

Professor Julia Buckingham CBE
c/o Vitae
22 Signet Court
Cambridge
CB5 8LA

12 February 2020

From the President, Venki Ramakrishnan

Dear Professor Buckingham,

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

I am pleased, on behalf of The Royal Society, to confirm our commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

The Royal Society strives to take a leadership role, both in terms of the support it provides its grant holders and also in thinking about how research culture could support future Early Career Researchers better. This is vital to deliver the Society's fundamental purpose to support excellence in science and encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity. The Society has considerable experience in supporting and growing independence in talented early career researchers through its long-standing University Research and Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowships. These schemes have¹ and continue to identify the most promising early-career researchers giving them freedom to pursue new and more innovative lines of research.

In an increasingly competitive global environment, it is essential that the UK's research system supports excellent researchers, and cultivates a culture that fosters and encourages science that is high-quality.

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

We agree 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.

¹ <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/career-pathway-tracker/>



President Sir Venki Ramakrishnan
Executive Director Dr Julie Maxton

Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science.

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We would be happy to share our experience and take part in further discussions about how best to enable excellent research and researchers to flourish in the future within a sustainable research funding system.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Venki Ramakrishnan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Venki Ramakrishnan
President