UK Reproducibility Network

Newsletter • December 2021
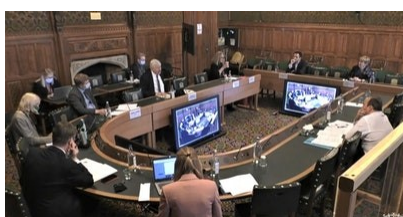
In this issue

1. Opening statement
2. News
3. Events
4. Follow us

Earlier this year, the UK Parliament Science and Technology Committee announced an inquiry into reproducibility and research integrity. UKRN provided evidence prepared by our constituent parts – from our local network leads, our institutional leads, our stakeholder engagement group, and our steering group. These are now available on the inquiry website. Following this, Marcus Munafò (as Chair of the UKRN Steering Group) and Dorothy Bishop (until recently, Chair of the UKRN Advisory Board) were invited to the first oral evidence session. The fact that these issues are now being discussed at this level is extremely encouraging, and demonstrates how seriously issues of research quality are now being taken. It's hard to believe that UKRN has existed for less than three years. Of course, there is much further to go – but the energy and enthusiasm of our community shows no signs of diminishing. In the meantime, we hope that you are able to have a well-earned break over the holidays, and we look forward to an exciting 2022!

Author: Marcus Munafò, chair of the UKRN Steering Group and Institutional Lead for the University of Bristol.

News

Marcus Munafò and Dorothy Bishop give evidence in parliament for STC inquiry on reproducibility and research integrity
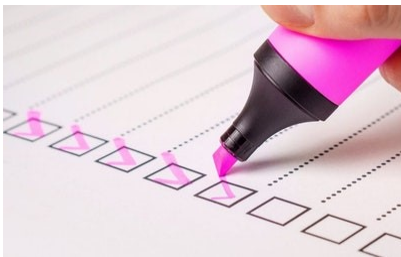
New report: the art of publishing reproducible research outputs

PeerRef: journal-independent peer review

Summary note from the 2021 UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships Conference

New resource: Checklist for an Open Research Action Plan

Etienne Roesch joins the UKRN Steering Group as a representative of our Local Networks
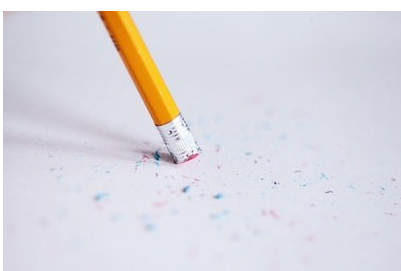
The University of East Anglia joins UKRN network

The UKRN Dorothy Bishop Prize 2022: Celebrating the contributions of Early Career Researchers to research improvement (nominations are now closed)

New animated explainer on data sharing, now available to view online

UKRN position on correcting the research record

Ethics, Information Security and Legal Considerations for Online Research
19th January 2022, 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Learn more and register here

What do researchers need to know to keep themselves, their participants and their university safe?

Speakers
Jo Evershed: CEO Gorilla Experiment Builder
Justin Fidler: CEO SONA Systems
Nicolas Gold: Associate Professor, Dept. of Computer Science UCL

Introduction to Causal Inference and Directed Acyclic Graphs
3rd February 2022, 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Learn more and register here

Estimating causal effects in non-experimental data is a key aim of applied health and social science research. Unfortunately, it is also notoriously difficult. Contemporary causal inference methods, including directed acyclic graphs, promise to revolutionise the analysis and interpretation of non-experimental data, not least by making our ambitions and assumptions far more explicit. This interactive session offers a friendly and non-technical introduction to the theory, practice, and benefits of contemporary causal inference methods and directed acyclic graphs. Particular focus will be given to considering how these methods can contribute towards more transparent and reproducible research.

Facilitated by Peter WG Tennant.
Learning objectives:

* Appreciate 'description', 'prediction' and 'causal inference' as three distinct scientific tasks requiring distinct scientific methods
* Understand the main features of causal directed acyclic graphs and how they can be used to plan and interpret causal analyses
* Appreciate some of the challenges and implications of using directed acyclic graphs in applied research

Institutional Leads Retreat
Save the date: 1st March 2022
Learn more here

UKRN Institutional Leads annual in-person meeting.

Further details to follow.

UKRN Annual Meeting 2022
Save the date: 11th March 2022
Learn more here

The UKRN Annual Meeting is an opportunity for our Local Network Leads, Institutional Leads and Stakeholders to hear from the Steering Group about the state of UKRN.

This year the meeting will be held as an online conference. Further details regarding registering to attend the online meeting, and the meeting agenda will be made available as soon as possible.

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Video recordings are available on our YouTube channel.

Visit our website at www.ukrn.org.

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Return to top