Dear Colleagues,

This is the last newsletter this summer. The next newsletter will be issued on Monday 1 September.

If you would like any events, news items or funding calls included in the next newsletter please email me on r.heatley@ucl.ac.uk

Have a lovely summer.

Kind regards

Rachel

General Notice

New Director of the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience

Professor Neil Burgess has been appointed as the next Director of the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience with effect from 1 September 2014.

Professor Alan Thompson, Dean of the Faculty of Brain Sciences said: ‘Neil is an outstanding neuroscientist with a proven track record of leadership and will continue the excellent work of Geraint Rees. I am delighted that Neil has accepted this role and I look forward to his joining and contributing to the Faculty Leadership Team.’

Professor Burgess’ IRIS Profile

Call for rotation projects: MRC PhD in Mental Health
Since 2011 UCL has offered MRC 4-year studentships for PhD candidates studying mental health. This is a cross-Faculty programme attracting exceptional students, who complete three short rotation projects (12-14 weeks) during their first year.

The programme is updating its project booklet over the summer and researchers interested in supervising rotation students should send a short (no more than one page) description to Rosalyn Lawrence, by 31st August 2014, in order to be included in the booklet distributed to the incoming students.

Students may conduct rotation projects in any group or laboratory and on any topic, provided the research is relevant to mental health – previous projects have been in a broad range of areas, including: genetics, neuroimaging, psychopharmacology, behaviour, neuropsychology, developing interventions and clinical trials. Students may collect their own data and/or analyse existing data.

For further information, including examples of project descriptions, please contact the programme directors Jonathan Roiser or David Osborn.

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.”

Special Seminars and Events

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 workplace.

**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](https://www.uclh.nhs.uk).

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**Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre Open Evening**

15 September, 5pm-6pm  
Lecture Theatre, The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, 33 Queen Square London WC1N 3BG

The new Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre (LWENC) Clinical Research Facility within the NHNN is dedicated to experimental medicine and early phase clinical trials (including first-in-man studies) in healthy volunteers and patients across neurodegenerative diseases. To celebrate the opening of the LWENC Clinical Facility and to promote its use among the UCL research community and with external academics, organisers (John Hardy, Nick Fox, Mike Hanna and Vincenzo Libri) are hosting an open event to highlight how the centre operates and the type of support it can offer to investigators.

The event will also represent an opportunity for attendees to hear more about the entire Wolfson Experimental Neurology programme at the Institute of Neurology, which includes the biomarker, imaging and PhD education programmes in neurodegeneration research, and the progress it has been making.

[Register Now](https://www.uclh.nhs.uk/)

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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

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 email Elaine Snell

In the News

Goalkeepers prone to ‘gambler’s fallacy’ but penalty takers fail to exploit it

After a string of penalties aimed in the same direction, goalkeepers are more likely to dive in the opposite direction on the next penalty but kickers fail to exploit this pattern, finds new UCL research.

The study, published in Current Biology, shows that penalty shoot-outs in international tournaments resemble a psychological game. The researchers studied penalty shoot-out videos from all World Cup and Euro finals tournaments between 1976 and 2012. “Complete randomness is generally the best strategy in competitive games” says lead author Erman Misirlisoy of the UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience. “Because the goalkeeper displays the gambler’s fallacy, kickers could predict which way the goalkeeper is likely to dive on the next kick. That would obviously give the kicker an advantage – they would simply aim for the opposite side of the goal. Surprisingly, though, we found that kickers failed to exploit this advantage”.

Read full article
**Face tester can predict how you will judge a face**

Dr Geoff Williams (UCL Speech, Hearing & Phonetic Sciences) comments on a study which has created a computer model which can predict how we will assess someone's personality based on their looks.

Geoffrey Williams, who works on using avatars to treat hallucinations at UCL, is impressed with the team's ability to create faces that elicit predictable responses. He thinks that the model could be used to make avatars more human-like. "It represents a step forward in generating realistic static and animated facial images," he says.

[Read full article](#)

**Eighty new genes linked to schizophrenia**

A paper co-authored by Professor David Curtis (UCL Psychiatry) has uncovered 80 previously unknown genes that may put people at risk of developing schizophrenia. The research in Nature suggests the world's largest genetic study of the disease shows it can have biological causes - putting it on a par with other medical conditions.

Prof David Curtis of University College London and one of the authors of the research told the BBC: "This study puts psychiatry into the same category as other parts of medicine. "In the past we have struggled with the view that psychiatric conditions are not 'real' illnesses but early genetic studies had limited successes.

"Now we show with confidence that there are biological processes going awry."

[Read full article](#)

**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
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.

Acute 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.
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.

Read full article

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.

Read full article
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

Current Funding Opportunities

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

Health Innovation Challenge Fund
Preliminary applications due: 15 September 2014

This is a parallel funding partnership between the Wellcome Trust and the Department of Health to stimulate the creation of innovative healthcare products, technologies and interventions and to facilitate their development for the benefit of patients in the NHS and beyond.

The Health Innovation Challenge Fund invites applicants to apply for funding in any of the areas of special interest listed below.
• Surgical technologies
• Innovative diagnostics
• Trauma and critical care medicine
• Informatics to assist clinical decision making
• Repurposing of medicines and medical devices
• Biological therapeutics

Each £10m funding round will review and assess proposals from all themes. All applications are judged purely on merit. There are no funding quotas for individual themes.

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

Call for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept Grant
Deadline: 1 October 2014

Frontier research often generates unexpected or new opportunities for commercial or societal application. The ERC Proof of Concept Grants aim to maximise the value of the excellent research that the ERC funds, by funding further work (i.e. activities which were not scheduled to be funded by the original ERC frontier research grant) to verify the innovation potential of ideas arising from ERC funded projects. Proof of Concept Grants are therefore on offer only to Principal Investigators whose proposals draw substantially on their ERC funded research.

Find out more

Call for proposals for ERC Advanced Grant
Deadline: 21 October 2014

Advanced Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. This action is open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any Member State or Associated Country.

The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities. The call 'ERC-2014-AdG' consists of one call with a single deadline applying to each of the three main research domains:
• Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panels: PE1 – PE10),
• Life Sciences (Panels: LS1 – LS9),
• Social Sciences & Humanities (Panels: SH1 – SH6).

Find out more

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UCL Neuroscience Events and Seminars – August 2014

29 August, 2014 - SWC Seminar: A glutamatergic basal forebrain microcircuit linking hippocampal theta oscillations to motor performance
Time: 13:00 - 14:00
Speaker information: Professor Stefan Remy, Neuronal Networks Group German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases, Bonn, Germany.
Host: Professor John O’Keefe, Sainsbury Wellcome Centre.
Location: AV Hill Lecture Theatre, Medical Sciences Building, Gower Street, London,
Contact: Marg Glover
Email: m.glover@ucl.ac.uk

External Events of Interest

Royal College of Psychiatrists: Faculty of Neuropsychiatry Conference 2014
4 - 5 September 2014
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford
Registration is available for the Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Neuropsychiatry Conference.
Speakers will include:
Dr Andrea Cavanna, University of Birmingham; Professor Angela Vincent, University of Oxford; Dr Ming Lim, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Evelina Hospital London; Professor Matthew Walker, Department of Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy, UCL; Dr Sofia Eriksson, Consultant Neurologist and Honorary Senior Research Associate at National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery; Professor Michael Kopelman, Academic Unit of Neuropsychiatry, KCL
Find out more

Ruby Wax and Colin Blakemore Brain Research Event
Monday 8 September, 7pm
Greenwood Theatre, London SE1
Ruby Wax and acclaimed neurobiologist Sir Colin Blakemore discuss brain research and how it has played an integral part in Ruby's life and career. Where is mental illness located in the brain? Can we
rewire the mind? What does the future hold for treatment?

An informative, insightful and (maybe just a little) irreverent evening hosted by Guardian journalist John Crace. Ruby will also be signing copies of her latest book Sane New World.

In Partnership with the British Neuroscience Association

Book Now

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

Find out more
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](#)