

# PDRA Development & Concordat Update

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# Topics

- PDRA development
  - Career consultant
  - Informatics Research Staff Society (IRSS)
- The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers
  - Brief background
  - Update on what is happening

# Career consultant

(Originally announced by Janet Ball in February)

- Institute for Academic Development (IAD) hired a new career consultant.
- Provides specialist advice for e.g.
  - discussing your career options, pathways and planning strategies
  - practical advice on preparing a targeted CV or application form.
  - undertaking a mock job interview for an upcoming role you have applied for
- For booking and further info, see <https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/research-roles/research-only-staff/career-management/career-consultation>

# Informatics Research Staff Society

- Mostly as information for new research staff: Informatics has a society representing research-only staff
- “Run by research-only staff for research-only staff”
- To become a member: please contact [research-staff-society@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:research-staff-society@inf.ed.ac.uk)

# Background on the Concordat

- *The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers*: agreement to improve the employment and support for researchers in the UK.
- Formulates core principles and lays out the responsibilities of institutions, funders, managers of researchers, and the researchers themselves.
- Read it here: <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/concordat>
- Launched September 2019, replaces a previous agreement from 2008.
- Signed by the University of Edinburgh on Feb 4 2020

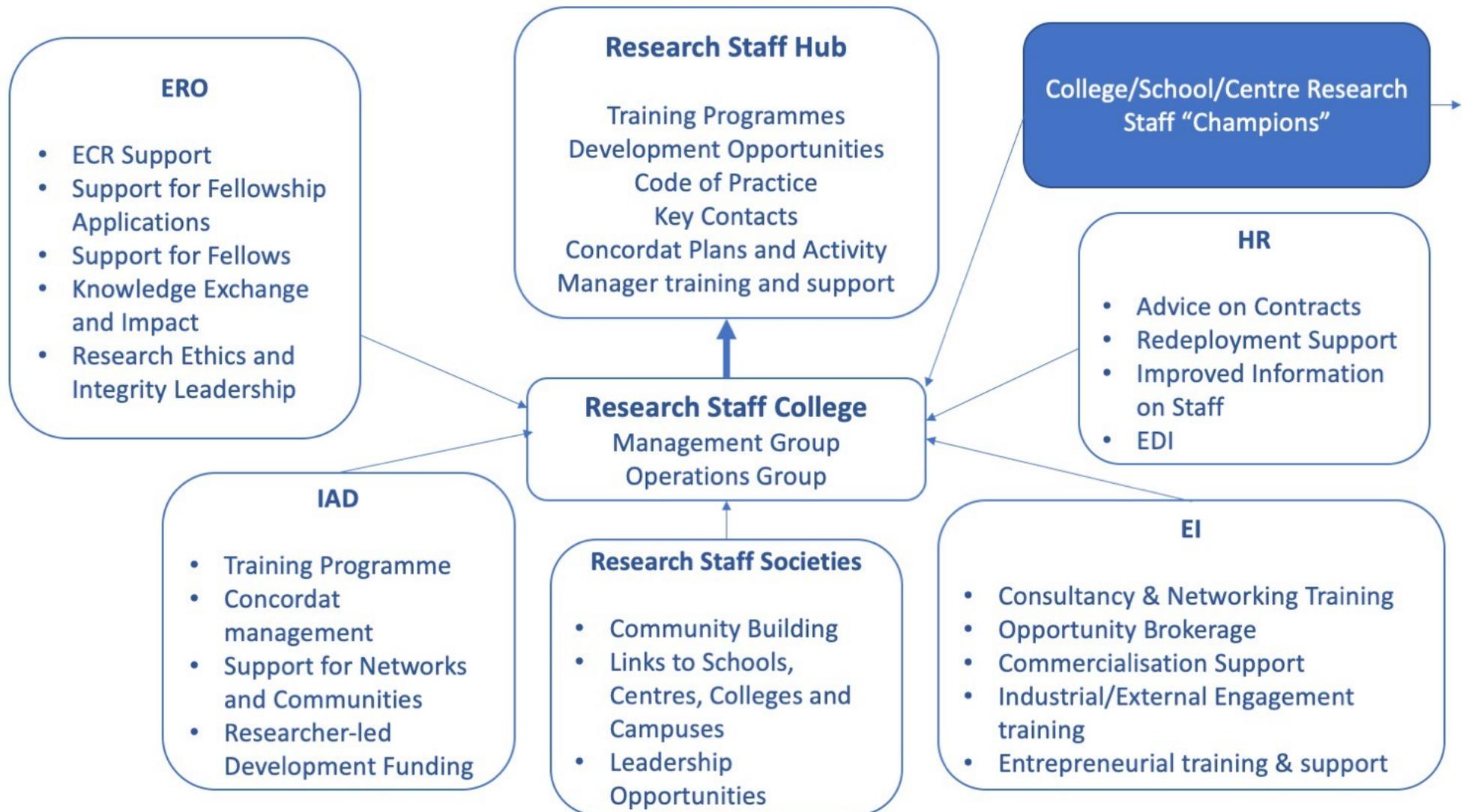
# Concordat Implementation

- The University has set up a Concordat Implementation Group.
- Lead: Dr Sara Shinton, Head of Researcher Development, IAD
- From Informatics, Janet Ball and I participate.
- Implementation group is diverse; different colleges and different roles are represented (e.g. HR, strategy, research).  
(Approx 18/36 of participants of the last meeting have authored publications; my estimate based on data from Edinburgh Research Explorer)
- Additional research staff representation is welcome. Please get in touch with me if interested. Note: Representative will need to represent the views of all research staff at Informatics.

# Research staff college

- Plan for a University-wide structure supporting research staff is under way (working name for the structure: “Research staff college”)
- Pends approval by the University Exec in June.
- Neither a new service nor a new academic entity but a coordinating mechanism (first online, finally in a physical centre with dedicated staff)
- “Horizontal structure” to gain efficiency in common tasks while ensuring college/school-level specialisation. Example benefits:
  - Better data collection on research staff issues and development
  - More efficient operation of research staff societies
- Model based on the newly established Doctoral College of the University  
<https://uoe.sharepoint.com/sites/DoctoralCollege>

# Planned structure



(Figure courtesy of S Shinton, IAD)