

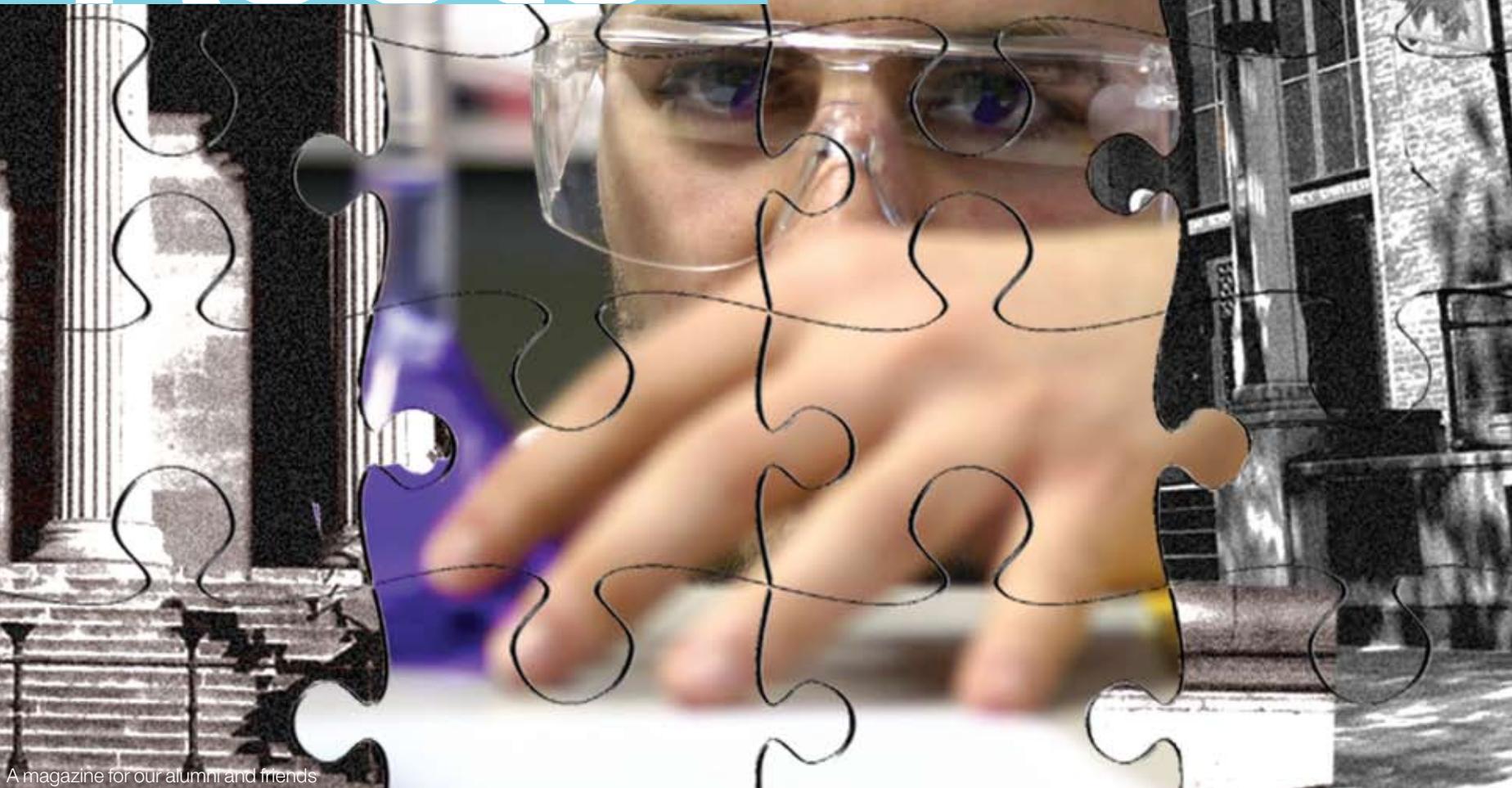


The School of Pharmacy  
University of London

11

Winter  
2011

# Square Roots







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# Editorial

This issue is dominated by our decision to merge with UCL.

This has been a difficult decision and the last 18 months of consultation and debate have been testing for staff and others close to the School. The passion of the argument has even spilled onto the pages of the pharmacy and education press. However, now is the time for unity of purpose as we work towards establishing the School within UCL.

The merger is not a panacea for the challenges that face the higher education sector. However, as part of UCL, the School will be at the heart of Europe's largest grouping of biomedical research. In addition to new opportunities for pharmacy education and research, our students will enjoy one of the best student experiences in the UK.

In seizing the future we will be careful not to abandon the past. Our alumni remain vital to fulfilling our potential and our development work will continue to be performed by the School for the School through the proposed School of Pharmacy Foundation.

The School of Pharmacy has been bringing health to the world for almost 170 years. From 2012 we will continue this tradition as a part of UCL. *Salutiferi Orbi.*

Morgan Williams



## Merger with UCL to go ahead in 2012

After a long and thorough consultation and development process, the School's Council has decided by a decisive majority that our long-term future would be best secured through a merger with UCL.

Chair of the School of Pharmacy's Council, Lord Tim Clement Jones, said:

"We are delighted to have reached a carefully reasoned and researched decision about our future, in which all those involved have been consulted at every stage. We can all move on with a positive and determined shared vision and we are looking forward to working with our new UCL colleagues and opening up the many opportunities."

Professor Anthony Smith, Dean of the School added:

"In an era when Higher Education is facing the most severe challenges we have ever known in

the UK, I am delighted that Council has agreed on this step. As part of UCL, the School will be able to invest in and develop its research, provide the best possible teaching and wider experience for students, and become a part of one of the world's most prestigious institutions. I am confident that The School of Pharmacy will thrive in this new environment"

Professor Sir John Tooke, Vice Provost (Health) and Head of the UCL School of Life & Medical Sciences, said:

"This is a very significant day in the histories of both organisations. We warmly welcome the School's staff and students to UCL and look forward to the future with excitement and optimism. We are confident that this innovative new alliance will be mutually beneficial, drawing on the considerable complementary academic strengths of both institutions. We aim to build on existing collaborations to establish

a major pharmacy research base of international renown and work with our new colleagues to enhance the excellent educational programmes and student experience already provided by the School."

Having chosen to merge with UCL, the School's aims will continue to be:

- To become the leading School of Pharmacy in Europe and amongst the top 5 in the world
- To attract the best staff and students
- To command the confidence of our funders and stakeholders
- To create enough financial headroom for investment.

**See P.8 for more details on the merger decision**

# Scientists show for the first time why Aqueous Cream can only make eczema worse

## Aqueous Cream B.P. which is commonly prescribed for eczema makes the condition worse at the cellular and molecular level

Eczema currently accounts for 22.5% of skin complaints treated by GPs and the number is rising. Aqueous Cream B.P. is routinely prescribed to eczema sufferers despite evidence linking it to the thinning of the outer layer of the skin. New research conducted at The School of Pharmacy, University of London and published in the British Journal of Dermatology demonstrates for the first time why applying Aqueous Cream makes the condition worse as it actually increases the peeling and inflammation of the skin.

The study showed a clear difference between treated and untreated skin. Treated areas became more inflamed and prone to peeling due to an increase in the activity of proteases; enzymes which break down skin protein. There was also a decrease in the size and maturity of skin cells – an essential part of the skin's protective structure. The treated skin also lost significantly more moisture.

Research author, Diar Mohammed said: "Imagine the skin's protective layer as a 'bricks and mortar' wall-like structure. In those areas that are treated with Aqueous Cream the bricks are smaller and less well-formed. At the same time the 'wall' is being attacked by enzymes which are eating away at the structure. The end result is, of course, a weaker wall. So, rather than soothing the condition, this cream produces exactly the opposite effect making the condition worse at the cellular and molecular level; it effectively causes the skin's 'wall' to collapse causing far more irritation and soreness. Aqueous cream is the UK's cheapest and most frequently prescribed emollient. But these results make it clear that being cheap is not enough to justify its continued use."

His PhD supervisor, Dr Majella Lane added: "This new evidence finally shows exactly why using Aqueous Cream to treat skin complaints is a mistake. We would seriously suggest that consumers seek out alternative treatments. The research has considerable implications for the formulation and labelling of such dermatological products. The action of the detergent sodium lauryl sulphate in Aqueous Cream is a cause of many of the issues we have identified. Unfortunately the presence of this key ingredient is often not clearly indicated and we would wish to see far more explicit labelling."

Professor Jonathan Hadgraft, Emeritus Professor of Biophysical Chemistry concluded: "Despite an increasing consensus that Aqueous Cream damages the skin's structure it continues to be prescribed. We now have clear evidence of precisely how this emollient can only make skin complaints worse."

# Mystery canine disorders resolved



Jennifer Gill and Robert J Harvey in the Department of Pharmacology have discovered the genetic basis of two dog disorders – Startle disease in Irish Wolfhounds and Episodic Falling Syndrome in Cavalier King Charles spaniels.

Startle disease in Irish Wolfhounds is a lethal disorder characterised by muscle stiffness, tremor and severe breathing difficulties. In collaboration with Diane Shelton (University of California, San Diego), Gill and Harvey determined that the underlying cause of canine startle disease was a deletion in the gene for the glycine transporter GlyT2 (SLC6A5). Similar loss-of-function mutations in the human GlyT2 gene underlie the neonatal disorder hyperekplexia.

Dogs with Episodic Falling Syndrome show excessive muscle

stiffness in response to exercise, stress or excitement. In collaboration with Leigh Anne Clark (Clemson University), Gill and Harvey found that Episodic Falling Syndrome is a unique genetic disorder associated with a deletion in the gene for the brain-specific extracellular matrix protein brevican (BCAN). This disorder is extremely common in this breed - 12.9% of dogs without a clinical history of Episodic Falling Syndrome were found to harbour a single copy of the faulty gene. BCAN and a related gene, NCAN - encoding neurocan - are now candidates for analysis in human startle, stress and exercise-induced muscle disorders.

Owners and breeders can access molecular genetic tests for both these disorders via Laboklin (<http://www.laboklin.co.uk/>).

# School of Pharmacy Graduation Ceremony: September 2011



Students from around the world were presented with degrees at the School of Pharmacy's annual Masters Graduation Ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, on Wednesday 28 September 2011, Professor Anthony Smith, Principal and Dean of the School of Pharmacy, said: "You came from all over the world to study here and you should be very proud that you are graduating from one of the most respected Schools of Pharmacy."

Professor Smith was addressing more than 300 people, including graduates and guests, at Senate House, University of London.

In his speech, Professor Smith warned of the challenges that lie ahead: "You start the next phase of your careers at an enormously challenging time with many governments across the world having to make tough choices in the face of unprecedented levels of debt. But this is an opportunity for you to show just what you can achieve

in developing safe and innovative medicines and ensuring that health systems are effective and economic."

The following degrees were conferred at the ceremony: MSc in Clinical Pharmacy, International Practice and Policy (CPIPP); MSc in Drug Delivery; MSc in Drug Discovery; MSc in Pharmacognosy and Master of Research (MRes).

Professor Smith also presented prizes for best academic performance to Miss Naoko Arakawa (CPIPP), Mr Farhan Kayyum Taherali (MSc Drug Delivery) and Miss Jeanne Trill (MSc Drug Discovery).

Two Fellowships were also awarded at the ceremony, to Fiona Cruickshank OBE and Professor Trevor Smart, in recognition of their "exceptionally distinguished contribution either to the School of Pharmacy or to the Science and practice of pharmacy."

Fiona Cruickshank OBE, Director and co-owner of SCM Pharma, is one of the North-East's most respected

entrepreneurs and was awarded an OBE in 2010 for her services to business in the region.

Professor Trevor Smart has been associated with the School of Pharmacy since 1977 when he graduated with a BPharm. With the exception of a two year break with the NHS, Professor Smart remained at The School to hold a number of distinguished posts, including Head of Department and Wellcome Trust Research Leave Fellow. In 2002, Professor Smart moved to the Schild Chair in Pharmacology and became Head of Department at UCL.

In drawing the graduation ceremony to a close, Professor Smith said: "As you go forward with your career I hope that you'll reflect well on your time here, you will build on your success, seize opportunities as they present themselves and also have that little bit of luck that so often characterises a successful career."

## New research further implicates toxic buttercups as trigger for Equine Grass Sickness

Equine Grass Sickness (EGS) is a devastating and usually fatal disease that particularly affects horses in Great Britain. Although EGS has been studied for over a century its causes are still unknown. It is very likely that EGS has many triggers, including intoxication with *Clostridium botulinum* Type C. A previous study by Dr. Sarah Edwards et al. found that higher levels of iron and heavy metals present in herbage grown at EGS sites might act as triggers for an EGS outbreak. The study also revealed higher levels of ranunculin (a blistering agent) in buttercup samples collected at EGS sites. A new phytochemical study published in one of the leading journals in the field has shed fresh light on this question. A metabolomic analysis carried out by Johanna Michl et al. has provided strong evidence that buttercups are an important factor in this poorly understood disease.

Overall the data shows that there is a strong link between a range of environmental factors and outbreaks of EGS. It is likely that changes to the soil as well as its vegetation form the basis for the developments of infections with *Clostridium botulinum* type C, which then causes the typical symptoms of EGS. This research has implications for the agricultural management of pastures and can help horse and pony owners prevent further EGS outbreaks. This project has been funded exclusively for many years thanks to a charitable donation from Mrs Patrica Brown.

# Nanotubes to the Rescue: brain cells rescued by gene silencing offers new options for stroke

Research into the use of nanotechnology in treating stroke has produced evidence of significant motor function recovery. The use of carbon nanotubes to deliver short strands of RNA – called siRNA – and induce gene silencing of specific target areas in the brain responsible for motor functions has allowed scientists to ‘switch off’ proteins that contribute to neuronal tissue loss. This collaborative and highly multidisciplinary project offers the possibility of a new treatment for stroke.

Stroke is the second most common cause of death worldwide with over 80% of all stroke cases occurring as a result of an obstruction within a blood vessel supplying blood to the brain. Ischemic or traumatic brain injury can lead to the unwanted activation of a protein, caspase 3, which contributes to brain tissue loss. This “executioner”

protein can be “switched off” through the use of siRNA – a molecule that obstructs the expression of genes. The challenge of delivering siRNA in sufficient quantities to specific brain regions was achieved through the use of nanotubes injected directly into the brain by high precision neurosurgical techniques.

These extraordinary nanometer-scale tubes of graphitic carbon are among the stiffest and strongest fibres known and have a structure that can have a length to diameter ratio as large as 28,000,000:1. Similar to a syringe at the nanometer scale, nanotubes were used to transport siRNA and silence genes in the brain in an effective manner. A combination of this promising gene therapy approach with a cutting-edge nanoscale delivery system was able to demonstrate functional recovery in stroke-ridden animals.

Nanotubes carrying siRNA against Caspase-3 were injected in the part of cerebral cortex controlling the movement of the forelimb and stroke was induced in the treated cortex. The authors found that the treatment protected neuronal cells from death and promoted recovery in a behavioural test of motor coordination that is normally affected by this type of lesion. A similar dose of siRNA administered alone, without nanotubes, was not effective on neuronal death or motor performance indicating that nanotubes were responsible for the activity and functional recovery obtained.

Professor Kostas Kostarelos, Chair of Nanomedicine and Head of the Centre for Drug Delivery Research said:

“We are delighted to see carbon nanotubes offer therapeutic options at the pre-clinical level, for debilitating

and extremely challenging pathologies such as stroke. Still at very early stages towards their clinical development, carbon nanomaterials encourage us with their capabilities to transport biologically-active molecules intracellularly, even in the notoriously difficult to transfect neuronal tissue”.

The work was led by the Nanomedicine Lab at The School of Pharmacy, University of London and the Neuroscience Institute at the National Research Centre (CNR) in Pisa, Italy. It was supported partly by various European Commission FP6 and FP7 research grants and partly by an EPSRC ‘Nanotechnology Grand Challenges: Healthcare’ grant to Professor Kostarelos. The study was published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA on June 20th 2011.



## Gift allows MPharm student to flourish

We are committed to attracting the highest calibre of students to the School. A scholarship is the only way for many of the brightest students to realise their ambitions and take advantage of the School’s outstanding resources. One such student is Shaheen Munshi. Shaheen entered the MPharm degree in 2008 and was the grateful recipient of a competitive scholarship that paid tuition fees. This scholarship was kindly provided by an anonymous benefactor. Shaheen has paid the ultimate respect

to the kindness and generosity of this award by her excellent performance in the first three years of the MPharm. She has passed every assessment that she has taken during these three years but more importantly she passed every one at first class honours level. She is ranked in the top 2% of her 170 student cohort.

Shaheen said: “Thanks to this generous gift I have been able to engage myself fully with this degree and enjoy the years of studying without any

added pressures financially, and for that I am incredibly grateful. I hope that one day I will be in a position where I can follow in my sponsor’s footsteps and offer financial help to an undergraduate. I hope that my benefactor accepts my sincerest and deepest thanks.”

For more information on scholarships please contact Zoë Davenport [zoe.davenport@pharmacy.ac.uk](mailto:zoe.davenport@pharmacy.ac.uk)

## Professor Frank Fish Memorial Award

Former Dean of the School Professor Frank Fish OBE sadly passed away in April at the age of 87 (see obituaries p.14). Frank Fish was an inspiring Dean who introduced the area of forensics at university level and was well known in the field of pharmacognosy and phytochemistry. To reflect Frank’s term of office as Dean at the Square, Frank’s sons, Andrew and David have been instrumental in helping the School establish the ‘Professor Frank Fish Memorial Award’. The award will fund an annual lecture at the School by a distinguished phytochemist. From 2012-2022 a distinguished scholar will be invited to the School fostering further interaction and collaboration.

## Implementation of an electronic health record



Research published in the BMJ reports the difficulties in the national rollout of care records systems in hospitals as implementation proves “time consuming and challenging, with as yet limited discernible benefits for clinicians and no clear advantages for patients.”

However, the report also notes the beginning of improvements and learning happening between hospitals and recognises the first steps in the journey to implement a truly comprehensive national electronic health record system.

The study, “Implementation and adoption of nationwide electronic health records in secondary care in England: final qualitative results from prospective national evaluation in “early adopter” hospitals” was led by Professor Aziz Sheikh from The University of Edinburgh and the team included researchers from The London School of Economics and Political Science, The University of Nottingham and The School of Pharmacy. The research team from our Department of Practice and Policy was Professor Nick Barber, Dr. Yogini Jani and Dr Amirhossein Takian.

## Rob Horne to help re-vamp Science Museum health and medicine galleries

Rob Horne, Professor of Behavioural Medicine has joined a panel of international experts advising the Science Museum on a reconfiguration of its health and medicine galleries.

The Science Museum is world renowned for its historic collections, galleries and exhibitions. Based on the permanent loan from the Wellcome Trust, the Museum’s medical collections represent social, cultural and scientific aspects of

medicine. These holdings are one of the world’s most comprehensive and wide-ranging collections in this subject representing medical science, clinical medicine, community and public health and psychology.

The panel will reflect upon the existing galleries and discuss the development of new content, coverage and structures for the 21st century.

## Professor Nick Barber joins NHS Scotland review of Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community



Professor Barber will support Dr Hamish Wilson in a review of NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community; an examination of the role which Scottish pharmacists play in contributing to the healthcare of patients. The review aims to enhance the role of pharmacists and encourage closer working with GPs and other community based services.

## Physiological Society Undergraduate Prize for Pharmacy student

Nishali Patel, a 3rd year undergraduate student has won a 2011 Undergraduate Prize for Physiology from the Physiological Society for doing the best lab-based project in Pharmacology and also obtaining the highest mark for her presentation.

Nishali did her project under the supervision of Dr Mala Shah. The project investigated the role of transient receptor potential channels in gut

contraction and found that drugs that target these channels may be useful for treating some gut disorders.

Dr Shah commented “Nishali was not only extremely hard working but she also took a lot of initiative in designing her experiments. Furthermore, she did a very thorough analysis of her experimental results. She thoroughly deserves this prize.”

# Controlling legal highs

Britain's scientific advisors on illegal drugs have called for a multi-faceted assault on the 'legal highs' problem, including funding for improved research and forensics developments.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has said the Government needs to adopt a much tougher system of controls. While the mephedrone family of drugs has now been banned, the ACMD said those manufacturing legal highs are increasingly tweaking the chemical formulas of banned legal highs to bypass bans on specific substances. The council suggests that Britain could look at a version of America's 'Analogue Act', which could make analogues of already banned drug automatically illegal.

The ACMD made extensive recommendations aimed at trying to reduce sales, demand and harms. Some suggested measures recommend that:

- The UK should develop EU and international networks to address the issue of legal highs.
- Countries involved in the manufacture of the legal highs should be encouraged to stop.
- The UK government should put in place processes that would allow the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to be updated quickly and easily when minor changes are required.

- Chemical detection and testing methods need to be developed so that illegal compounds present in legal highs can be easily detected.
- That new legislation should be considered, possibly similar to the Analogue Act 1986 used in the US.
- The burden of proof should be placed upon the supplier to establish beyond reasonable doubt that the product being sold is not for human consumption and is safe for its intended use.
- Specific legislation, namely the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulation and General Product Safety Regulations (2005), should be applied to the sale of legal highs, and the Advertising Standards Agency should investigate claims made by the websites selling legal highs.
- Research into the chemistry, pharmacology, toxicity and social harm of legal highs should be increased.
- Moves to increase public awareness should be implemented

The School's Professor Simon Gibbons is the chairman of the ACMD working group on this subject.

## New Associate Editor for Journal of Biological Chemistry

Anne Stephenson, Professor of Molecular Neuroscience, has been appointed an Associate Editor for the American Journal, the Journal of Biological Chemistry. The Journal was established in 1905 and is published by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. It features papers

based on original research that are judged to make a novel and important contribution to understanding the molecular and cellular basis of biological processes. The 2010 impact factor of the journal was 5.328 and it ranked first when science journals were evaluated with a PageRank-based algorithm.

# New Medicine Service developed at the School



Square Roots

The costs of poor medicine-taking are both economic and human, leading to wasted NHS resources and poor health for patients. The NHS spends around £11 billion a year on medicines, making them the biggest single expenditure after staff costs. However, until now there has been little structured ongoing support for patients to ensure they take their medicines correctly. October saw the launch of the New Medicine Service which will be provided free through community pharmacies to help reduce the cost of wasted medicines and improve patient health.

The New Medicines Service is based on research done at the School by Professor Nick Barber, Dr Sarah Clifford and Professor Rob Horne. Their research showed that just 10 days after starting their medicine a third of patients were not taking it as intended, and two-thirds were experiencing at least one problem with it and also needed more information about it.

The New Medicine Service will

support patients from day one by increasing their understanding of both their medicine and their condition, helping them get maximum benefit from their treatment and saving money at the same time. The service offers three consultations with a pharmacist over a period of four weeks after someone starts a new medicine for either asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, or is given blood-thinning medicines. It is estimated it could save the NHS £400,000,000 each year in reduced service costs.

Professor Nick Barber, who led the research, said:

"Patients who are starting a new medicine, which they may be on for life, often realise they need help and advice once they have experienced taking the medicine. The New Medicine Service helps solve patients' problems at just the right time, and in a way that makes sense to the patients and also gives value for money for the NHS."

Winter 2011

# A new chapter



**In May the School's Council took the decision that the School should merge with UCL. This is a momentous decision for any organisation and particularly for one that can trace its origins back 170 years to 1842. Here Professor Anthony Smith outlines why the decision was made, looks forward to how we will work as a part of UCL and plans for the leadership of the School as he moves on to a new role.**

Even a casual observer of higher education cannot fail to have noticed that universities have grabbed more than their fair share of the headlines in recent months. Firstly, the publication of Lord Browne's review of funding and sustainability, commissioned by the previous administration, and secondly, the Coalition Government's response to this report. The decision to shift almost completely the cost of higher education from the state to the graduate, through the introduction of tuition fees in the range £6,000 to £9,000 paid upfront by the state and then repaid by graduates over the following 30 years, signals the most profound change in higher education in many generations. Irrespective of personal views of the new tuition fees arrangements, the student choice agenda is absolutely to the fore and the challenge for all universities, including the School of Pharmacy, is to ensure students receive an outstanding education and a great overall experience as well as demonstrate that they are providing value for money. The

additional challenge for a very small and specialist institution, such as the School, is that it has to provide all the student-facing and back-office support services as a larger multi-faculty university (finance, human resources, registry, estates for example) but without their costs becoming disproportionate to academic staff, lecture theatres and laboratories.

At the same time research, which at its highest level is a globally competitive activity, is increasingly focused around critical mass, inter-disciplinarity and extensive and expensive equipment platforms such as imaging, analysis, bioinformatics and supercomputing. As all academic staff know, competition for research funds is intense and core funding is only available for research deemed internationally excellent or world leading.

It is the combination of these profound changes that has been the backdrop to the School Council's decision. The opportunities available for pharmacy education and research within UCL are compelling, together with the best possible mitigation of financial risks in what is likely to be an extremely dynamic and unstable system for many years to come.

The School's building in Brunswick Square, which has been our home for sixty years, will continue to be the centre of our education and research. In addition, as the reform of the MPharm degree continues, students will benefit from more opportunities for inter-professional learning and clinical contact within the UCL Partners Academic Health Science Centre. Students will also have access to all of UCL's social, welfare and sports facilities, whilst of course retaining such favourites as the Junior Common Room in Brunswick Square – even though its senior equivalent has long since gone!

The opportunities for research are equally compelling. Within UCL, the School will be at the heart of Europe's largest grouping of biomedical research, including the new UK Centre for Medical Research

# We have built a very precious institution and we all work hard to preserve its values, make it sustainable and allow it to thrive

and Innovation (UKCMRI), headed by Nobel Laureate and current President of the Royal Society, Sir Paul Nurse. With UKCMRI's focus on translational biomedical research, taking research from the laboratory all the way through to the patient, pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences are ideally placed to make an enormously significant contribution.

The decision to merge with UCL has been taken after an 18-month period of reflection and consultation, both internally and externally. Change is usually not welcomed and many will be sad to see this chapter of the School's history drawing to a close. But it is only a chapter - a fact I was reminded of recently in re-reading T E Wallis's 'History of the School of Pharmacy, University of London' published by the Pharmaceutical Press in 1964. In this era of immediate news and rapid social networking with the likes of Facebook and Twitter, it is easy to think that everything just took more time previously. This is not the case for pharmacy. The famous meeting of the founding fathers took place on April 15th 1841 at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand and 17 Bloomsbury Square was acquired in December of that year. The first meeting of the Council of the newly-formed Pharmaceutical Society took place on January 6th 1842, where the idea of a school was mooted, and this was approved by the first evening meeting of the Society just six days later on January 12th. The first lecture in the School was given just over one month

later on February 16th, 1842.

January will also see a change in leadership in the School as I move on to a new role as Vice-Provost (Education) at UCL. UCL's commitment to enhancing the experience of students is one of the many reasons why the School chose to join with them and this is an exciting chance to lead the implementation of UCL's strategy for education.

The School will appoint an Acting Dean from amongst the Executive to lead the School up to the point of a substantive replacement. The work and priorities of the Executive over the coming months remain unchanged: operational transition of the merger, preparation for the Research Exercise Framework (REF) and the reform of the MPharm. I will have a soft start into my new role to allow an orderly handover to the Acting Dean and I'll be on hand to help as needed at all times.

It is the mission of the School that is our teaching and research in pharmacy, which has been foremost in my mind in strongly advocating joining UCL. We have built a very precious institution and we all work hard to preserve its values, make it sustainable and allow it to thrive. Those early Victorians who founded the modern profession in Great Britain wanted a School "to elevate the profession of pharmacy by furnishing the proper means of instruction". Within UCL, my successor has a secure future to do just that - and retain the special identity and character that staff, students and alumni hold dear. **Anthony Smith**

## Keeping the Coat of Arms

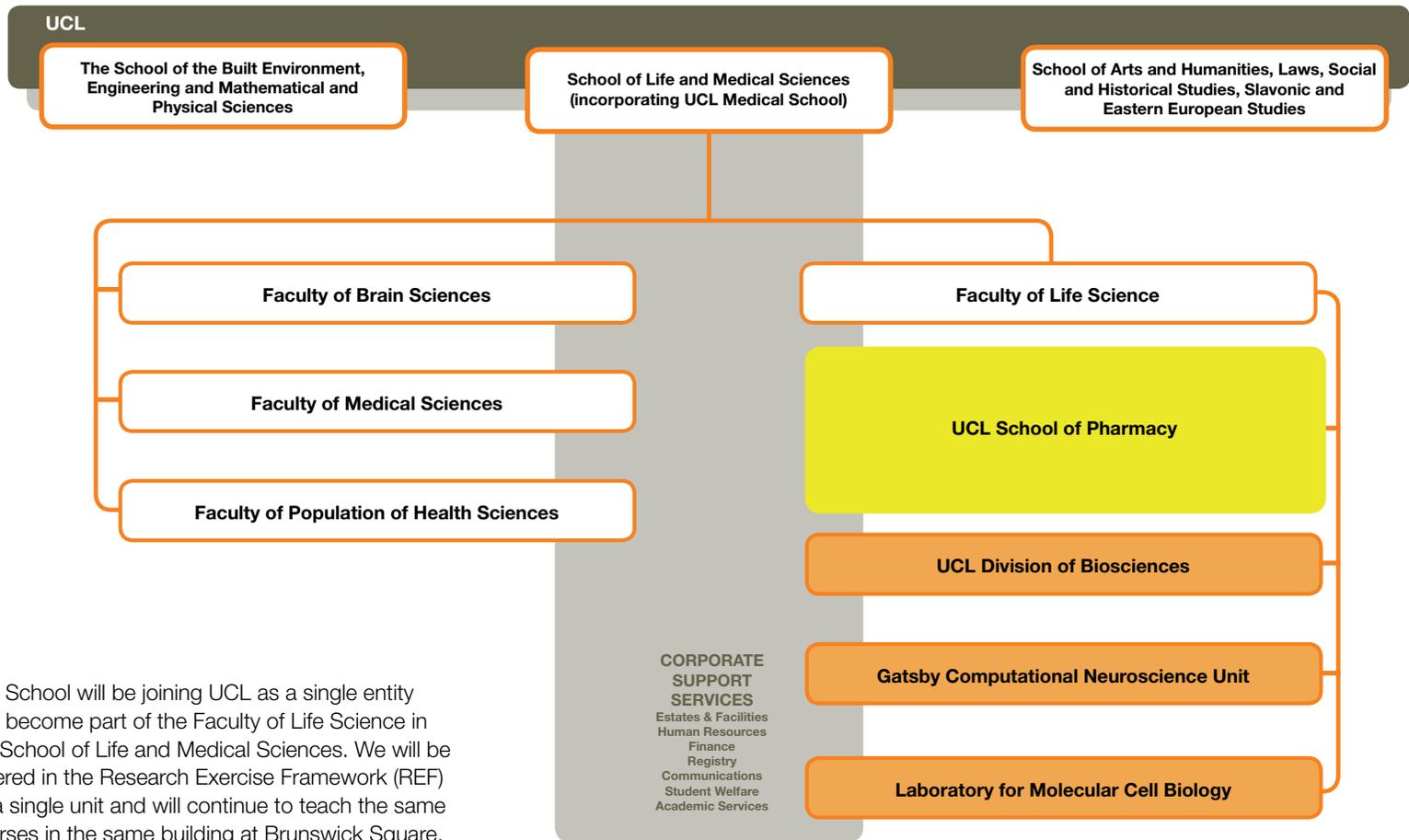


In 2012 we will become the UCL School of Pharmacy but we will continue to cherish our 170 year history. As part of this agenda we will retain our crest post-merger for ceremonial use. The School received its grant of arms in March, 1950. It includes the motto "Salutifer Orbi" which translates as "Bringing Health to the World".

The shield has a blue band across the top and a blue diagonal band running from the top right-hand corner\* on either side of which stands a mortar and pestle in gold on a silvery white ground. On the diagonal band is the Staff of Asclepius, entwined by a serpent in gold. Upon the transverse blue band is in the centre a Tudor rose surrounded by golden rays and on either side of it an open book, with gilt edges and clasps, these being part of the arms of the University of London. The helm is the plain-helm of an esquire and on top of the helm is the crest consisting of two poppy heads with stalks crossed in the form of a St Andrew's cross, arranged in front of a foxglove. Covering the helm behind is the mantle. This consists of stylized foliage ending in two tassels on either side below the motto 'Salutifer Orbi' and two more tassels on either side of the helm.

\*In heraldic descriptions, the right- and left-hand sides of a shield are indicated in the same way as the right and left of the person carrying the shield and not from the point of view of the observer.

# How we will fit into UCL



The School will be joining UCL as a single entity and become part of the Faculty of Life Science in the School of Life and Medical Sciences. We will be entered in the Research Exercise Framework (REF) as a single unit and will continue to teach the same courses in the same building at Brunswick Square.

## UCL Voices

**“The recent decision of the School of Pharmacy, University of London, to merge with UCL is dependent on mutual strength and on the added strengths from the merger opening up new opportunities in education and research.”**

Professor Malcolm Grant,  
UCL President and Provost

**“The merger builds on many existing collaborations with the Faculty of Life Sciences and beyond, and will capitalise on the complementary strengths of both institutions. Our mutual ambition is to realise the world class potential of pharmacy research and educational programmes through exploiting such synergies.”**

Professor Sir John Tooke, Vice Provost (Health) and Head of the UCL School of Life & Medical Sciences

**“There is strong complementarity between the research and education at the School of Pharmacy and UCL. The next few years will bring some exciting new collaborations”**

Professor Mary Collins,  
Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences



UCL was founded in 1826 as a radically different university, opening up English higher education for the first time to people of all beliefs and social backgrounds. Their research strategy commits them to addressing UCL's 'Grand Challenges', by working together right across the university in order to tackle the problems that face us today, including global health.

**1**  
UCL's ranking\* for its academic staff to student ratio

\*The Times Good Education Guide 2010

**3**  
Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic World Rankings ranks UCL as number three in Europe

## Francis Crick Institute

UCL is the founding academic partner in what will be Europe's leading centre for medical research

UCL is the second most highly cited European university and 14th in the world. It is also the UK university most cited by health researchers\*

\*The Thomson Scientific Citation Index

# School of Pharmacy Foundation

**Our development work will continue to be performed by the School for the School.**

**Philip Brown, alumnus and former Chair of Council outlines the plans for the new (provisionally named) School of Pharmacy Foundation.**

The upside to the merger of the School of Pharmacy with University College is that it will have the resources needed to continue to grow and flourish not only here in the UK but elsewhere in the world. Within UCL, pharmacy can spread its wings into many other disciplines where its skills, knowledge and disciplines will find new applications and outlets.

A potential downside of the merger is that pharmacy could simply become another small unit within the vast UCL complex of 22,000 students and 650 professors and over the years become emasculated as subjects like pharmacology, medicinal chemistry and other subjects become merged into large existing departments, leaving just a few specialist subjects such as pharmaceuticals which could also disappear into areas such as materials science and the like.

Those who have brought about the merger are strong and committed supporters of the "upside" version of our future. They want to see the School flourish within the confines of UCL, just as it flourished within the confines of the University of London. And indeed, there is every sign thus far that UCL is like minded and welcomes the enthusiasm and commitment they see in our institution.

The truth is that the future of the School of Pharmacy still lies in the hands of its management, academics



students and alumni for whom the School is something special. If these people see, are committed to and support the "upside" version of the future, it will happen and future generations of pharmacists will applaud the decision to secure a launch pad for greatness through the merger.

To give the best possible chance to this version of our future, it has been decided to establish the School of Pharmacy Foundation which I have volunteered to establish over the coming months. There can be no doubt that the vast majority of current and past members of the School of Pharmacy want it to go from strength to strength.

In practical terms the Foundation will do the following. First it will establish a Management Board which will address the crucial issue of raising funds; second we will establish clear lines of communication with all at the School and all the alumni to establish a policy for future greatness of our much loved establishment. Alumni relations and fundraising will be an important part of the role of the School's new Director and I look forward to working with him or her.

**Philip J Brown**

**21** The number of Nobel prizewinners amongst UCL's alumni and former staff



## UCL Partners

UCL has joined forces with its teaching hospitals to create UCL Partners, the largest academic health science partnership in Europe

**£81,365,000**

Research Council Funding UCL received in 2008-9 - more than any other university



UCL students from outside the UK\*

\*attracted from nearly 140 countries

**34%**

# Alumni News

## Pharm@cy E-mission

The School is on a mission to reduce snail mail and collect more of our alumni's email addresses. By engaging in more email communication we can keep you informed more quickly of developments at the School, save money on our postage and administration costs and do our bit to help the environment. Also, if you're married to a fellow member of our alumni and your household is receiving unneeded multiple copies of Square Roots please let us know.



Help our Pharm@cy E-mission by sending your contact details to [zoe.davenport@pharmacy.ac.uk](mailto:zoe.davenport@pharmacy.ac.uk)

## Still going strong

In September we were honoured to welcome some of our older alumni as we were joined by pre-1947 graduates Albert Biggs, Gerald Mee, MBE, Bunty Parkinson, Josephine Carlisle. Sons and daughters also joined us such as Evangeline Rogers whose father Donald Roger's graduated in 1932, Susan Bews whose father Dr Eric Hersant graduated in 1931, Richard Chatterjee, whose father Santosh-Hari Chatterjee graduated in 1948. As is always the case we had a few last

minute cancellations from Professor Dinah M James, Louise Briggs, Aileen Kennedy, May Morgan, Barbara Peskett, and others who just couldn't make the date such as June Walker, William Walton and Lewis Priest. But we had photographs from Jack and Gwen Oakley, a wealth of memories from those who joined us and lots of laughs. One thing is certain; the Square is remembered with great affection. See our next issue for a full article.



## Complaint and correction

### Complaint

In the last issue (SR10), I used an image of falling tablets to accompany the story on medicines waste. The use of this image offended one of our alumni who contacted me to express his outrage. Ken's friend Janet B Scotten agrees with him. In case the image offended any other readers I have agreed to publish the letter with my response.

*I write to express my horror at the cover picture, repeated internally, of the current Square Roots, which has just reached me. My tutor will be turning in his grave.*

- The picture is of tablets, not pills. Pills are spherical*
- Under no circumstances in any properly regulated pharmaceutical environment would tablets be flying through the air from some off-screen source into, and missing, a container*
- Any tablets that fell on the bench or the floor could not be picked up and put into the container: the picture represents about 12 tablets so falling, and so being wasted*
- All this appalling pictured malpractice is now irrevocably associated with the name of the School, which prides itself on good practice*
- The container should be labelled: perhaps the label is facing away from the camera? (And perhaps it isn't)*

*Yours regretfully  
Ken Ridgway*

As I explained to Ken the image was not intended to show best practice but as a visual representation of the story about medicines waste. The tablets were identified as pills in the title of the image. The printing of the original title is part of the terms of use of stock photography. However, I am sorry for the upset this seems to have caused. I hope

that none of our other readers were equally offended but should anyone else wish to raise objections to this or any other content then please feel free to contact me.  
Morgan

### Correction

Not my best month as I also made mistakes in my transcription of the interview with Liam Burke. Liam was never, as reported, Chief Pharmacist at University College Hospital and he retired in 1987, not 1967. Thanks to Liam for contacting me to point these out.



## Our man in Australia



We have been thinking about setting up International Alumni Associations for some time now and with over 70 graduates and ex-staff of the Square living and working in Australia we were delighted when Professor Liam Burke contacted us earlier in the year to say he was prepared to set up and run the first group. On November 12 Anthony Smith and Zoë Davenport joined alumni in Sydney for the first meeting of Australian alumni.

Professor William L Burke, (Liam) is not only a great friend of the Square he is also an alumnus of the Square, a

former President of the Student Union, and for many years, a member of staff. He is now Emeritus Professor in the Discipline of Physiology, which is part of the School of Medical Sciences, at the University of Sydney.

Liam commented: "The reception at the Intercontinental in Sydney was very enjoyable. In the Dean's address he mentioned the big news that the School of Pharmacy will become part of University College London at the start of next year. This is a logical liaison because for many years there has been a good relationship between the two

organizations. UCL is one of the best Universities in the world and we should be quite proud to belong to it. And, of course, they should be quite proud to have us!"

Australia is a big place, travel is either time-consuming or expensive and accommodation away from home is either expensive or uncomfortable or fortuitous. For the time being, the only practical solution seems to be to form an alumni association of Square graduates through a 'virtual' society, i.e. one in which communication is electronic only. Then if members decide to arrange a dinner or to meet at a conference it would be relatively easy to notify everyone and invite them to participate.

Liam has also very kindly agreed to compile two Newsletters per year, the number and size will depend on members being prepared to send in material. As a start a short autobiography and photograph from members would be welcome.

If you have received this issue of

Square Roots but not the Association letters and would like to join please send in your contact details so we can forward them to Liam Burke.



We are in the process of forming networks in other countries and establishing Our Men and Women globally. If you are interested in participating then please contact Zoë Davenport.

# Reunions

On March 3rd we were joined by alumni members from 1980. On September 9th we were joined by members of the 1981 cohort and on 27 October we hosted graduates from 1961.

The Development Office arranges regular reunions for members of the Square Association. We can also help you to organise your own reunion for your graduating class or any other

group associated with the Square. We will be pleased to carry out an initial invitation mailing for all reunions, free of charge.



1980 cohort



Members of the 1981 alumni group



Graduates from 1961

## In memoriam

With deep regret, we record the deaths of the following former students, employees and friends of the School :

### Professor Frank Fish OBE



Frank Fish, who has died aged 87, was a distinguished pharmacist who began his academic career in Glasgow before moving south to one of the most senior posts in the pharmacological profession. He was a much admired lecturer in pharmacognosy (the study of medicine from natural sources) at the department of pharmacy at the then Royal College of Science and Technology and the University of Strathclyde.

Professor Fish is remembered at both institutions as a dedicated and professional academic with a keen interest in research and furthering the standard of pharmacological teaching.

He was born in Houghton-le-Spring, County Durham, the son of a grocer and one of eight children. He showed early academic promise at the Houghton Grammar School and on leaving was apprenticed to a local pharmacist before studying pharmacy at Sunderland Technical College. He was then awarded his BPharm degree at the University of London in 1946.

Three years later he married Mary Brown and they moved north when Professor Fish was appointed assistant lecturer in pharmacognosy at the department of pharmacy in Glasgow.

He continued to study and wrote his PhD on digitalis at Glasgow

University in 1955. He rose in the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Strathclyde to hold a personal professorship and to be Dean of the School in 1977/78. The family enjoyed living in the Clarkston district of the city and Professor Fish built a considerable reputation at Strathclyde University.

But in 1978 he was offered the post of Dean of The School of Pharmacy. It provided him with a major professional challenge as he would be head of one of the foremost academic, and internationally renowned, institutions in pharmacy. He proved an energetic and innovative Dean and also found time to serve on many influential committees. Both he and his wife played an active part in academic affairs – she was delightfully known by the students as Mrs Dean.

Professor Sandy Florence, former Dean said: "I owe a special debt to him and others on the staff of the School of Pharmacy in the 1960's in what is now the University of Strathclyde. We all owe much to our teachers. And the true test of their influence is when much later we realize that we have unconsciously drawn on their knowledge and we remember their efforts. Anatole France once said "nine-tenths of education is encouragement". The encouragement I received from Frank was critical at different stages in my own career

I have fond memories of my interactions with Frank, a consummate committee man, elegant in discourse who has made an impact in the field of pharmacy and its natural offshoots over a long career. He was guest of honour at a graduation ceremony of The School of Pharmacy in London in 2005, where he showed that he had lost none of his charm in his message to the next generation"

In recognition of the outstanding service Professor Fish had given his profession he was awarded the Charter Gold Medal by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in 1987, the Harrison Memorial Medal in 1982, and made an OBE in 1989. He was made an Honorary Fellow of The School of Pharmacy in 1992 and an Emeritus Professor in 1988.

He retired to Crieff in 1988 where he was able to concentrate on his garden and his golf. He also took care of his wife throughout her final illness before she died in 2003.

Professor Anthony Smith and Zoe Davenport were honoured to represent the School at his funeral in a beautiful Kirk in Monzie, just outside Crieff in Scotland. He was laid to rest alongside his wife Mary in a spectacularly beautiful spot which on a warm Spring day seemed a million miles from London rather than 500. He is survived by their two sons Andrew and David. They have helped the School establish the Professor Frank Fish Memorial Award. The award will take the form of a series of invited lectures by distinguished phytochemists, in Frank's memory.

#### **Dr Philip Brock Marshall**



Passed away on Sunday 4 September 2011. It was a peaceful end without pain or distress after a week of illness.

#### **James (Jim) Edward Pascoe 1924–2011**

Jim Pascoe was a Reader in Physiology at University College London. He was born in Falmouth and at the age of 12 moved to Penzance. Thence at age 16 he worked at his mother's behest in an apprenticeship at Boots, transferring to Plymouth College to start his studies for the Diploma in Pharmacy which he completed at the School of Pharmacy, London where he then became a Junior Lecturer and where he met Margaret, a pharmaceutical chemist who became his wife. He was awarded the Pereira



Medal in 1946. He studied Physiology whilst working nights in Boots, Piccadilly and so came to UCL at the invitation of G.L. Brown, the head of department, and then on to the staff where he was known for his absolute integrity and devotion to the subject. He retired from UCL Physiology and then, as he said, was a bag or case carrier for his beloved wife Margaret who had become an authority on 'blackwork embroidery'. After Margaret died in 1995 he stayed on in Molesey and eventually in 2004/5 went to live in Chacewater in Cornwall and latterly in Truro. He was a great colleague and a dear friend to many of us; he lived life and was much loved. **Tim Biscoe**

Photo with kind permission of Alice Pascoe

#### **Charles Stockwell**



Passed away February 2011

#### **Sir Frederick Warner 1910 - 2010**

Honorary Fellow and Chairman of Council 1971 – 1978

The chemical engineer Sir Frederick Warner was internationally renowned for his pioneering work in building chemical plants and improving the health and safety conditions for workers in the chemical industry. His expertise in environmental impact saw him lead the first international team into Chernobyl to assess the damage caused by the catastrophic reactor meltdown in 1986.

Warner - Ned to his friends - was born in St Pancras, north London, the son of Frederick, a policeman, and his wife, Annie. He was educated at Wanstead national school and Bancrofts school and graduated in chemistry from University College London in 1931. With no hope of finding a job in the middle of the Depression, he returned to UCL for a postgraduate diploma in chemical engineering. A committed communist, anti-war campaigner and passionate rugby player who became president of the University of London Union in 1933, he was so busy with his numerous interests that he had to take his diploma twice before he passed. He worked as a chemical engineer for various companies before founding the consulting engineers partnership Cremer and Warner in 1956.

He was knighted in 1968, elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1976, and was awarded both its Leverhulme medal in 1978 and Buchanan medal in 1982.

Warner was president of the British Standards Institute (1980-82), and reformed its finances by ensuring it earned at least half its income from independent sources rather than relying entirely on government funding. He was a visiting professor at University College London (1970-86), at Imperial College London (1970-78) and from 1983 onwards at Essex University. "I'm glad to say all my doctorates are honorary," he said in an interview, "it's the best way to get them I think – the easiest way!"

Warner is survived by his wife, Barbara, whom he married in 1958, and by two sons and two daughters by his first wife, Margaret, who died in 2006.

# Our Future

Our Alumni play a vital role in the future development of the school. We need your help to support the next generation of pharmacists.

## Postcards from the Square

The Science of Medicine—images from The School of Pharmacy  
Created by Annie Cavanagh and David McCarthy in collaboration with our researchers.

Profits from the sale of these postcards will support our promotional material and take our innovative research to a wider audience.

A set of ten different designs costs £5.

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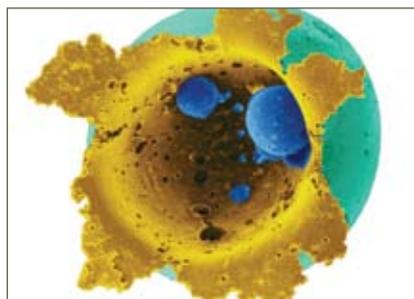
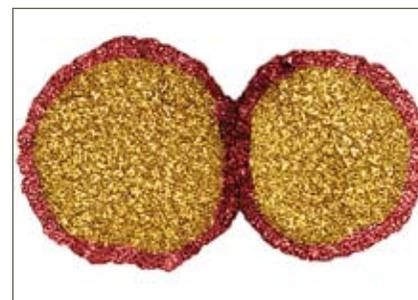
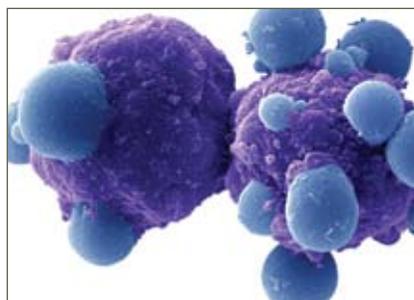
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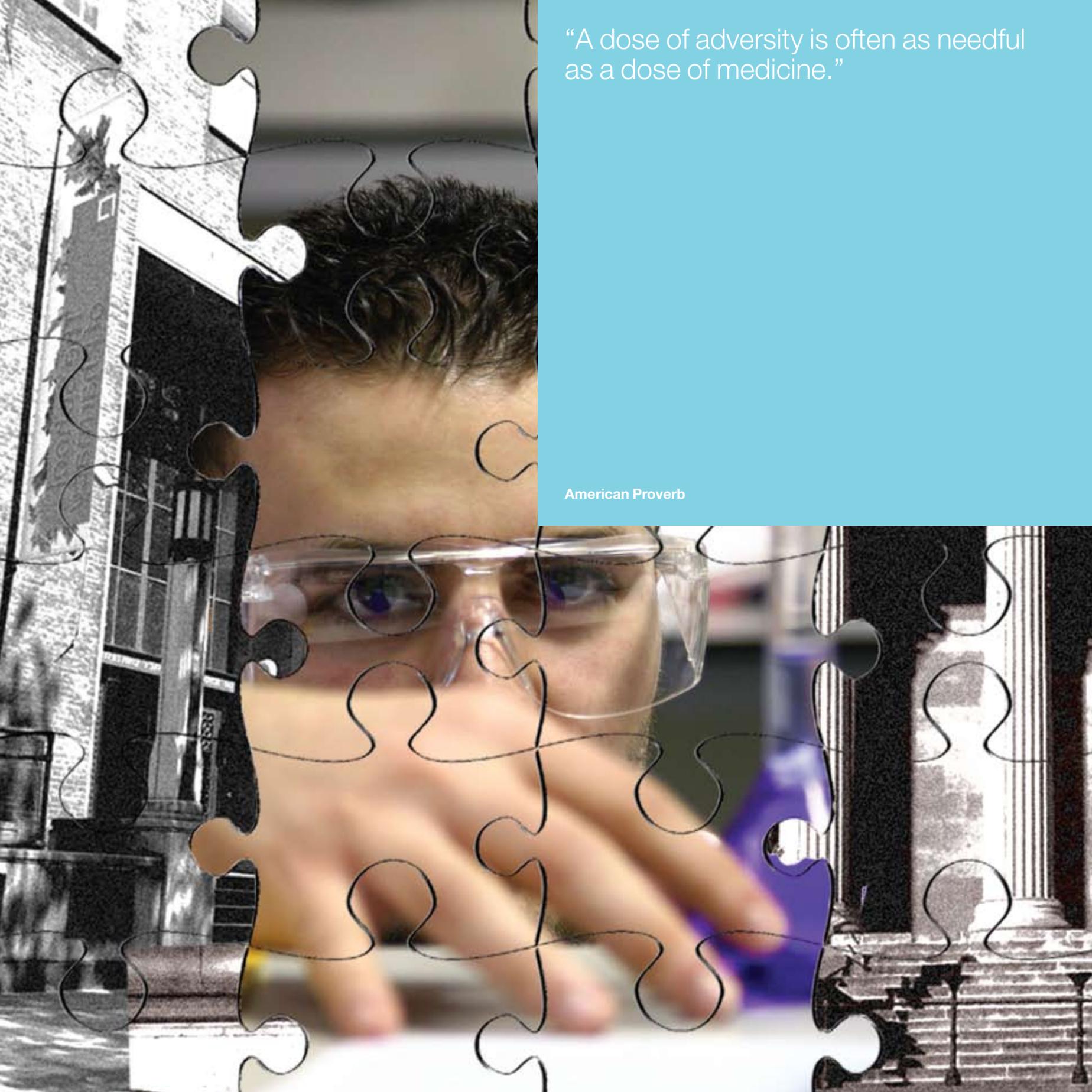
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“A dose of adversity is often as needful  
as a dose of medicine.”

American Proverb