Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP  
Chair  
Science and Technology Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA  

8 February 2019  

Dear Mr Lamb  

MRC website information on trachea transplants using stem cells  

Thank you for your letter dated 14 January 2019, regarding information on the MRC website related to trachea transplants using stem cells.  

Thank you too for describing the Committee’s approach to ensuring that any users of your predecessor Committee’s report can quickly find the most up to date information in your 2018 Research Integrity report.  

We agree entirely that, in every area of medical research, content available on the MRC website should normally refer to the latest information available. We would like to reassure the Committee we are up-dating our processes in this area, and routinely reviewing or removing some of the older content (older than five years). We will also establish arrangements for deciding when to remove some content earlier, for example, if fast moving developments mean it becomes out of date quickly, or if new evidence renders it inaccurate or misleading.  

Where there have been significant developments, such as in the case of the RegenVox trial, published information less than five years old will be annotated in a similar manner to the Committee’s own approach, directing readers to up-to-date and authoritative information on the matter. In the case of information pertaining to the RegenVox trial, and the use of stem cells in trachea transplants, the MRC has decided to act as follows:  

- Case studies, published news items, and other content relating to the RegenVox studies and the use of regenerative stem cells in trachea transplants, will be annotated with a suitable explanatory note directing readers to current information. Content will be deleted as it reaches our five-year retention period, as some of the content is already older it will be taken down immediately.  

Medical Research Council, 13th floor, One Kemble Street, London, WC2B 4AN  

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The RegenVox study was featured as a case study in the MRC's 2014 – 2019 Strategic Plan\(^1\), which expires in March this year. As a corporate publication we are not able to alter the historic record, but will make an annotation directing readers to the relevant information on this subject, including the Committee's Research Integrity report.

Again, we thank you and the Committee for bringing this important concern to our attention, and we hope this letter assures you that suitable action is being taken.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr Declan Mulkeen,
Chief of Strategy
Medical Research Council
Direct line: +44 (0)20 7395 2300
Email: Declan.Mulkeen@mrc.ukri.org
www.mrc.ukri.org