



3 September 2019

Professor Julia Buckingham CBE
Chair
Concordat Strategy Group

British Heart Foundation

Greater London House
180 Hampstead Road
London

Professor Jeremy Pearson
Dir tel : 00 44 (0)20 7554 0344
PA Dir tel: 00 44 (0)20 7554 0057
PA e-mail: patelb@bhf.org.uk

Dear Julia

Letter of Commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers

I am pleased to be able to confirm the BHF's commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

The BHF fully supports the Principles of this revised Concordat and we intend to uphold our obligations and responsibilities as a signatory.

As a major research funder in the UK we take our responsibilities in this area seriously. As an example, in the last few years we have modified many of our personal award schemes to lengthen their duration, encourage re-entry to research after a break, and to ensure that fellows can work flexibly (e.g. part time) while providing continued support for the grant during periods of absence (e.g. due to maternity leave). We have also recently strengthened our Standard Conditions of Grant significantly to reinforce our requirement for universities to inform us about cases of scientific misconduct or bullying and harassment and made clear the sanctions we may impose when cases are upheld.

As a member of the Concordat Strategy Group, we will continue to work collectively and engage with initiatives to address systemic challenges in progressing towards a UK research system where researchers work in healthy and supportive environments. We agree that researchers should be recognised and valued for their contributions in research and beyond, supported in their professional and career development, and equipped and empowered to succeed in their chosen careers.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Jeremy Pearson, PhD FESC HonFBPhS HonFRCP FMedSci
Associate Medical Director (Research)**

Beat heartbreak forever.

bhf.org.uk