

Proposal: Leaders in Openness

Recognising signatories of the Concordat on Openness that meet recommended practices

This award sits alongside Concordat signatory status and can only be granted to signatories of the Concordat on Openness. While the Openness Awards recognise innovation and courage shown by organisations working to further Openness around the use of animals in research, Leaders in Openness will be those organisations who commit considerable resource and energy to following best practice, embedding openness within their organisations and making the aims of the Concordat a reality.

These organisations are essential to moving the conversation forward and embedding change in the sector. In recognising their achievement we hope to share their practices more widely, supporting similar organisations to adopt further steps towards openness.

We do not anticipate that all signatories will be eligible for this award. For some it will not be appropriate, and others may not have the resources needed to meet the criteria at this time. However, for some signatories this recognition is expected to acknowledge, reward their efforts, while sharing good practice and learning across institutions.

The award

- An additional Logo to use along-side or instead of the Concordat logo, stating “Leader in Openness [year] – [year]”
- Listing as **leaders** area of the Concordat website.
- Certificate in display frame.
- Examples and case studies of good practice in Openness.
- Highlighted in the Concordat on Openness Annual Report (the report structure is likely to change, to make the main body smaller, with a greater emphasis on leadership, and what made those organisations stand out).

The Openness Awards that celebrate projects and particular achievements will continue, but to be a leader shows a commitment to developing and implementing structures and processes that support openness. The leaders are those who consistently take up recommended best practices, putting them at the leading edge, driving openness and showing how these changes can be effectively implemented across different organisations.

You need to apply for this status, showing how you meet the criteria and if Leadership status is granted you will hold it for three years. Towards the end of their award-period Leaders will be notified and invited to re-apply, though the criteria may change over time.

Awards will be considered annually in the Spring.

Decision process

To apply you should provide evidence of how you meet each of the criteria.

Sources such as websites, news or intranet articles or documents are preferred but statements may be submitted. The emphasis should be on creating more open systems and ways of working, rather than on the outputs that result from them.

For example:

Developing a process for working with press enquires, trained staff and discussed media coverage with journalists that did not result in a published story is capacity-building, and is key to meeting the criteria for the Leader award.

Some criteria are more easily met by certain types or sizes of organisations. This **will** be taken into consideration during the assessment process. Initially the decision will be based on two assessments:

1. Assessment by a small group of lay-public in a face to face meeting
2. Assessment by two peers, drawn from a pool of volunteers

The main assessment will be carried out by the lay group, with the peer assessors providing context and a second view. In each case the peer assessors will be selected to avoid conflicts as far as possible. UAR will be looking for volunteers in early 2019. Feedback on submissions will be provided.

The role of the assessors will be to consider how well the criteria have been met in terms of what has been done, and how effectively it has communicated on the use of animals in research. The lay and expert views on this will be different, and we hope to capture both.

This process is still being developed and more information about the assessment will be available in early 2019.

Leader in Openness (Publicly-funded research)

HEI, Research Institute, Government Agency

Criteria

- Organisation has gone beyond the basic requirements for a policy statement and has placed a substantial amount of material about how, when and why animals were used in their scientific research into the public domain through pages on their website.
- Organisation actively engages with local and national media around the use of animals in research, supporting spokespeople to engage with the press and ensuring that species are named in relevant media releases. An access procedure for press wishing to visit the animal facility is in place with press requests welcomed, though not necessarily resulting in media coverage.
- Clear steps are taken to ensure as many staff and students (where applicable) as possible understand that animals are used for research at their organisation, and have the opportunity to engage further if they wish. They may hear about their organisation's animal research through the recruitment process, taught courses, open seminar series or publications such as the annual report.
- Public engagement around the use of animals in research is actively undertaken. Groups such as schools, politicians and interest groups are able to visit the animal facility or use technology to engage in a tour virtually. The contribution of individual champions towards openness is marked through an organisational award or recognition process.

Leader in Openness (Commercial)

Pharma, CRO, Recruitment, Breeder

Criteria

- Organisation has gone beyond the basic requirements for a policy statement and has placed a substantial amount of material about how, when and why animals were used in scientific research into the public domain through pages on their website. This information should relate to their own use of animals where possible.
- Organisation actively engages with local and national media around the use of animals in research, supporting spokespeople to engage with the press and ensuring that species are named in relevant media releases. An access procedure for press wishing to visit the animal facility is in place with press requests welcomed, though not necessarily resulting in media coverage.
- Clear steps are taken to ensure all staff understand that animals are used for research at their organisation, and have the opportunity to engage further if they wish. They may hear about their organisation's animal research through the recruitment process, in service training, open AWERB or publications CSR report.
- Public engagement around the use of animals in research is actively undertaken. Groups such as schools, politicians and interest groups are able to visit the animal facility or use technology to 'see inside' it. The contribution of individual champions towards openness is marked through an organisational award or recognition process.

Leader in Openness (Funder)

Funding body, Research Charity

Criteria

- Organisation has gone beyond the basic requirements for a policy statement and has placed a substantial amount of material about how, when and why animals were used in their scientific research into the public domain through pages on their website.
- Organisation actively engages with local and national media around the use of animals in research, supporting spokespeople to engage with the press and ensuring that species are named in media releases about funded projects.
- Clear steps are taken to ensure all staff understand that animals are used for research funded by their organisation, with the opportunity to engage further if they wish. Staff are provided with the opportunity to visit animal facilities (or undertake a virtual tour) to further understand the nature of this research if they wish to do so.
- Steps are taken to ensure that supporters and other public can understand why funded research involves the use of animals and the proportion of funded research that this applies to. Practices are developed and in place to ensure that reasonable requests for information are answered fairly and transparently.

Leader in Openness (Membership Organisation)

Learned Society, Trade Association, Umbrella Body, Other Not-for-Profit

Criteria

- Organisation has gone beyond the basic requirements for a policy statement and has placed a substantial amount of material about how, when and why animals were used in their members, or others if not applicable, scientific research into the public domain through pages on their website.
- Organisation supports spokespeople among their staff and / or membership to engage with the press and other media, this can include preparation and proactive media work, and does not necessarily involvement in published stories.
- Clear steps are taken to ensure all staff or committee members understand the rationale behind open communication on animal research, supporting the attendance of public groups such as schools, colleges, patients and politicians at their meetings, where they can gain an insight into why animals are used in research.
- Members are actively supported to be more open through participation in policy and media, training opportunities and an active promotion of openness around the use of animals in research. The contribution of individual champions towards openness is marked through a society award or recognition process.