

Researcher Concordat Round Table Speakers

Dr Yolana Pringle - Vitae

Dr Yolana Pringle is Policy and Evidence Manager at Vitae, where she leads on activities that create impact from Vitae's expertise on researcher development and research culture. This includes responsibility for the Vitae Policy Advisory Group, development of Vitae's policy positions and involvement with the HR Excellence in Research Award and Researcher Development Concordat. She has an academic background, with over 10 years' international research experience, as well as leadership of a national subject association. Yolana's further interests include equity in international research partnerships and researcher wellbeing and mental health.

Dr Cathal Rogers – The University of Manchester

Dr Cathal Rogers is Researcher Development Manager at the University of Manchester, which has a diverse community of around 1800 post-doctoral researchers. He is currently overseeing the submission of the university's 12-year review of the Excellence in Research Award. Before moving to UoM he worked at Staffordshire University as Research Policy & Governance Manager and has therefore overseen researcher development and implementation of the Concordat at two very different types of institution. He has recently joined the peer review panel for the EIR award.

Dr Robert Drake - Research Fellow, University of Bristol, Postdoc Futures

Robert Drake is a Medical Foundation Research Fellow studying the regulation of pain perception and behaviours by the frontal cortex at the University of Bristol. In 2020-23, Robert co-chaired the University of Bristol's Researcher Representative Committee and contributed to policy development for the implementation of the Concordat for the Development of Researchers and teaching policy for research staff. In 2022, Robert helped establish Postdoc Futures, a UK postdoc collective that engages with key stakeholders to improve the working environment and careers opportunities for UK researchers.

Dr Nik Ogryzko – UKRI

Nik works in the UKRI Talent and Skills team and leads on the development and implementation of the UKRI action plans for both the Researcher Development Concordat and Technician Commitment. UKRI's role as a research funder, policy organisation and research organisation makes this a wide ranging role covering a range of interesting perspectives and challenges. Nik previously contributed to writing the Researcher Development Concordat in his prior role as a postdoc at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Laura Gray- Research Fellow, University of Sheffield

Laura Gray is a Medical Research Council Research Fellow studying changes in BMI across the lifecourse at the University of Sheffield. Laura has a background in statistics and econometrics, which she now applies to health research. Laura is a member of the Research Staff Association within the Faculty of Health at the University of Sheffield. Laura has previously represented early career researchers on a roundtable to determine the future strategy of the UKRI. She has also sat on a departmental research committee as PhD coordinator and a school-wide PGR committee both as student experience officer and as a PGR student.

Brianna Vandrey – Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh

Brianna Vandrey is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in biomedical sciences at the University of Edinburgh. Outside of the lab, they are a postdoctoral representative on several staff committees and a member of the Postdoc Futures group.