

## Integrative Toxicology Training Partnership (ITTP) TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. Remit

The MRC Integrative Toxicology Training Partnership (ITTP) is a national programme for training and capacity building across complementary disciplines of toxicology research (including *in vitro* and *in vivo* mechanisms of toxicity, clinical and epidemiological studies, drug safety, and environmental and regulatory toxicology). A key aim is to facilitate interaction between academic, government agency and industry sectors. For further information on eligibility contact kah89@cam.ac.uk.

MRC funding for ITTP is considered as part of the quinquennial review of the Toxicology Unit and ring-fenced within the five year award to the Unit. The MRC delegates responsibility to the Unit and Steering Committee to administer the training investments on its behalf.

The role of the ITTP Steering Committee is to oversee the delivery of ITTP to support the development of national capability, and to advise on the emerging needs and opportunities in the area. The Committee is accountable to the MRC through the Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board (MCMB).

### 2. Steering Committee membership

The Committee will be structured as follows:

- Director of the MRC Toxicology Unit (to act as overall Chair, except for reviewing and making PhD awards)
- Member(s) of MCMB (whom shall act as overall Deputy Chair and Chair the review and award discussions)
- Experts from academia and industry from a variety of disciplines
- Representative(s) from other agencies (e.g. ABPI, MHRA)
- Co-ordinator from the Toxicology Unit
- Member of MRC Head Office (usually from the MCMB team)

The committee may at its discretion invite other experts to attend for particular agenda items or meetings or contribute to assessment of applications.

### 3. Meetings

- The committee will normally meet 2 times a year.
- One committee meeting annually will discuss, rank and award studentships.

### 4. Minutes

Minutes of the meetings will be circulated to the Committee for approval and form part of the annual report to MCMB.

## 5. Responsibilities

- To assist the MRC in delivering its toxicology research training strategy through the ITTP investment:
  - To ensure all projects are shaped to deliver against the ambitions of ITTP and contribute to the UK's toxicology field.
  - To ensure ITTP PhD studentships are widely advertised nationally and encourage pertinent collaborating partners.
  - To assess and rank applications on their scientific merits, suitability as a vehicle for training, relevance for capacity building in toxicology, and interdisciplinary research focus.
  - To ensure studentship awards are made on a competitive and transparent basis.
  - To facilitate and strongly encourage interaction between potential partners in industry, government organisations and academia.
- To keep abreast of the evolving needs and opportunities across the toxicology landscape to:
  - Help best shape the ITTP training investments.
  - Provide strategic guidance on the ITTP curriculum and priority science areas for training.
  - To advise the MRC on the developing and longer-term skills needs in the toxicological arena.
- To report annually to the MRC via the MCMB on the training investments made through ITTP and on strategic developments in the field.