Minor carta

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**a research charter for our times**

Being dispirited by the continuing conflict between researchers and those who review research, and being reminded of the great charter between the good King John and the noble barons now in its 800th year and the great good that has come of it, we humbly set out a charter for research and its review.

**From researchers, our greetings!**

Recognising our past mistakes and misdemeanours, we agree and commit ourselves to this charter of Responsible Research Practice.

1. **When we start we will define what we are asking in our study**

We affirm the importance of a simply written, clear research question detailing the Intervention, the Population we will study, the Comparator we are using if indeed we are, the Outcome we will use, recorded for all to see and understand. We will always publish this before our study starts.

1. **We will build on what is known already**

Mindful of past research that has ignored what is known already hence wasted money and exposed participants to injury, we will search all libraries of the world to ensure we do not endanger those who help us by joining our studies nor do we duplicate earlier work unnecessarily.

1. **We will listen to our people, patients and participants**

Recognising that our work is a partnership with the good men and women of our country and that research can only continue if we keep their trust, we will seek and listen to the voices of patients to ensure any questions we set out to study are relevant to their needs and welfare and that our designs are acceptable to them. To further this we will commit to research our own research to record these good people’s experience and rectify any mistakes we might have made.

1. **We will make sure we have all the necessary skills to complete the study**

Cognisant of the wise words of Howard Beecher that the most important protection for those who join our studies is our expertise and probity, we will select our co-workers carefully and commit to ensuring they have appropriate experience, expertise and teaching.

1. **We will offer a fair choice to anyone who is thinking of joining our study**

Mindful of the influence of the professional and the pressure some may feel to join our studies, we will allow people to make their own choice. We will ensure, to the best of our abilities, it is a decision they are happy with. If they wish help, we will provide this as fairly as we can, without coercion or undue influence. In rare circumstances when this is not possible, we commit ourselves never to act against their best interests and will follow due legal process and seek the help of others.

1. **We will identify and justify consequences of our work and minimise any possible harm**

Being fully aware that this is one of the most important considerations for anyone thinking of joining one of our studies, we will make an objective assessment of the benefits and harms of our study and ensure we reduce them to the lowest level possible. We will then ask possible participants if they find these acceptable. We will present the fairest balance we can, always giving time to answer questions and be clear about any uncertainties.

1. **We will respect confidentiality and privacy**

Being fully sensitive to worries people have about their personal information today in our “connected world”, we commit ourselves to respecting and honouring their privacy and confidentiality. We will obey the law, and not broadcast personal details we acquire in our work to their detriment, unless we think others are at risk

1. **We will tidy up afterwards**

We recognise our responsibilities after our studies. We will make sure our participants return to their care team and, if it is relevant, inform all of their results as soon as we can. Recognising our responsibilities to the broader venture of research we will help our colleagues by making our results available to those with a genuine interest and update current knowledge by reviewing or completing a systematic review and meta-analysis. Doing research without reporting it properly and applying it in practice is pointless – and all research needs to be quantified and understood (Back To Sleep)

**From researchers and reviewers together, in summary, To our fellow citizens, greeting!**

**Collaborare non colludere**

In our desire to be observed in good faith by our heirs, we, as partners in this venture, accept our shared

to ensure only good research is conducted, a duty we owe to all. Before all, we accept the duties written above, to follow them and teach our heirs by instruction and example to keep them in perpetuity. But we recognise that no charter can prevent all misadventure that might befall us, this depends on our honesty, probity, commitment to the interests of our people and our continuing diligence. So, as we sign this charter, we will also help develop an open council to argue out any differences or difficulties that may arise. Together we will elect 12 of our number and seek 12 free men or women to keep, and cause to be observed with all their might, the duties imposed by this charter. This twenty-four shall be paid one groat a year from the estates of the chairman to pursue all the above articles faithfully, and shall cause them to be obeyed by others to the best of their power. If any transgress these articles, and the offence is made known to the twenty four, they shall be required to come before them for judgement. Any fines raised will be paid to the estates of our chairman.

*Signed this day of the year 2018. ……………………………………*

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