



UKPRP Principles for Working with Industry

The UK Prevention Research Partnership's mission is to improve human population health and reduce health inequalities through the primary prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This will involve emerging technologies, big data and discovery, and methodological innovation and research programmes co-developed with policy makers, providers and professionals, in order to accelerate the pathways to impacts from the new knowledge generated. It will also involve strengthening the linkages between academics and industry in instances where the research questions will only be answered, or would be better answered by collaboration between researchers and the commercial sector.

In certain instances, it may not be appropriate to work with industry and industry engagement is not a requirement of UKPRP-funding. The UKPRP will not support collaborations with commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry.¹

The UKPRP has drawn up principles for joint working with industry and will follow this up with more guidance (to enable preparation of full applications). The guidance will include the need for legally-binding agreements and the UKPRP will monitor the progress of these collaborations.

The following principles cannot define every possible scenario but aim to bring some clarity to this sometimes complex and contentious area. The UKPRP will update and develop these principles as the initiative progresses.

The UKPRP principles for engagements with industry are in four key overlapping areas:

- i. Integrity
- ii. Clarity of purpose
- iii. Independence
- iv. Openness and transparency

i). Integrity

- Activities involving the commercial sector must have public benefit as their primary aim, helping the UKPRP deliver its mission and strategic objectives to improve human health and the quality of life and economic benefit to 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 primary objective

¹ The need for guidance was also highlighted in the 2017 report by the Academy for Medical Sciences "Enhancing the use of scientific evidence to judge the potential benefits and harms of medicines".

when developing a 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 should this arise as a way to ensure effective impact of the outcomes of research into health benefits).

- The UKPRP will never endorse any product or service and companies should not use their engagement with the UKPRP for promotional activities.
- Avoiding conflicts of interest is paramount to the sovereignty of the research governance process and to ensure the confidence of the public. Therefore, potential conflicts of interest, at corporate and individual levels, will be declared and managed.

ii). 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 called the UKPRP Industry Collaboration Agreement. This will involve drawing up a Heads of Terms (HoT) between the academic and industry partner setting out the Intellectual Property (IP) management and distribution arrangements which in turn will take into account the nature of the proposed work and whether the industry partner wishes to pre-negotiate rights to any foreground IP generated.

iii). Independence

- The UKPRP will determine and implement its research strategy or priorities without influence from industry partners.
- The UKPRP-funded groups will retain autonomy in deciding how its resources are used and the activities of its research staff.
- Collaborating companies should not be involved in the evaluation of research by the UKPRP or interpretation of the results when they are published and communicated. Press releases and other contact with the media should be agreed with the UKPRP Secretariat and neither partner will issue independent public statements about the research.

iv). Openness and transparency²

- The UKPRP will be open and transparent about how and why it engages with industry in collaborative research.
- The UKPRP will be clear about the potential benefits for the public as well as for the companies involved.
- The UKPRP will publish details of all funding it supports online, including on Research Councils UK Gateway to Research, and expects industry partners to be equally transparent about their funding.
- The UKPRP 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. There will

² The two terms are included deliberately. Openness is the process of declaring what you think the public needs to know, whereas transparency is the process by which you allow third parties to make judgements for themselves.

be a requirement to publish protocols and to disseminate positive, negative and inconclusive results.

- In line with the UKPRP'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.