Neuroscience Careers Network

Grant writing workshop
Thursday 17 September 1.00-4.00pm
Applications to be submitted by 27 August

The aim of this half-day session is to help investigators improve their applications for funding, whether they are project grants or fellowships. It will be led by two senior UCL researchers, Prof. Neil Burgess and Prof. Simon Mead, who have extensive experience of applying for funding and of sitting on the committees that decide which science gets funded. This is a rare opportunity to improve your ‘grantsmanship’ skills, gain insight into how funding committees work and to receive constructive feedback on your applications.

To participate in this workshop, each participant must provide an abstract, lay summary and full scientific proposal (it may be a preliminary application) for either a grant or fellowship application by 27 August 2015. Costings are NOT required.

Contact: Lorenzo Fabrizi (l.fabrizi@ucl.ac.uk), Madeleine Verriotis (madeleine.verriotis@ucl.ac.uk), or Tammaryn Lashley (t.lashley@ucl.ac.uk)

To find out more about the NCN Network go to our website http://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/domains/neuroscience/neuroscience-careers-network
Public Engagement

National Brain Appeal’s Letter in Mind exhibition

The National Brain Appeal is looking for artists – whether you’re established, up-and-coming or simply have a flair for the creative. You can help by donating your artwork to their fundraising exhibition, A Letter in Mind? This is their second art project and exhibition and they want to make it bigger and better than ever. They’ve expanded the title to create a further theme for entries – The Art of a Journey. Whether your journey is emotional, psychological, real or imagined, they hope you are inspired by the title and can’t wait to see all your incredible creations.

Find out more

Bloomsbury Festival 2015: UCL-wide call to contribute on this year’s theme of light

With support from UCL and other Camden-based bodies The Bloomsbury Festival is being re-established this year. It runs Thursday 22 October to Sunday 25 October in three locations near UCL.

We are seeking UCL researchers with amazing and surprising research that contributes to our understanding and appreciation of ‘Light’. At this event, over a provided lunch, you will meet the new festival director, Kate Anderson, and, with help from UCL staff involved in KT, turn your ideas into viable festival projects.

From our Astronomers and Sun scientists through our cognitive scientists and onto our artists, anthropologists, philosophers and physicists - UCL can surely provide two or three of the memorable fireworks of this festival.

More information

In the News

Large trial will assess effectiveness of teaching mindfulness in UK schools

A major study to assess whether mindfulness training for teenagers can improve their mental health launches today, involving researchers from UCL alongside staff and students at the UCL Academy.

The three-part study includes the first large randomised control trial of mindfulness training compared with ‘teaching as usual’ in 76 schools, which will involve nearly six thousand students aged 11 to 14. Other parts of the study are a programme of experimental research to establish whether and how mindfulness improves the mental resilience of teenagers, and an evaluation of the most effective way to train teachers to deliver mindfulness classes to students.
The £6.4 million research programme will be carried out by teams at the
University of Oxford, UCL and the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, in
collaboration with the University of Exeter, over seven years. It is funded by
the Wellcome Trust.

Read full article

Dopamine drugs affect risk taking behaviour and happiness

Researchers based at the Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational
Psychiatry and Ageing Research and the Wellcome Trust Centre for
Neuroimaging, UCL Institute of Neurology, have conducted a double-blind
placebo-controlled study into the effects of dopamine drugs, the results of
which are published in the Journal of Neuroscience.

Healthy people given the common Parkinson’s drug levodopa, which boosts
dopamine levels in the brain, were increasingly willing to take risks to get
rewards and the drug also affected how happy they were about the rewards
they received.

Previous research on the neurotransmitter dopamine has shown that it is
involved in learning about rewards, and dopamine drugs can sometimes lead
to gambling problems in people with Parkinson’s disease. Thirty healthy
adults completed a gambling task in which they chose between safe and risky
options and were repeatedly asked, “How happy are you at this moment?”
The participants completed two sessions, one after receiving levodopa and
one after receiving a placebo.

Read full article

Landmark 69-year study to provide window into dementia

A landmark study that has been following a group of people since their birth in
the same week in March 1946 is now turning its focus to the risk factors and
early signs of dementia.

A multi-disciplinary team of researchers led by Dr Jonathan Schott and
Professor Nick Fox at the Dementia Research Centre, UCL Institute of
Neurology and Professor Marcus Richards at the MRC Unit for Lifelong
Health and Ageing at UCL is studying 500 members of the unique MRC
National Survey of Health and Development as volunteers approach their 70th
birthday, to gain crucial insight into Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

The new research has been made possible by a £5m funding boost from
Alzheimer’s Research UK, Iceland Foods Charitable Foundation, the Medical
Research Council (MRC) Dementias Platform UK and the Wolfson
Foundation.

Read full article

Researchers identify genetic links between epilepsy and sudden death

Scientists have made a breakthrough in understanding premature death in
people with epilepsy.

A group of researchers, led by those from UCL Institute of Neurology and
Epilepsy Society, have discovered that an individual’s genetic make-up may contribute to the risk of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP).

SUDEP is a devastating outcome of epilepsy that tragically takes the lives of about 600 people each year in the UK. This latest breakthrough brings us a step closer to determining risk in individual people, with the eventual aim of preventing deaths through personalised diagnosis and treatment.

By analysing a person with epilepsy’s genes, medical professionals may, in the future, be able to identify the heightened risk of SUDEP in advance, contributing to the quest for prevention.

[Read full article]

**Study of brain changes 20 years before hereditary dementia symptoms start**

Researchers at UCL Institute of Neurology have been awarded a major grant to look at what happens in the brain of people who carry an abnormal gene linked to frontotemporal dementia (FTD) up to 20 years before symptoms start.

FTD is highly heritable and the second most common form of young-onset dementia after Alzheimer’s disease. The disease is caused when nerve cells in the frontal and/or temporal lobes of the brain are affected by abnormal changes and eventually die.

Researchers will assess different measures of the disease process, called biomarkers, and see how these change over time by analysing spinal fluid samples and looking at brain images of people with mutations in the GRN, MAPT and C9ORF72 genes, which makes up about a third of FTD patients.

By studying individuals who are destined to develop the disease later in life researchers can understand the development from the very earliest changes.

[Read full article]

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**Current Funding Opportunities**

**European Research Council Starting Grants**

**Deadline:** expected to be 17 November 2015

ERC Starting Grants aim to support up-and-coming research leaders who are about to establish a proper research team and to start conducting independent research in Europe. The scheme targets promising researchers who have the proven potential of becoming independent research leaders. It will support the creation of excellent new research teams.

We are anticipating that the ERC will release the 2016 call for Starting Grant applications on 23 July, with a deadline of 17 November 2015.

Alzheimer’s Society Implementation grant scheme

Deadline: Friday 21 August 2015

Alzheimer’s Society have launched a new Implementation grant scheme, which aims to close the gap between dementia research knowledge and practice. Our new grant scheme will enable the scaling-up of promising non-drug treatments, programmes and services to improve the health and wellbeing of people affected by dementia.

Applicants can apply for grants of up to £400,000 for up to three years that will either:

a) enable the scale-up of evidence based interventions that have been shown to improve care and are ready to be implemented at a larger scale, or;

b) lay the foundations for the scale-up of evidence based interventions; preparatory work and testing the feasibility of bringing dementia research knowledge into the real world.

Deadline for Outline applications is midday Friday 21 August 2015. For more information on the Implementation grant scheme and how to apply: www.alzheimers.org.uk/implementation

Call for contributions to Research Topic titled "Neuroimaging in clinical practice – towards prognosis and prediction of treatment response"

Deadline: Friday 4th September

In collaboration with Frontiers in Neuroscience and Frontiers in Neurology, section Brain Imaging Methods, we are organizing a Research Topic titled “Neuroimaging in clinical practice – towards prognosis and prediction of treatment response”, hosted by Jane Rondina, Nick Ward and Geraldo Busatto.

As host editor, I would like to encourage you to contribute to this topic. Please find more information about Research Topics below, including the publishing fees that apply. You can also visit the homepage we have created on the Frontiers website, which defines the focus of the topic, and where all published articles will appear.

http://www.frontiersin.org/Brain_Imaging_Methods/researchtopics/Neuroimaging_in_clinical_pract/3735

To find out more email j.rondina@ucl.ac.uk

Wellcome Trust Centres

Deadline: Monday 21st September

The Wellcome Trust will be announcing a call for new centres. The call will be formally announced on 3rd August with a closing date at noon on 21st September. The Trust proposes to invest in four (or possibly more) new centres across the country, which needs to be driven by a theme with focused research and addressing a large question (this may be a technical/scientific question). Each centre will be for £4-13 million and can be across the Trust’s remit, in that they can also address both ‘culture and society’ and also ‘innovation’. Centres may well include input from several
schools across UCL. They must be UK based but can extend beyond the UK if a good case can be made.

As this will be a highly-competitive process, we need to ensure that first-rate applications are submitted. In discussion with OVPR and the three schools, it has been decided that the SLMS will lead a selection process to identify the strongest applications. It is unlikely that we will be in a position to put in more than two new applications (in addition to the renewal of the Centre for Neuroimaging). We are aware that new applications will be considered at the same time as renewal of the eight existing centres, and we will need to avoid overlap and internal competition.

Those seeking to apply need to send a 600 word proposal on the proposed centre and a two-page CV of the lead applicant to Ruth Jamieson (r.jamieson@ucl.ac.uk) by Thursday 3rd September.

The timetable for the internal application process is as follows:
- Call announced on WT website 3rd August
- Preliminary applicants submitted Thursday 3rd September
- Meeting of the internal review panel w/c 7th September
- Feedback to applicants by 11th September
- Selected applications submitted to the WT 21st September

Guidance and details about the call should be available on the Wellcome Trust's website on 3rd August.

Call for papers in neural plasticity

**Deadline:** Friday 13th November

The Journal “Neural Plasticity” is calling for papers for a special issue titled: Neural Plasticity in the Neonatal Brain in Health and Disease. The purpose of this special issue is to publish high-quality clinical, basic and translational original research and review articles that seek to address the mechanisms and significance of neural plasticity in the neonatal brain in health and disease. The lead guest editor is Mariya Hristova from the UCL Institute of Women’s Health.

The call is aimed at original and review articles including, but not limited to Fragile X syndrome, hypoxia-ischaemia, Coffin-Lowry syndrome, etc.

[Find out more](#)

**ECMED Research Projects**

A 3-year EU-funded position is available at the UCL Institute of Neurology, under the supervision of Prof. Matthew Walker, as part of the ECMED European Training Network (ETN), a consortium of 9 leading European research institutions and 2 industrial companies that will involve 12 Early Stage Researchers working collaboratively to determine the role of brain extracellular matrix in the development of epilepsy and to develop novel approaches to treat and to prevent epilepsy. Another 11 similar positions to the one offered by UCL are available at the project partners’ institutions.

**Background - The Project**

Over 50 million people worldwide have epilepsy and 30% are resistant to our present therapies. Epilepsy, therefore, comprises a major burden to society
and so there is a pressing need for new approaches to treatment. The brain extracellular matrix (ECM) plays a critical role in governing brain excitability and function. Although research into the role of the ECM in neuronal signalling and network function has advanced considerably in recent years, its full translational potential has yet to be realised. There is growing evidence for a major role of the ECM in epilepsy including the association between ECM protein mutations and epilepsy, changes in the ECM and associated proteins during the development of epilepsy and the strong association between the ECM and brain diseases associated with epilepsy including stroke, traumatic brain injury, neurodegeneration and autism.

For more information on the ECMED Research Projects and how to apply, please visit [http://ecmed15.wix.com/epilepsy](http://ecmed15.wix.com/epilepsy)

**Bio-Techne announces travel grants to attend Neuroscience 2015**

Bio-Techne is proud to support neuroscience researchers with travel grants to attend Neuroscience 2015 held in Chicago, IL, October 17-21, 2015. We will award ten recipients $1,000 each for travel to the meeting.

Read more.
31 July, 2015 - **Brain Meeting Seminar Series: Title TBC**
Time: 16:15 -
Brain Meeting from Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging (incorporating the Leopold Muller Functional Imaging Laboratory and the Wellcome Department of Imaging Neuroscience). Speaker: Prof. Joshua Tenenbaum, MIT
Location: 4th Floor Seminar Room, , 12 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG
Contact: Mona Garvert
Email: mona.garvert.11@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: Please email

5 August, 2015 - **Hypoxia and experimental models of neuroinflammation**
Time: 16:00 -
Speaker: Andrew Davies, Department of Neuroinflammation, UCL Institute of Neurology. Host: Institute of Neurology Postdoc Seminar Committee
Location: Basement Lecture Theatre, 33 Queen Square, London, , WC1N 3BG
Contact: Institute of Neurology Postdoc Seminar Committee
Email: ionpostdocsrequest@gmail.com
Phone: Please email

20 August, 2015 - **WIBR Seminar: Neuropathological and phenotypic profile of familiar vs. sporadic Alzheimer’s disease**
Time: 16:00 -
Speaker: Dr. med. Diego Sepulveda-Falla, The Institute of Neuropathology Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE) Hosted by: Professor David Sattelle / Dr Imran Haq Please arrive 15 mins before start. Refreshments will be provided
Location: Cruciform Café, 1st Floor , Cruciform Building, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT
Contact: Alison Kelly
Email: alison.kelly@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: Please email

27 August, 2015 - **Queen Square MS Centre Seminar - title tbc**
Time: 13:00 - 14:00
Speaker: Dr Varun Sethi.
Location: Gilliat Lecture Theatre, Institute of Neurology, Queen Square House, Queen Square, WC1N 3BG
Contact: Tina Holmes
Email: millerpa@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: Please email

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**External Events of Interest**

**18th SSBP International Research Symposium**

4 - 5 September 2015
London

*Behavioural phenotypes from the bench to bedside: translation of basic science to clinical practice*

The 18th meeting of the SSBP will focus on emerging findings from basic science research on behavioural phenotypes and the application of these in clinical practice. The cutting-edge program will cover research areas such as epigenetics, mouse model studies and clinical trials. Join us in London – the world’s capital – in 2015!

Registration and abstract submission open: April 2015
Deadline for online abstract submission: 1st of June 2015
Deadline for discounted early bird registration: 25th of July 2015
For further information and details on how to submit an abstract for an oral or poster presentation visit the website:

Find out more

5th European Synapse Meeting

7 - 9 September 2015
Bristol

Registration and abstract submission for the European Synapse Meeting 2015 are now open. Reduced rates available until 30th June 2015. Please register now!

The aim of this meeting is to bring together junior and senior neuroscientists working on synapses and to provide a forum for new directions and ideas in synapse research.

For further information please visit the website:

Find out more

Imaging the Nervous System - 5th Cambridge Neuroscience Biennial Symposium

9 – 10 September 2015
University of Cambridge

The theme for this symposium is 'Imaging the Nervous System’ and will include sessions on imaging neuronal circuits, cognition and neural disease, super resolution imaging and dense reconstruction.

The "Imaging the Nervous System" symposium is an international meeting, for which we hope people working in neuroscience at all stages of their careers can benefit from the scientific interactions, poster sessions and lectures given by 25 speakers - 7 from the University of Cambridge, 9 based in the UK or other parts of Europe, and 9 from elsewhere in the world. We are expecting around 500 attendees, the full capacity of the West Road Concert Hall. The Alan Hodgkin and Andrew Huxley Plenary Lectures will be awarded to Professors Winfried Denk and Xiaowei Zhuang respectively. There will be a reception and gala dinner at King's College on the evening of September 9th 2015 (additional charge, note venue change). The symposium will conclude with a public plenary lecture given by Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore (University College London) on September 10th, which will be followed by a reception and the Cambridge Neuroscience image competition exhibition (open to all delegates).

Please click here to register for this meeting.

8th UK-Korea Neuroscience Symposium

15-16 September 2015
Clare College, Cambridge

We are excited to announce that the next UK-Korea Neuroscience Symposium will be held at the beautiful Clare College in Cambridge, 14-16th September 2015. We are bringing together leading academics from UK and Korea, to present their latest findings within the field of neuroscience.
Registration is now open.

More information

Researcher Links Workshop: Understanding and Advancing Therapies for CNS Disorders

18 – 21 September 2015
Maria Do Mar Hotel, Florianopolis, Brazil

The British Council has grants available for early career researchers (see Eligibility section) to attend a workshop in Brazil on understanding and advancing CNS therapies. Costs of all travel, accommodation and meals for participants will be covered. Places are available for 16 researchers from Brazil and the UK (32 in total).

This workshop is part of the Newton Researcher Links programme, funded under the Newton Fund. The workshop is being organized by Dr. Angela Bithell (University of Reading, UK) and Dr. Helena Cimarosti (Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), Brazil).

The workshop will take place in Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil, 18th-21st September 2015.

Find out more

Monitoring Development and Activity of Brain Circuits – Lake Como School of Advanced Studies

20-23 September 2015
Lake Como, Italy

In the nervous system, neurons form stereotyped patterns of synaptic connections. These patterns, the neuronal networks, are rapidly and selectively engaged during information processes. An increasing body of evidence highlights that changes in brain function, both normal and pathological, consistently correlate with dynamic changes in neuronal circuits. During development, neuronal circuits undergo a period of refinement to eliminate aberrant synaptic connections and to strengthen desired circuits. Learning and plasticity change circuit wiring and function throughout all life. Finally, in pathological states, inappropriate connections can form among surviving neurons during neuronal degeneration.

The availability of recently developed technologies that allow manipulating specific subsets of neurons in the mouse brain (e.g., gene targeting, optogenetics and pharmacogenetics) is providing us with an unprecedented opportunity to mechanistically investigate the role of specific neurons inside circuits. The course brings together top level scientists to provide a better comprehension on how experience, genetic background, and disease influence neuronal circuits and brain function.

Find out more
ESLRR European Conference on Low Vision 2015 – 2nd call for papers

25-27 September 2015
University of Oxford

The European Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation (ESLRR) is pleased to announce that its next conference, ESLRR 2015 will be in September 2015 and will once again be at the beautiful Keble College, University of Oxford.

The two-day conference will run from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon and will be preceded by an optional half day course. Overnight accommodation will be provided in College rooms (en-suite) and meals, including a Gala Dinner will take place in the stunning College dining hall. Platform and poster presentations are invited in all aspects of low vision research.

Abstracts submission extended to Sunday 14th June; please submit your abstracts by clicking here
Contact: Susie Sandford Smith

Find out more

4th International Angelman Syndrome Scientific Conference

2-3 October 2015
Liverpool

2015 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Dr Harry Angelman’s first description of Angelman Syndrome, and it would also have been his 100th birthday. This year’s International Angelman Syndrome Alliance Scientific Conference is being hosted by UK charity ASSE RT, at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Liverpool on Friday 2nd October 2015, followed by a Scientific Symposium for parents/carers and 50th Anniversary Gala on Saturday 3rd October 2015.

Founded four years ago by international support organisations, the AS Alliance seeks to further scientific research into Angelman Syndrome. This conference presents a unique opportunity to network, share ideas, advice, and form new collaborations.

Please email Liverpool2015@angelmanuk.org to register or for any other information.

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