

Response ID ANON-4WP9-JVY6-3

Submitted to **Innovate UK's Integration with Research UK**

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Introduction

1 What is your name?

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The Physiological Society

INNOVATE UK'S INTEGRATION WITH RESEARCH UK – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

4 What do you see as the main benefits of the integration of Innovate UK with Research UK and how will integration provide opportunities not currently available, or taken, to increase innovation?

Use this box to type in your answer:

In biomedical sciences, the union should provide a closer communication between pure and applied elements of research. This, in theory, should better facilitate translation of biomedical discovery to the bedside. This will improve potential outcomes from basic science in the wider context, and in terms of underpinning this basic research with demonstrable impact. Similarly, innovation-focused organisations will have a greater appreciation of the basic research contributing to their developments allowing better direction and drive of basic research.

5 What are the main risks for both business and research of the integration of Innovate UK into Research UK?

Use this box to type in your answer:

The danger would be direct competition for funds between basic science and its translational development. Maintaining the balance in the face of controlled funding may be difficult. If the inclusion of Innovate UK within Research UK leads to an institutional culture shift favouring applied/translational research then fundamental disciplines such as physiology may lose out. This would be short-sighted as it is the breakthroughs in fundamental research which lead to strategies to be exploited in applied solutions further down the line.

With the conversion of a large proportion of Innovate UK funds from grants to loans, the effective disbursement of this support must be considered in detail. If, through integration within Research UK, earlier-stage projects gain access to innovation support, a loan is likely not to be the best format for this support to take. It is an unavoidable fact that a proportion of basic research is unsuccessful and/or uncommercialisable. Nevertheless, this does not take away from its validity as research. Demanding returns in the form of repaying loans from inappropriate research ventures could lead to a reluctance in future to push boundaries and attempt risky or uncertain research of this nature.

6 Are there any specific issues Government should consider when looking at the practical arrangements of integrating Innovate UK into Research UK?

Use this box to type in your answer:

There must be sufficient high-level support for basic research as well as innovation, and clear application pathways for support from both kinds of research without innovation/commercialisation criteria being inappropriately applied.