infrastructure means the basic physical and organisational structures needed for the operation of the PHRN;

PHRN Management Council means the group established under the PHRN Funding Agreements to oversee the implementation of PHRN infrastructure in accordance with the PHRN NCRIS and PHRN EIF-SSI Investment Plans;

PHRN Participants encompasses all Project Participants and participant organisations as described in the PHRN Funding Agreements;

PHRN Project Participant means a party to a PHRN Participant's Agreement who is approved by the Commonwealth and is directly involved in data linkage activities;

Population Health Research Network means the Project Participants listed in the PHRN Funding Agreements and all committees established by the PHRN including the PHRN Management Council;

Principal Investigator means the person(s) responsible, either as an individual or as the leader of researchers within an institution, for the conduct of a research project at that institution. The PI takes direct responsibility for completion of a funded project, directing the research and reporting directly to the funding agency;

Quality improvement is the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the various aspects of a project, service or facility to maximise the probability that minimum standards of quality are being attained by the production process;

Refereed publications refer to the impartial and independent assessment of research by others working in the same or a related field;

Scientific research is defined as systematic investigation to establish facts, principles and knowledge that can be shared with the wider population. For the purposes of this policy this term does not include quality improvement studies.

9. Acknowledgements

- *Publication of Commissioned and Sponsored Research Policy.* The Sax Institute.
- *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.* 2007. National Health and Medical Research Council.
- *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Ethical Considerations in the Conduct and Reporting of Research.* 2009. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. (www.icmje.org).

Appendix A: History

| Version | Authorised by | Approval Date | Effective Date | Sections modified |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1.0 | Professor Brendon Kearney | 4 February 2011 | 4 February 2011 | First endorsed version |
| 2.0 | Professor Brendon Kearney | 3 February 2012 | 3 February 2012 | Acknowledgement of PHRN EIF-SSI funding Minor changes to glossary |