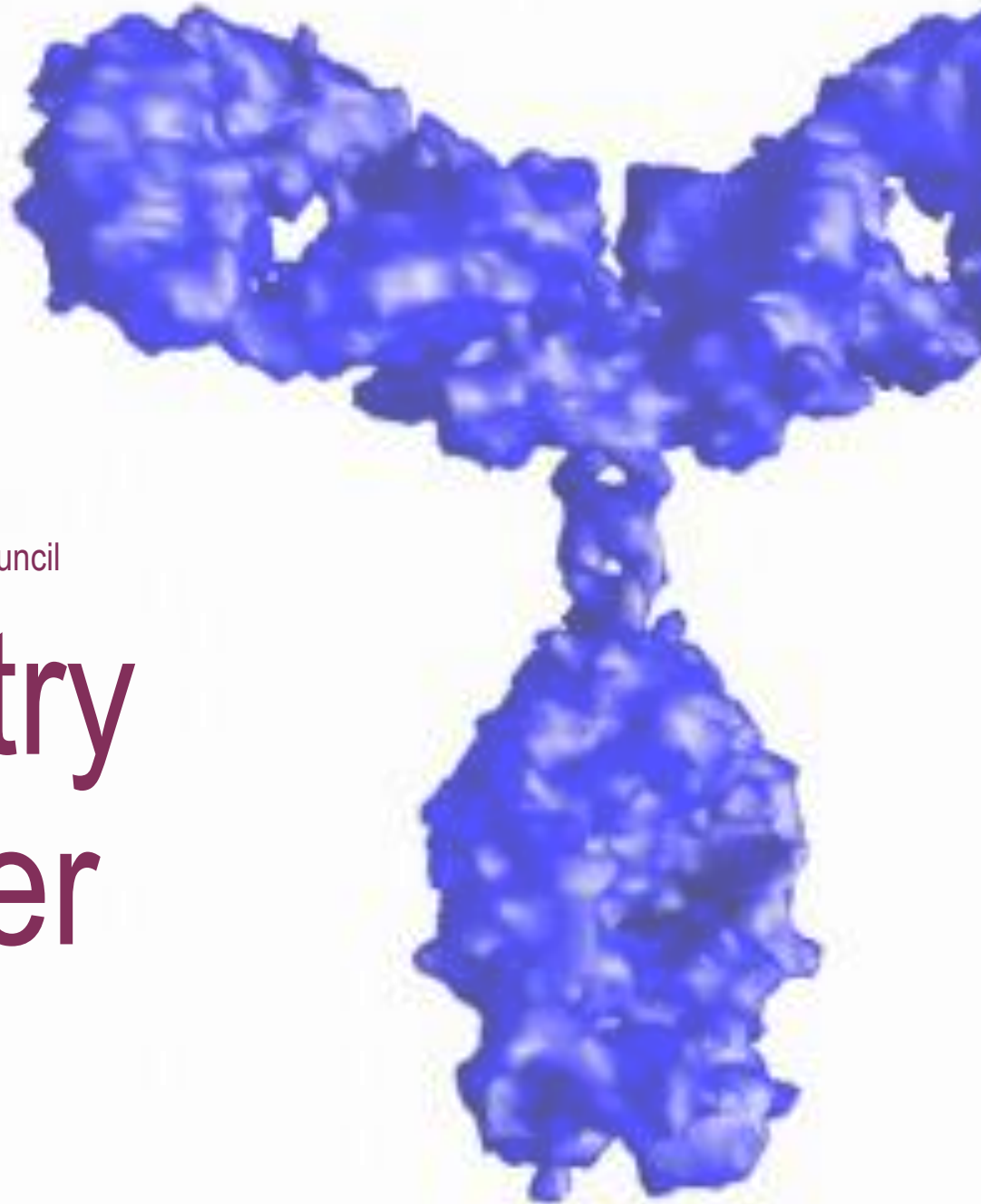


MRC

Medical
Research
Council

The Medical Research Council

Industry Charter



August 2017

Image description: Monoclonal antibody

The MRC's mission is to improve human health through world-leading medical research. Working with industry is vital in achieving that mission. As well as playing an important role in translating knowledge into products that can improve health and benefitting from the research we support, industry can also be a partner in generating knowledge and training researchers. The MRC works with industry at a variety of levels – strategic engagement, partnership working, and supporting collaborative research via consortia and individual partnerships with academics - in order to inform scientific priorities, secure additional funding and build capabilities to answer important research questions, and to strengthen linkages between academics and industry for the good of human health.

MRC's engagements with industry are based on four key principles:

- Integrity
- Clarity of purpose
- Independence
- Openness

Integrity

- We work with the commercial sector with public benefit as the primary aim, helping the MRC deliver its mission and strategic objectives to improve human health and the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the UK.
- Commercial incentives can accelerate health benefits to the public and successful partnership working with industry may often contribute to the development of a new product. However, commercial exploitation should never be the overriding objective when developing a research partnership and the scientific knowledge generated must be widely disseminated. Companies will always be expected to make an appropriate contribution to the work.
- Exclusive arrangements for commercial exploitation of knowledge generated from collaborative working can be acceptable for a time-limited period, as this is often necessary in order to translate effectively the outcomes of research into health benefits.
- The MRC will never endorse any product or service and companies should not use their engagement with MRC for promotional activities.
- Potential conflicts of interest, at corporate and individual levels, will be declared and managed.

Clarity of purpose

- Engagement with industry will have a clear purpose and all partners will be transparent as to their expectations and obligations.
- All collaborative activities, whether at a strategic or individual level, will be specified in a written agreement (for example a Memorandum of Understanding or the MRC Industry Collaboration Agreement¹).

Independence

- The MRC will determine and implement its research strategy or priorities without undue influence from industry partners.
- The MRC will retain autonomy in deciding how its resources are used, both in terms of funding and the activities of its own research staff.
- Collaborating companies will not have inappropriate influence on the experimental design and conduct of studies supported by the MRC or on the way the results are published, used and communicated.

Openness

- The MRC will be open and transparent about how and why it engages with industry and supports collaborative research and training.
- The MRC will be clear about the potential benefits for patients and the public as well as for the MRC, for the companies involved and for the academic community and the industry sector generally.
- The MRC will publish details of all collaborative funding it supports through Gateway to Research, and expects our industry partners to be equally transparent about their funding.
- The MRC expects the results of collaborative activities to be reported through the conventional routes such as peer-reviewed scientific publications, and the knowledge generated should be widely available for research and teaching purposes.
- In line with the MRC's data access policies, there is an expectation that *bona fide* researchers will be allowed access to data from collaborative research with industry for use in further research.

¹ <https://www.mrc.ac.uk/innovation/mrc-industry-collaboration-agreement-mica/>