General Notice

UCL Neuroscience Symposium 2016

The UCL Neuroscience Symposium 2016 took place on Friday 24th June, with over 800 attendees from across UCL and beyond.

The day was a great mix of fascinating talks, poster sessions and time for those attending to meet new colleagues and hopefully build the basis of many new collaborations.

A full write up, the abstract booklet and photos are all available on the website here:

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/domains/neuroscience/events/symposium2016

Recruitment for UCL Excellence Fellowships now open

Closing date: 29th August 2016

UCL’s Excellence Fellowship Programme seeks to recruit the highest calibre early career researchers from across the globe, supporting them to establish their independent career and become the research leaders of the future.

- The Excellence Fellowship Programme currently supports fellows within the School of Life and Medical Sciences.
- Excellence Fellows can be from clinical and non-clinical backgrounds, and work across the full range of disciplines in life and medical sciences, including clinical, applied and population health science.
- Fellows are provided with a competitive salary and research expenses for three years.
- During the tenure of the award, Fellows are supported to obtain a competitive external fellowship or major personal award that will allow them to establish their independent research career.

The 2016 recruitment round for the UCL Excellence Fellowship Programme is now open (deadline, August 29, 5 pm). To apply, please see more information online.

More information
Neuroscience Careers Network

Neuroscience Careers Network mailing list

The UCL Neuroscience Careers Network (NCN) provides opportunities for neuroscientists to meet their peers, to share ideas, experience and initiate collaborations. It also provides a platform for careers advice and the dissemination of information regarding jobs, training and funding opportunities.

The NCN is organised by a committee made up of representatives from a variety of departments under the UCL Neuroscience Domain and includes both post-doctoral researchers and PIs.

Subscribe to the mailing list, to hear about events, workshops, job and funding opportunities.

Subscribe here: https://www.mailinglists.ucl.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/earlycareerneuro

Special Seminars and Events

Manhandling the brain: Psychiatric Neurosurgery in the Mid-20th Century: An art and archive installation

Queen Square Library has a new exhibition from 22nd June.

The exhibition is being held in Queen Square Library, 1st Floor, 23 Queen Square until 22nd September 2016. This will be supported by a lecture by the curator:

Manhandling the brain: Psychiatric neurosurgery in the mid-20th century by Dr Ken Barrett
Tuesday 5 July 2016, 5 pm, Wolfson lecture theatre, Queen Square

Please contact: sarah.lawson@ucl.ac.uk or see our website for further information: http://www.queensquare.org.uk/archives/visiting/exhibitions

Public Engagement

Back to the top
Simple reward-based learning suits adolescents best

Adolescents focus on rewards and are less able to learn to avoid punishment or consider the consequences of alternative actions, finds a new UCL-led study.

The study, published in PLOS Computational Biology, compared how adolescents and adults learn to make choices based on the available information. 18 volunteers aged 12-17 and 20 volunteers aged 18-32 completed tasks in which they had to choose between abstract symbols. Each symbol was consistently associated with a fixed chance of a reward, punishment or no outcome. As the trial progressed, participants learnt which symbols were likely to lead to each outcome and adjusted their choices accordingly.

Adolescents and adults were equally good at learning to choose symbols associated with reward, but adolescents were less good at avoiding symbols associated with punishment. Adults also performed significantly better when they were told what would have happened if they had chosen the other symbol after each choice, whereas adolescents did not appear to take this information into account.*

Full story

New paper in Neuron highlights importance of slow axonal transport in motor neuron function; implications for neuromuscular diseases

“This excellent work from Alison Twelvetrees at the Institute of Neurology demonstrates the importance of slow axonal transport which is highly relevant to our understanding of motor neuron function and neuromuscular diseases” Gipi Schiavo Wellcome Senior Investigator and Professor of Cellular Neurobiology

Dr Alison Twelvetrees explains her findings:

“Neurons form very long extensions, called axons, to reach their targets, make synapses and transmit signals. Axons can be very long; some motor neurons, for example, have their cell bodies in the spinal cord, but extend axons down to the muscles of the hands and feet to control movement.

This creates a problem for neurons as the majority of the protein they need to function is made in the cell body, which can be up to 1 metre away from where it’s needed at the synapse. In addition, neuronal survival depends on essential retrograde trafficking events, such as neurotrophic signalling, from the synapse back to the cell body.

To carry out essential long range transport neurons use a system of cellular motorways, called microtubules, and nano-motors, to step along the microtubule tracks. Within the axon, there are both forward motors (called kinesins), and reverse motors (called cytoplasmic dyneins), responsible for delivering newly made protein and retrograde signalling respectively.

Full story
Dr Alex Leff awarded NIHR research professorship

"I am delighted to announce that Dr Alex Leff (Department of Brain Repair and Rehabilitation, UCL Institute of Neurology) has been awarded a prestigious NIHR Research Professorship". Professor Michael Hanna, Director UCL Institute of Neurology

Dr Alex Leff

These awards enable outstanding early career academics to spend a fixed five-year period dedicated to translational research at Professorial level promoting effective translation of research (‘bench to bedside’ and ‘campus to clinic’), strengthening research leadership at the highest academic levels and developing research capacity in areas critical to accelerating the transfer of research ideas into improved health. These professorships require the post holders to retain a continuing link with service delivery.

Dr Leff is a consultant neurologist at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery as well as Professor in Cognitive Neurology at UCL from October.

He helped establish the UCL Centre for Neurorehabilitation in 2013 and has set up specialist clinics for patients with cognitive and/or visual impairments, including the only hemianopia clinic in the country.

Full story

Current Funding Opportunities

MRC Industrial (i)CASE PhD studentships

Closing date: 7th July 2016

The annual call for MRC Industrial (i)CASE PhD studentships has been announced with a deadline of 7 July 2016. Full details of the call are available on the MRC Website.

The July deadline does not allow a lot of time to develop a new relationship, but for those who already have an industrial partner, there should be no problem in getting a proposal submitted in good time. If the industrial partner is a SME then there is little or (more usually) no financial contribution expected, and even for larger pharma and biotech the contributions are modest. If you think you have a suitable project as PI, please get in touch with your Faculty Vice-Dean Enterprise (VDE) in the first instance:

- Stephen Moss (FBS) (s.moss@ucl.ac.uk)
- Neil Millar (FLS) (n.millar@ucl.ac.uk)
- Rachel Chambers (FMS) (r.chambers@ucl.ac.uk)
- Thomas Voit (FHPS) (t.voit@ucl.ac.uk)

For those looking for future industrial engagement (perhaps for the 2017 MRC iCASE call) please contact your VDE and where appropriate they will direct you to a member of the Industrial Partnerships Group within the Translational Research Office.
Pump Priming Awards for preliminary research using IMPC knockout mice

Closing date: 8th July 2016

Researchers are invited to apply for pump priming awards to support the receipt and preliminary use of gene knockout mouse lines developed and phenotyped through the International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium (IMPC) opens in new window.

Pump-priming investment of up to £1 million is available through a two-phased initiative opening in May 2016 and May 2017, with 10-25 awards made in September 2016 and 2017. As the awards are for preliminary studies only, they will be of 1-2 years duration and up to £20-40k in value.

Applications are invited from UK-based research groups to receive knockout mice and undertake early biological investigations that build on existing research expertise and underpin longer-term research goals that would be supported through standard funding mechanisms.

More information

Applications open for new Sensory Systems, Technologies & Therapies Master of Research (MRes) programme

Closing date: 29th July 2016

This interdisciplinary MRes is designed to produce "scientists with an edge"; researchers capable of working at the interface between scientific disciplines and trained to understand the clinical and commercial as well as scientific issues surrounding development of technologies and therapies for disorders of sensory systems. Through a major year-long research project and supplemental coursework, students will learn to conduct cutting-edge research aimed at understanding fundamental principles of sensory systems function and/or developing novel technologies and therapies for sensory systems dysfunction.

The Sensory Systems, Technologies and Therapies MRes was devised in consultation not only with academic scientists pursuing cutting-edge research in sensory systems and therapies, but also with representatives from industries interested in developing new treatments for sensory disorders. The programme has therefore been designed with the intention of ensuring that successful graduates will be attractive candidates either for further PhD research or for jobs in the commercial sector (for example, in companies developing or marketing novel treatments for visual impairment or hearing loss).

More information

10 permanent positions for Senior Researchers - Ikerbasque Research Professors

Closing date: 12th September 2016

Ikerbasque, the Basque Foundation for Science, would like to inform you that we have launched a new international call to reinforce research and scientific career in the Basque Country (Europe). We offer:

10 permanent positions for Senior Researchers - Ikerbasque Research Professors.

- Researchers with a solid research track and leadership capabilities
- The applicants must have their PhD completed before January 2008
- Permanent contract positions within any of the Basque Research Institutions
NIHR fellowships: deadlines brought forward and webinar

Closing date: December 2016

The NIHR have announced that the deadlines for the next round (round 10) of their Fellowship Programme will be brought forward. Deadlines are normally in January each year, but for the next round the postdoctoral, career development and senior fellowship schemes will have deadlines in December 2016. The calls will be officially launched in October.

The NIHR recently held a webinar on their Fellowships schemes. This is available for all to view online (registration required) and the link can be found on the SLMS Research Facilitation webpages here. [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/srms-intranet/research/facilitation/looking-for-funding/presentations-from-funders](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/srms-intranet/research/facilitation/looking-for-funding/presentations-from-funders).

Specific advice and support for NIHR applications is available from the Research Design Service. [http://www.rds-london.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/north-london-ucl.aspx](http://www.rds-london.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/north-london-ucl.aspx)

UCL Neuroscience Events and Seminars – July 2016

5 July, 2016 - Mobile sensing for behavioral science: motivation, possibilities, and challenges

Time: -

Developments in mobile sensors open new possibilities for the study of human activity. Motivated by the fields of embodied and distributed cognition, this new behavioral science can move us from sparse and static measures in highly constrained situations to richer multimodal and dynamic trajectories of interactions "in the wild". The talk will outline theoretical foundations for this approach as well as detail some recent projects in this space including a collaboration in progress now at UCL focused on capturing dynamics of early mother-infant activity using baby wearables. We’ll finish with a discussion of open challenges, including design and usability of mobile technologies for behavioral science as well as potential benefits and concerns for participants in this new class of studies. [https://uclic.ucl.ac.uk/news-events-seminars/uclic-research-seminar-5th-july-kaya-de-barbaro-georgia-tech-mobile-sensing-for-behavioral-science-motivation-possibilities-and-challenges](https://uclic.ucl.ac.uk/news-events-seminars/uclic-research-seminar-5th-july-kaya-de-barbaro-georgia-tech-mobile-sensing-for-behavioral-science-motivation-possibilities-and-challenges)

Location: 405, Computer Science, 66-72 Gower Street, London,

Contact: UCLIC

Email: digital.health@ucl.ac.uk

Phone:

6 July, 2016 - A journey through a hot day. thermoregulation of sleep in Drosophila melanogaster

Time: 16:00:00 -

Speaker: Angélique Lamaze, Clinical & Experimental Epilepsy Department, IoN. Host: Institute of Neurology Postdoc Seminar Committee

Location: Basement Lecture Theatre, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG

Contact: Institute of Neurology Postdoc Seminar Committee

Email: ionpostdocsrequest@gmail.com
6 July, 2016 - **A journey through a hot day. Thermoregulation of sleep in Drosophila melanogaster**

Time: 16:00:00 - 17:00:00

Speaker: Angélique Lamaze, Dept of Clinical & Experimental Epilepsy, UCL Institute of Neurology
Host: Institute of Neurology Postdoc Seminar Committee

Location: Basement Lecture Theatre, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG

Contact: Institute of Neurology Postdoc Seminar Committee
Email: ionpostdocsrequest@gmail.com

6 July, 2016 - **Developmental Neurosciences Seminar Series**

Time: 14:00:00 - 16:00:00

Speakers: Drs Irina Zaharieva, Naomi Dale, Jane Kung and Federica Montanaro; Hannah Cooper and Kayleigh Day
Chair: Professor Helen Cross

This quarterly series brings presentations on current research activity within the Developmental Neurosciences Programme.

Location: Kennedy Lecture Theatre, Wellcome Trust Building, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London, WC1N 1EH

Contact: Jane Miller
Email: jane.miller@ucl.ac.uk

6 July, 2016 - **Grantsmanship mentoring for early career researchers**

Time: 09:30:00 - 12:30:00

At this mentoring workshop, early career researchers will get the chance to present and receive feedback on a two-page outline grant or fellowship proposal. On the day, early career researchers will also deliver a 3 min presentation. Senior academic mentors will then ask questions about the proposal and provide constructive feedback. The mentoring sessions will run for 3 hours and early career researchers will be able to sit in throughout in order that they can learn from their peers and vice versa. Early career researchers will submit their proposal two weeks in advance, which will then be passed on to senior academic mentors. There are only 12 places on the mentoring workshop, your place will be reserved once you have sent your two page research proposal to r.aldridge@ucl.ac.uk.

Location: Meeting Room 1, Maple House Suite 1A (First Floor), 149 Tottenham Court Rd, London, W1T 7NF

Contact: Rob Aldridge
Email: r.aldridge@ucl.ac.uk

Phone:

7 July, 2016 - **Influence of early experience on sensory and non-sensory processing**

Time: 15:00:00 - 16:00:00

Special Ear Institute Seminar Speaker: Professor Dan Sanes, New York University

Location: Main Seminar Room (G33), UCL Ear Institute, 332 Grays Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EE

Contact: Jennifer Linden
Email: j.linden@ucl.ac.uk

Phone:

8 July, 2016 - **Brain meeting - A grey area between model-based and model-free decision making**

Time: 15:15:00 - 16:00:00
13 July, 2016 - New developments in understanding and treatment of eating disorders
Time: 16:00:00 - 17:00:00
Organised by UCL Division of Psychiatry
Speaker: Professor Ulrike Schmidt - The need for early intervention in the treatment of eating disorders is widely recognised, as more engrained eating disorders are more difficult to treat. Whilst effective treatment exists for bulimia nervosa, and for children and adolescents with anorexia nervosa, treatment for adults with anorexia remains a major challenge. Recent advances in understanding the neurobiological underpinnings of eating disorders, are opening up the possibility of creating more targeted “precision treatments”. In this talk, I will present data on novel approaches, mainly to the treatment of anorexia nervosa, from talking therapies to neuromodulation.
Location: room 508, Roberts Building, Malet Place, London, WC1E 7JE
Contact: Berni Courtney
Email: b.courtney@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: Please email

14 July, 2016 - Autonomics and rehabilitation
Time: 17:15:00 -
Speaker: Dr Ellen Merete-Hagen, UCLH UCL Partners Centre for Rehabilitation seminar
Location: Gilliatt Lecture Theatre, Institute of Neurology, Queen Square House, Queen Square, WC1N 3BG
Contact: Centre for Neurorehabilitation
Email: cnr@ucl.ac.uk
Phone:

22 July, 2016 - Brain meeting - Network Neuroscience: Maps and Models of Brain Connectivity
Time: 15:15:00 -
Speaker: Olaf Sporns, University of Indianapolis
Location: 4th Floor Seminar Room, Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, 12 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG
Contact: Micah Allen
Email: micah.allen@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: Please email
External Events of Interest

NPSA Congress – Chicago 2016

7 July – 10 July 2016
Chicago, USA

The 17th annual congress of the International Neuropsychoanalysis Society. Keynote talks, research sessions and symposia on the theme “Other Minds” as well as on a variety of other neuropsychoanalytic topics.

Visit https://npsa-association.org/events/npsa-congress-chicago-2016/ for details on the meeting

Visit https://npsa-association.org/event-details/chicago-2016-abstract-submission/ to submit a proposal for a talk, symposium, or poster.

Society for the Neurobiology of Language Annual Conference

17 – 20 August 2016
London

The Eighth Annual Meeting for the Neurobiology of Language will be held in London, England on August 17 – 20, 2016. The Meeting will be held at the UCL Institute of Education located in the Bloomsbury District of central London.

The meeting will feature three keynote sessions, as well as a panel discussion.

Scientific Program 2016

The eighth annual meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language will feature three keynote sessions, as well as a panel discussion:

Keynote Sessions
Mairéad MacSweeney - Insights into the neurobiology of language processing from deafness and sign language
David Attwell - The energetic design of the brain
Anne-Lise Giraud - Modelling neuronal oscillations to understand language neurodevelopmental disorders

More information and registration

6th Motivation and Cognitive Control (MCC) Symposium

24 - 26 August 2016, University of St Andrews, Scotland

Full Residential Conference fee includes 3 nights accommodation and social events:

£475 with 10% discount if booked by 6th May.

Full Non Residential Conference fee includes social events:
Computational Psychiatry Course
29 August - 2nd September 2016, Zurich, Switzerland

Registration for this year’s Computational Psychiatry Course in Zurich is now open, organized by the Translational Neuromodeling Unit (ETH and University of Zurich).

For the second time, the Translational Neuromodeling Unit (UZH/ETH) organizes a 5-day course which is designed to provide students with the necessary toolkit to master challenges in computational psychiatry research. This course will be practically useful for students (Master, PhD, Postdoc) who would like to apply modeling techniques to study learning, decision-making or brain physiology in patients with psychiatric disorders. The course will teach not only the theory of computational modeling, but also demonstrate open source software in application to example data sets. One whole day is designated for talks on psychiatry (mood disorders, addiction, autism, schizophrenia).

Please visit our website for further information

INCF Short course 2016
31 August - 1 September 2016, Reading

This year, the two-day INCF short course in neuroinformatics will be held in Reading, UK on August 31 - September 1, just before INCF's Neuroinformatics 2016.

The venue is Penta hotel, 5-10 minutes walk from Reading train station. Registration is free, with lunch included.

The course is intended for neuroscience researchers wishing to develop their interests in neuroinformatics as well as informatics researchers with a strong interest in neuroscience. The course is open to advanced students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty members. Basic knowledge of neuroscience is a prerequisite.

Apply latest May 31!
https://www.incf.org/resources/training/incf-short-course-2016

British Myology Society Adult Muscle Teaching Day 2016

6 September 2016, Wolfson College, Oxford

Open to all who wish to learn more about muscle disorders that they will meet in everyday practice.

- Practical, real-world advice when faced with patients with muscle symptoms
- Expert clinicians

Programme includes: Clinical approach to the muscle patient, IBM, The ITU neuromuscular consult, Managing Myasthenia, Myotonic dystrophy and FSH, Myositis diagnosis, Efficient investigation, Statins update, Duchenne and similar problems in adulthood
To register: email cnmd.contact@ucl.ac.uk for a registration form along with payment instructions.

**British Myology Society Meeting 2016**
6 - 7 September 2016, Wolfson College, Oxford

Our exciting programme combines latest developments in clinical practice, commissioning, big data, discussion of complex cases and state of the art updates from international speakers.

Registration open to BMS members
To register: email cnmd.contact@ucl.ac.uk for a registration form along with payment instructions.

**Professional Workshop on Hypothalamic Hamartomas**

17 September 2016,
Weston House, London

University College of London & Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas (Hope for HH) is pleased to present a Professional Workshop on Hypothalamic Hamartomas.

Leading HH experts will present the most up-to-date information concerning diagnosis, treatment, and management of hypothalamic hamartomas, as well as exciting research in imaging, genetics and surgery. The newest innovation in treatment - laser surgery - will be discussed by neurosurgeon Dan Curry who has treated 100+ HH cases in the United States.

The target audience is health care professionals including neurologists, neurosurgeons, paediatricians, endocrinologists, radiologists, RNs, case managers etc. J. Helen Cross, OBE, Prince of Wales Chair of Childhood Epilepsy and Deputy Head of UCL-ICh Neurosciences Unit is the event chairperson. Speakers, schedule, and registration are available here. CPD credit is available

http://www.hhuk2016.com/

**BPNA NeoNATE Course**

29 - 30 September 2016
Glasgow

This is a 2-day practical course for anyone who looks after neonates including:
Trainees
Consultant Paediatricians
Consultant Neonatologists
Consultant Paediatric Neurologists
Advanced Nurse Practitioners/Consultants

Topics covered include:
• the neurological examination in the neonate
• recognition of neonatal seizures
• interpretation of neonatal cerebral function monitoring and the use of standard EEG
• hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy
• encephalopathy secondary to metabolic disorders
• haemorrhagic lesions
The Lancet Neurology Conference - Preclinical neurodegenerative disease: towards prevention and early diagnosis

19 - 21 October 2016
Park Plaza Riverbank, London

The clinical symptoms of neurodegenerative diseases arise years after the onset of neuronal damage. By the time the patient receives a diagnosis, it might be too late to intervene and modify the advanced pathological state of disease. Researchers are now focusing on preventing and stopping the pathological processes in the brain at an earlier, asymptomatic state.

This conference aims to disseminate cutting-edge findings on preclinical neurodegenerative diseases—including Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and Huntington’s disease. The event will provide a unique platform for specialists to come together across disciplines for an authoritative discussion of the methodological, regulatory, and ethical considerations of research in people at asymptomatic states of neurodegenerative disease.

Posters are invited to supplement the invited oral programme. Please submit abstracts by June 3, 2016.

More information

1st Annual Cyprus International Conference on Autism Treatment and Research

18 – 22 November 2016
Paphos, Cyprus

1st Annual Cyprus International Conference on Autism Treatment and Research entitled Magic Always Happens through our interdisciplinary approach to autism!

Our conference takes a true “360 degrees” approach and it aims to bring together experts and luminaries from transdisciplinary scientific research, as well as from applied fields including academicians, psychologists, physicians, geneticists, speech therapists, civil engineers, architects, economists, law, technology, and many other subject matter experts. Together, we shall all discuss best practices and suggest ideal ways of working with, treating, educating, building for, and sustaining quality
centers for autism excellence, among other.

More information