General Notice

**Invitation to apply for Pfizer’s ‘Elevator Pitch’ event**

**Deadline: 1st August**

Pfizer is inviting interested individuals to apply to participate in an “elevator pitch” session to be held on the 25th September in London. This will form part of the Pfizer Rare Disease Consortium (RDC) Inaugural Symposium, which will be a prestigious event bringing together senior leaders across academia and Pfizer. The call area is “future rare disease therapies”, covering any disease area within the rare disease spectrum (although applications in core themes of haematology, neuromuscular, pulmonary and cardiac would be preferred).

Pfizer’s Senior Management will be in attendance as will be senior members of the Research Councils so this event is an opportunity to highlight your work for any future funding. Pfizer is continually looking for rare disease programmes at UCL that could be suitable for a potential partnerships.

Applicants would be requested to “pitch” their idea in a 3 minute slot (without slides) followed by a short Q&A with immediate feedback from a panel. Interested applicants should contact Ruth Jamieson (r.jamieson@ucl.ac.uk). 2/3 pitches will be shortlisted.

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Wellcome Trust Reviewing its grant funding schemes
The Trust is currently reviewing its funding schemes. Whilst this is work in progress, the latest update from Jeremy Farrar gives the direction of travel.

“This evolution in our support will therefore place particular emphasis on increasing the opportunities that we make available for early- and mid-career researchers. There will also be a major new scheme for collaborative research by teams, and a reformed approach to strategic awards for transformative work of importance to the mission of the Trust. We will have a new scheme for small, one-off seed grants to promote the development of innovative or high-risk research ideas, so that these can become competitive for larger awards.”

Find out more

**BNA President, Council and Committee Elections**

BNA President Professor Russell Foster’s term as President will come to an end in April 2015 at which point he will be succeeded by President Elect Professor John Aggleton.

BNA seeks nominations for the next President Elect to take office in 2017. The President Elect should be a high-ranking neuroscientist capable of driving forward BNA’s vision to represent neuroscience at the highest national and international level.

In addition, BNA seeks nominations for the following Council and Committee positions:

- **Council**: BNA Secretary Elect; BNA Meetings Secretary Elect
- **Committee**: Publications Secretary; Education and Engagement Secretary; Early Career and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Representative; Equal Opportunities Representative

All nominations must be received by **31 July 2014**

Further information on each of the positions and the nomination procedure can be obtained from the BNA website and from BNA Secretary Professor Bruno Frenquelli

**Research Fellow Position at The University of Edinburgh**
A motivated and driven post-doctoral researcher is sought to join the group of Professor Karen Horsburgh within the Centre for Neuroregeneration. The researcher would contribute to an in vivo research programme investigating novel drug therapies and disease mechanisms in ageing and dementia.

The post is funded by Alzheimer Research UK for three years and will use the latest developments in cellular imaging (in vivo multiphoton imaging) combined with novel transgenic mice to allow visualisation of brain dynamics. The effects of reduced brain perfusion on neurovascular interactions, amyloid clearance and neurodegeneration and the response to interventions that target maintenance of vascular health and improved cerebral perfusion will be investigated.

With previous experience in a post-doctoral role, you will ideally have expertise in cellular imaging techniques (such as multiphoton microscopy, confocal microscopy) and in vivo models of neurodegeneration.

Contact Prof. Karen Horsburgh

Find out more (Vacancy Reference: 03537)

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Special Seminars and Events

Developmental Neurosciences Seminar Series – First meeting

23 July 204
Leolin Price Lecture Theatre, Institute of Child Health

The first meeting of the Developmental Neurosciences Programme Seminar Series will take place on July 23rd. The Seminar Series will be held over 2 hours on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

Speakers at the first meeting include Professor Francesco Muntoni, Dr Jon Clayden, Prof Rodney Scott, Dr Haiyan Zhou, Dr Frederique Liegeois, Jacob Ross, and Louise Croft.

Contact: Janet Nicholas
**Vocational Rehabilitation – People with long term neurological conditions at work; keeping, seeking and leaving employment**

11 September  
33 Queen Square London WC1N 3BG  

A one day lecture based study day suited to clinicians including: occupational therapists, clinical psychologists, case managers, occupational health advisors who have an interest in supporting people with long-term neurological conditions within the work place.  

**Keynote speakers:** Dr Andrew Frank & Dr Diane Playford  

**COST:** £120  
Please contact Christine Stephens-Volante on 020 3448 3476 or email therapy.courses@uclh.nhs.uk to book your place or for more information.  

Online payment and information also available via UCLH website

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**UCLP Centre for Neurorehabilitation present a Symposium on the Role of Technology in Neurorehabilitation**

Thursday 9 October, 9am-5pm  
Lecture Theatre at The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, 33 Queen Square London WC1N 3BG  

A one day symposium that will explore how technology might change the way we think about delivering Neurorehabilitation  

Speakers will explore a range of topics from the fundamentals of neurostimulation in the nervous system to the use of robotics to promote practice and learning. They will discuss how the power of virtual reality and the internet can move rehabilitation into patients’ homes and allow clinicians to collect clinically relevant information on a large scale. Finally, they will consider the importance of getting these technological advances out of the laboratory and into the market place where they can be of greatest benefit to the most people.  

Find out more

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**BRC Neuroscience Programme Annual Meeting**
8 December, 3pm to 5pm
Lecture Theatre at The National Hospital for
Neurology and Neurosurgery, 33 Queen Square
London WC1N 3BG

It has once again been a productive year for our
NIHR University College London Hospitals BRC
Neuroscience Programme. The Neuroscience
Programme has been supporting a range of activities
in experimental neurology which we will showcase at
the meeting. While we finalise the programme, we
wanted to send this invite out, which also serves as a
save-the-date. A programme will be sent separately
in the coming weeks.

The BRC Neuroscience programme Annual Meeting
is an opportunity for you to hear more about the
progress the BRC has been making, the impact it is
having in developing infrastructure for experimental
neurology research and the BRC’s future strategy.

Contact: Daniel Herron

BNA Christmas symposium

Monday 15 December 2014

The Sainsbury Wellcome Centre will once again host the
BNA Christmas symposium. This year’s Symposium will
be in honour of Trevor Robbins, who won the Brain Prize
this year.

The preliminary title for this is ‘What drugs should Santa
use?’.

If you have any suggestions for speakers, then please
e-mail Elaine Snell

In the News

Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network Trial: An Opportunity to
Prevent Dementia

UCLH is part of a worldwide clinical study evaluating
two drugs to determine whether they can prevent
Alzheimer’s disease in people at-risk for an inherited
form of Alzheimer’s disease.
The Dementia Research Centre, in conjunction with the Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre (LWENC) Clinical Facility based at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, is the only site in the UK conducting the multi-site, international Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network Trial (DIAN-TU-001) sponsored by Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, Missouri, USA) in collaboration with Eli Lilly and Co. and F. Hoffmann-La Roche.

Read full article

Researchers test whether diabetes drug can help Parkinson’s patients

A trial to test whether a diabetes drug may help slow down Parkinson's disease is under way at the newly opened Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre (LWENC) Clinical Facility at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN).

The first patient has been dosed with Exenatide, a licensed drug used since 2005 to treat patients with Type 2 diabetes, and which appears to have neuroprotective properties.

Read full article

Acute optic neuritis: a review and proposed protocol

Optic neuritis is an inflammatory optic neuropathy that is frequently but not always associated with multiple sclerosis (MS). Despite recent developments in laboratory, imaging and electrophysiological techniques, no consensus guidelines have yet been formulated for the diagnostic work-up in patients presenting with optic neuritis.

In this Review, published in Nature Reviews Neurology, Dr Petzold (Department of Neuroinflammation, UCL Institute of Neurology) and colleagues contribute to the development of such a consensus by proposing an investigation protocol for optic neuritis.

Read full article
Four in ten dementia carers suffer depression

An analysis by UCL has found that 40 percent of those who look after a family member with dementia suffer from depression but a course devised by Professor Gill Livingston (UCL Psychiatry), called the START programme, has been found to cut depression rates amongst relatives by up to 7 times.

Dr Livingston and colleagues put 173 carers through the eight-hour course and compared their progress to another 90 or so who went about their lives as usual.

The course included advice on how to cope with their relative’s behaviour, how to talk to them and to doctors and how to make time for themselves. This could be as simple as working out how to schedule in a peaceful cup of coffee each day.

Mobile games used for psychology experiments

Initial findings from one of the largest cognitive science experiments ever conducted have shown that mobile games can be used to reliably address psychology questions, paving the way to a better understanding of how cognitive function differs across populations.

With its first comprehensive set of results published today, the Great Brain Experiment, a free mobile app run by neuroscientists at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging at UCL, uses ‘gamified’ neuroscience experiments to address scientific questions on a scale that would not be possible using traditional approaches. The app investigates memory, impulsivity, risk-taking and happiness. By playing the games, anyone can anonymously compare their abilities to the wider population and contribute to real scientific research. More than 60,000 people have taken part so far.
Morality and motivation with Professor Ray Dolan and The Naked Scientists

On the latest podcast from the Naked Scientists entitled M’orality and Motivation’ UCL’s Professor Ray Dolan discusses if he would kill one person to save five lives and asks the question, ‘Are moral values contagious’

Listen now

UCL Neuroscientists ask for open review on the Human Brain Project

Researchers have requested an open review of the European Commission-funded initiative to simulate the human brain as they believe the money could be better spent on smaller grants for creative neuroscience research rather than one large computer simulation, says Professor Peter Latham (UCL Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit).

Listen NOW (from 50 mins)

Current Funding Opportunities

Boehringer Ingelheim FENS research award
Deadline: 31 July 2014

The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies invites applications and nominations for the Boehringer Ingelheim FENS research award. This recognises outstanding and innovative scientific efforts in all areas of neuroscience research. Nominees must be under 40 years of age and either be working in a European institute or be of European origin working abroad. Funding is worth €25,000.

Find out more
Bursary for medical students - British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology  
Deadline: 31 July 2014

The British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology invites applications for its bursary for medical students. The aim is to support medical students during the intercalated degree year, to support young people in neuroscience research and to raise awareness of the speciality of clinical neurophysiology at a formative stage in medical student careers and academic opportunities in the field. A society member must act as a primary supervisor of the research project. Projects must last for at least six months. The bursary is worth up to £5,000.  

Find out more

Horizon 2020 - Marie Curie Individual Fellowships  
Deadline: 11 September 2014

European Fellowships and Global Fellowships are available. Note that there are specific eligibility criteria relating to “mobility” i.e. moving institutions to undertake these fellowships. Fixed rate for salary, mobility and research expenses.

The goal of Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition at multi- or interdisciplinary level through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility. Individual Fellowships provide opportunities to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research in a European context (EU Member States and Associated Countries) or outside Europe. The scheme particularly supports the return and reintegration of researchers from outside Europe who have previously worked here. It also develops or helps to restart the careers of individual researchers that show great potential, considering their experience.

Find out more

Epilepsy Research UK 2014 -2015 grant round is now open  
Deadline: Friday 26 September 2014, 4pm

Epilepsy Research UK 2014 -2015 grant round is now open, and they are inviting preliminary project and fellowship applications, and pilot grant in epilepsy applications, with a deadline of Friday 26 September 2014, at 16:00.

Epilepsy Research UK supports the best quality scientific research - basic, clinical and psychosocial - into the causes, prevention, treatment and co-morbidities of epilepsy. Their 2014 -2015 grant round is now open, and they are inviting preliminary project and fellowship applications, and pilot grant in epilepsy applications, with a deadline of Friday 26 September 2014, at 16:00. Applicants must email a completed, signed form (in Word format) to Delphine van der Pauw

Find out more

UCL Neuroscience Events and Seminars – July 2014

21 July, 2014 - Application of antisense oligonucleotides for neuromuscular disorders  
Time: 17:30 - 18:30
Speaker information: Dr Annemieke Aartsma-Rus, Department of Human Genetics, LUMC.
Host: MRC Centre Seminar Series.
Location: Lecture Theatre, 33 Queen Square, London,
Contact: Christine Oldfield  
Email: christine.oldfield@ucl.ac.uk

**IMN Seminar: Postural adjustments for online corrections of arm movements**  
**Time:** 11:00 - 12:00  
**Speaker information:** Dr Paul Stapley, Director, Neural Control of Movement Lab, University of Wollongong, NSW, Australia. Host: John Rothwell.  
**Location:** 4th Floor Seminar Room, FIL, 12 Queen Square, London,  
**Contact:** Deborah Hadley  
Email: d.hadley@ucl.ac.uk

**28 July, 2014 - NPP Seminar: Activation and calcium modulation of neuronal acetylcholine receptors: structure and mechanism**  
**Time:** 16:00 - 17:00  
**Speaker information:** Professor Steven Sine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.  
**Host:** Professor Lucia Sivilotti  
**Location:** A.V.Hill Lecture Theatre, Medical Sciences Building, Gower Street, London,  
**Contact:** Professor Lucia Sivilotti  
Email: l.sivilotti@ucl.ac.uk

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**External Events of Interest**

**2014 Human Brain Anatomy Course (3-day course)**  
**23- 25 July, 2014**  
Guy's Campus, King's College London  
**Course director:** Dr Paul Johns, BSc BM MSc FRCPath  
- **NEW** improved programme for 2014!  
- Comprehensive introduction to functional brain anatomy  
- Assumes minimal prior knowledge  
- Emphasises functional, clinical and radiological neuroanatomy  
**Three-day course: £395**  
Suitable for undergraduate / postgraduate students in medicine and biomedical sciences, neuroscience and psychology  
**Find out more**

**The Limbic Brain (2-day course)**  
**21- 22 August, 2014**  
Guy's Campus, King's College London  
**Course director:** Dr Paul Johns, BSc BM MSc FRCPath  
- Advanced functional neuroanatomy course
Presented in a very clear, logical and memorable style
Focuses on the limbic lobe, hippocampus, amygdala, prefrontal cortex and 'limbic' loops of the basal ganglia
Includes the basal forebrain / substantia innominata, 'extended amygdala' and diffuse neurochemical systems
Emphasises core limbic brain structures of central importance in clinical neurology, psychiatry and the imaging neurosciences

Mean feedback score (July 2013): 4.9/5.0
Course fee: £295

The Dementia Challenge (North)
18 September, 2014
School of Music, University of Leeds

The Dementia Challenge North – Continuing the Fight Back conference will provide a unique opportunity for all those working with, caring for and living with dementia to come together to gain real insight into the fight back against the disease. With a spiralling aged population, the prevalence of dementia is perhaps the most significant and worrying 21st century health and social care challenge we face. With rates in the UK expected to more than double by 2051 it is imperative that continued and prolonged focus is maintained on the dementia agenda.

The programme will look in detail at:
- The current situation
- Latest announcements and developments following the g8 summit
- Recommendations on care and support
- Working practices and strategies for improved outcomes
- The role of society

An exclusive interview with a dementia sufferer will be an emotive close to the day, leaving no doubt as to the devastating affects the condition inflicts on all concerned. There will be ample opportunity for delegates to network with fellow peers to share experiences and knowledge whilst the programme allows for plenty of discussion and debate during the interactive question and answer sessions.

Delegate Rates:
Charity Sector - £295+VAT
Public Sector - £395+VAT
Private Sector - £395+VAT

To secure your place call Rob Daniels on 0161 686 5583 or email rob.daniels@govtoday.co.uk
ISFN Bi-National symposium with the British Neuroscience Association

6-9 December 2014
Hilton Queen of Sheba, Eliat, Israel

The BNA will be co-hosting a meeting on dementia with the Israel Society for Neuroscience this December, in Eliat. Dementia being a **global priority**, the BNA believe this will be a valuable meeting.

In addition to the joint dementia symposium that will be held on Sunday, 7 December, all other symposia, free oral communication and poster sessions (7-9 December 2014) are open to BNA participants, and we hope to see many of our colleagues from the UK attending this meeting.

A joint ISFN/BNA scientific committee will prepare the dementia symposium, and a general call for abstracts will be advertised around mid-June.

[Find out more](#)