

Impact and Health Sciences for RAE 2020



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Impact and Health Sciences

- *Some doubts and fears*
- *Some studies of case studies*
- *Some do's and don'ts*

Some Doubts and Fears in the UK before REF 2014

- Impact too difficult to define
- Measurement not reliable
- Basic research more distant from impact than applied research
- The best science not necessarily related to the highest impact

A Brief Look at Case Studies in UK REF 2014

- Health Sciences HK ~ UK Panels
 - Clinical Medicine
 - Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care
 - Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy
 - Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience

Top 5 Impact Submissions

- 4. Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- Birkbeck College (4.00)
- Swansea University (4.00)
- University of Stirling (4.00)
- University of East London (4.00)
- Newcastle University (3.87)

<http://www.stephenckemp.co.uk/top-scoring-impact-case-studies-by-ref-2014-uoa/>

University of East London PP&N Profile 2014 (FTE 14.6)

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Overall	25	43	32	0	0
Outputs	7.8	51.6	40.6	0.0	0.0
Impact	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Environment	0.0	62.5	37.5	0.0	0.0

Understanding Harm from MDMA (Ecstasy) by UEL

- Studies of neuro-psychological risks of the use of MDMA (Ecstasy) 1990-2012
- Informed US and UK governments
- Included in the UK government Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD, 2009) review
- Important *in utero* effects

4* Clinical Medicine Impact Study (Bristol U)

- hERG channels mediating cardiac 'rapid' delayed rectifier K⁺ current, I_K
- control the length of ventricular action potentials and the QT interval (1998)
- mammalian cell lines expressing hERG channels test for drug screening and toxicity
- screening for QT interval prolongation in cell lines and *Xenopus* oocytes (2002)

4* Clinical Medicine Impact Study (Bristol U)

- hERG screens as part of an integrated assessment of cardiac risk (as recommended by the FDA and MHRA)
- cardiac risk for certain psychotropics (and other agents) that have been either withdrawn or now carry warnings as to their cardiac safety.

Shaping government policy on violence prevention (Cardiff)

- 1990s research on community violence led by maxillo-facial surgeon
- 65% of violence resulting in injury not recorded by the police
- Developed NHS/police data sharing strategy
- Cross agency prevention strategies including alcohol related street crime

Shaping government policy on violence prevention (Cardiff)

- 42% reduction in violence related injuries compared to ‘non-intervention’ cities
- Tangible cost reductions
- Won prestigious prize in criminology

Writing about impact for the RAE Health Sciences Panel



The do's and don'ts

<https://www.fasttrackimpact.com/single-post/2018/06/04/What-made-a-4-impact-case-study-in-REF2014>

Writing about impact for the RAE Health Sciences Panel



The do's and don'ts

<http://blogs.bath.ac.uk/research-marketing/2018/08/15/impact-case-study-writing/>

Don't

- Leave doubt about quality of or contribution to underpinning research
- Leave doubt about connection with impact
- Be vague with your evidence
- Allude to 'future impact'
- Use difficult to understand jargon or impenetrable complexity

Don't

- Use 'promising' or undefined 'many'
- Write long winded sentences
- Use hard to follow technical terminology
- Organise text poorly

Do

- Use simple clear style
- Give a clear narrative
- Use lists/sub heading/bullets
- Give solid evidence
- Show clear connections between research and impact
- Show clear contribution to the research