Late registration available for Feldberg Prize Lecture: Cyclic nucleotide-modulated ion channels - from genes to therapy

Friday 4 October 2013, 4pm
AV Hill Lecture Theatre, Medical Sciences Building, UCL
(Directions to the venue [http://tiny.cc/1sjv0w](http://tiny.cc/1sjv0w))
Registration will shortly be closing for the Feldberg Prize Lecture, so if you would like to attend register via [http://feldbergprizelecture-es2.eventbrite.com/?rank=1](http://feldbergprizelecture-es2.eventbrite.com/?rank=1)

Speaker: Professor Martin Biel, Chair of Pharmacology Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU), Department of Pharmacy, Center for Drug Research, Institute of Pharmacology, Munich, Germany. For more information on Prof. Martin Biel visit: [http://tinyurl.com/ouqq3gy](http://tinyurl.com/ouqq3gy)

This lecture is hosted by the Department of Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology, UCL and The Department of Pharmacology, UCL School of Pharmacy.

Wine Reception: Audience members are cordially invited to a reception at 5pm after the talk. This will take place in the Garden Room, UCL South Cloisters. The short route from theatre to reception venue will be signposted. There will be drinks and snacks and an opportunity to talk to the speaker.
If you have any queries or wish to speak to Prof. Biel before his lecture, please contact Professor Annette Dolphin via a.dolphin@ucl.ac.uk
Marsden’s Book of Movement Disorders wins Neurology first prize at the 2013 BMA Book Awards

*Marsden’s Book of Movement Disorders* by Ivan Donaldson, C. David Marsden, Susanne Schneider and Kailash Bhatia has won the Neurology first prize at the 2013 BMA Medical Book Awards. The book was reviewed by Dr Tim Yates, Registrar & Academic Clinical Fellow in Neurology, National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery: “This is the greatest, most authoritative and up-to-date book on movement disorders ever produced. ... it is highly accessible, complete and reflects the thinking processes of neurologists engaged in clinical work. It is a marvel and may be wholly and unreservedly recommended.”

William Richard Gowers 1845-1915: Exploring the Victorian Brain, written by Ann Scott, Mervyn Eadie and Andrew Lees was Highly Commended for ‘Basis of Medicine’ at the same awards. This book was also reviewed by Dr Yates: “This is a fascinating, beautifully illustrated medical biography based on original research. ... The book is scholarly but also entertains and tells us much about the Victorian way of life and thinking.”

For more information visit:
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/articles/news/20130924

Prof Dmitri Rusakov awarded £2.8million Wellcome Trust Principal Fellowship Award

Professor Dmitri Rusakov, of the Institute of Neurology's Department of Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy, has been awarded a Wellcome Trust Principal Fellowship, the top personal investigator award from the Trust. It provides £2.8M for five years to explore “Neural coding with the tripartite synapse”.

This research line focuses on the newly emerged roles of “brain glue”, electrically passive astroglial cells, in the processing and storage of information in the mammalian brain. To understand how astroglia contribute to neural communication, the group will combine two-photon excitation microscopy in intact brain tissue with optogenetic approaches and high-end biophysical simulations involving cloud computing.

For more information visit:
http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/Fellowships/Principal-research-fellowships/
Early Career Neuroscience

Public Engagement in research - How to engage and why it is important

Wednesday 16 October 2013 4.00-5.00pm
Medical Sciences AV Hill Lecture Theatre
followed by a networking drinks reception G40 Seminar Room, Ground Floor Medical Sciences

Speakers:
Prof Sophie Scott, ICN Deputy Director
Dr Steve Cross, Head of UCL Public Engagement
Dr Patrick Lewis, Parkinson's UK Research Fellow, ION

Public engagement initiated from scientists themselves is of extreme importance to the public but also to the scientific groups themselves as funding bodies are increasingly keen to see research scientists being proactive in communicating their data and its implications in the relevant field of study. Each speaker will give their own account of public engagement through their own experiences and expertise.

To register for this event, please visit: http://publicengage.eventbrite.co.uk/

For more information on the ECN Forum visit: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/neuroscience/early-career

Special Seminars

Engineering for Well-being: Nanomagnetism for Nanomedicine

Monday 7 October 2013, 6pm-8.30pm
Gustav Tuck Lecture Theatre, Wilkins Building, Gower St, London, WC1E 6BT

Prof Quentin Pankhurst, Director, UCL IBME, runs research programmes as Director of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory at the Royal Institution in bio- and nanomagnetism aimed at making practical advances in the use of magnetic nanoparticles in healthcare. These include medical imaging devices, targeted regenerative medicine, molecular imaging microscopy for living cells, and the development of multifunctional nanoparticles for therapy and diagnostics.

Nanoparticles have unique properties that could revolutionise medicine, with applications in diagnosis, therapy, regenerative medicine and more. Through two complementary short lectures, Dr Florence Gazeau (CNRS, University Paris Diderot) and Professor Quentin Pankhurst (UCL Institute of Biomedical Engineering) will discuss this potential, focusing on the work of their groups on both sides
of the Channel on nanomagnetism. This is the last in a series of four lectures, bringing together experts from UCL and France to share and compare perspectives on engineering for human well-being, followed by an opportunity to ask questions, and a reception to discuss the ideas presented.

For more information visit:
https://nanomagnetsforwellbeing.eventbrite.co.uk/

One-day conference: Recent Advances in Brain Injury Rehabilitation

Wednesday 16 October 2013
The Education Centre and the Regional Neurological Rehabilitation Unit, Homerton University Hospital, London, E9 6SR
This 17th one day conference on Recent Advances in Brain Injury Re-habilitation is again intended to provide important insights into recent research that might be incorporated into daily clinical work and to change clinical practice and disseminate recent trial results. The conference is aimed at Medical Doctors, Psychologists, Nurses, Physiotherapists, OTs, Speech & Language Therapists, Researchers, Academics, Social Workers and all who work with brain injured people.

Speakers include: Professor Rosemary Varley, Division of Psychology & Language Sciences, UCL; Dr Charlotte Russell, Centre for Cognition & Neuroimaging and Dept. of Psychology, Brunel University; Dr Sven Bestmann, Sobell Dept. of Motor Neuroscience and Movement Disorders, UCL Institute of Neurology; Dr Jenny Crinion, Clinical Scientist/Speech and Language Therapist UCL/NHNN; Professor Jane Marshall School of Health, City University, London; Dr Howard Jackson.

For applications and enquiries please contact: Steve Molokwu or Taz Mughal-Morris, Conference Organisers
Email: stephen.molokwu@homerton.nhs.uk or taz.mughal-morris@homerton.nhs.uk
Tel: 020 8510 7970 Fax: 020 8510 7318

2013 UCL Prize Lecture in Clinical Science: 'Poisons and delusions of poisons: analysis of the surveillance systems for bacterial toxins'

Wednesday 30 October 2013, 5.30pm
Cruciform Building, Lecture Theatre 1, Gower Street, WC1E 6BT
This annual prize lecture series has been running for 17 years and within this space of time has become one of the pre-eminent series on contemporary science in Europe. This year the Prize Lecture will be given by Professor Gary Ruvkun from the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School. Professor Ruvkun was one the recipients of the 2008 Lasker award for Basic Medical Research for discoveries that revealed an unanticipated world of tiny RNAs that regulate
gene function in plants and animals.
Following the lecture there will be a reception in the North
Cloisters, UCL Main Campus.
Please register via the eventbrite page

Rosalind Franklin Lecture: The Teenage Brain

Tuesday 5 November 2013, 6.30-7.30pm
The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London
SW1Y 5AG

Speaker information: Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore
(Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience)

Abstract: Until recently, little was known about how the
human brain develops. In the past 15 years, new technologies
such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) have enabled us
to gain insights into how the human brain changes across the
lifespan. Research has demonstrated that brain development
is much more protracted than previously thought, continuing in
some regions throughout adolescence and early adulthood.
Some parts of the brain undergo a period of reorganisation
during the teenage years, both in terms of structure, function
and related behaviour. These new insights into neurocognitive
development suggest that adolescence is a period of profound
change and opportunity.

Attending this event: This event is free to attend and open to
all. No tickets are required. Doors open at 6pm and seats will
be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

For more information visit:
http://royalsociety.org/events/2013/the-teenage-brain/
Contact: events@royalsociety.org

Decision-making in Neurological Rehabilitation: How can
advances in the field of decision making lead to
improvements in the delivery of neuro-rehab?

Friday 15 November 2013, 8.30 am-5.15 pm
Lecture Theatre, 33 Queen Square, London

Speakers include:

- Ray Dolan (Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, UCL) –
  Neuroanatomy
- David Sharp (Computational, Cognitive and Clinical
  Neuroimaging Laboratory, Imperial) – Traumatic Brain Injury
- Sarah Edwards (Centre for Philosophy, Justice and Health,
  UCL) – Risk and practical ethics
- Mitul Mehta (Institute of Psychiatry, King’s College) –
  Psychopharmacology
- Carl Thompson (Department of Health Sciences, University of
  York) – Social Policy Making
- Brad Love (Cognitive, Perceptual and Brain Sciences, UCL) –
  Learning and Gaming
- Priscilla Harries (Health and Social Care, Brunel University) –
  Behavioural Therapy
Registration fee: £70 (students £50)
To register visit:
http://onlinestore.ucl.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?compid=1&modid=2&catid=90
For more information contact: cnr@ucl.ac.uk

Public Engagement

Control participants for a study about social development in children between 8 and 12 years needed

Researchers at the Institute of Child Health are conducting a study about social development in children between the ages of 8 and 12 years. They are investigating social development in sighted children to help understand more about how development might be different in children with visual impairment. The testing will involve child-friendly game-like tests as well as questionnaires for the parent. Some other test will be conducted on a computer. The researchers are interested in how the brain is involved in differences between sighted and visually impaired children. They also want to obtain images of the brain through magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Travel expenses and subsistence costs for the day of testing will be covered. You will also receive a £10 book voucher for your child.

The results of this study will help the researchers to understand in what areas visually impaired children struggle compared to normal children. Together with the brain investigation, this will help to improve treatment for children with visual impairment in the future. In order to understand the challenges that visually impaired children face, they need to relate the findings to sighted children. This

If you are interested in helping, please contact: Joe Bathelt on 020 7905 2749 or email: johannes.batheit.10@ucl.ac.uk

Apply to exhibit in the Octagon Gallery

Deadline: Friday 1 November 2013

UCL Museums are now launching the second competitive call for exhibition proposals for the new Octagon gallery. The theme for the first exhibition is SOLUTIONS. Proposals on this theme are invited from across the UCL community.

Proposals must:
• feature current research being undertaken at UCL
• be submitted by members of UCL staff and research students from at least two departments and result from cross-disciplinary working

• demonstrate how the theme will attract the public
• Proposals will be judged by a panel of academic and professional staff with exhibition expertise, chaired by the Vice-Provost (Research).

The criteria for judging will be as follows:
• cross-disciplinary nature – is there evidence of cross-disciplinary research and interaction?
• visual potential – can the work be showcased in a visually dramatic way? Is there potential for showcasing UCL collections?
• engagement potential – will the exhibition appeal to wide range of audiences? Is there the potential for related events or other forms of engagement and a willingness to devote time to these?

Winners will work with UCL’s Exhibitions Manager and museum curators to create an exhibition that draws on UCL’s museums and collections. They will have the benefit of technical and creative input and a budget of up to £4000 for content and materials (not fees or salary costs). In return they will be expected to devote sufficient time over a period of six months to selecting content and preparing and editing interpretation. Please read the guidelines and note this is time consuming! The exhibition will open in June 2014 and will run until December 2014.

For details on how to submit a proposal please visit http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/professional-use/apply-to-exhibit

Entrants should complete the proposal form and send to Ruby Wheeler: r.wheeler@ucl.ac.uk. The closing date for entries is Monday 11th November 2013.

In the News

Story of antipsychotics is one of myth and misrepresentation

"Antipsychotic drugs are usually considered to be one of the 20th century’s major medical breakthroughs" writes Joanna Moncrieff (UCL Mental Health Sciences Unit). They are often believed to be so effective that they brought about the closure of the old mental asylums and enabled the mentally ill to return to the community. But newer antipsychotics, such as Zyprexa and Seroquel, are no longer just used to treat severe mental disturbance but have broken into the mainstream to become some of the most profitable drugs in history. They now rival statins (used to lower cholesterol) and antidepressants in terms of the revenue they bring in. And in England, their use has increased by two thirds over the last few years. The most lucrative market is for treating the newly fashionable diagnosis of bipolar disorder. But far from normalising these drugs, we should be worried about their increasing use. While antipsychotics can be useful for those who are severely psychotic, these dangerous drugs should be considered with a heavy dose of caution.

To read the full article visit:
'Sugar gel' helps premature babies
A dose of sugar given as a gel rubbed into the inside of the cheek is a cheap and effective way to protect premature babies against brain damage, say experts. Dangerously low blood sugar affects about one in 10 babies born too early. Untreated, it can cause permanent harm.
Researchers from New Zealand tested the gel therapy in 242 babies under their care and, based on the results, say it should now be a first-line treatment. Their work is published in The Lancet.
Neil Marlow, from the UCL Institute for Women's Health, said that although dextrose gel had fallen into disuse, these findings suggested it should be resurrected as a treatment.
We now had high-quality evidence that it was of value, he said.
To read the full article visit: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-24224206

UCL led partnership wins £9 million from NIHR to tackle major health challenges
A collaborative of health researchers led by DAHR's Professor Rosalind Raine and including UCL and five other world-leading London universities, NHS trusts, UCL Partners, clinical commissioning groups, the Greater London Authority, local authorities, industry and charities, is one of 13 teams in the country to receive a share of £124 million as part of a national NIHR competition. The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) recently announced the results of its national competition to designate and fund Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) initiatives across the country. CLAHRCs are academic and clinical collaborations that conduct innovative research and support its translation into practice for the benefit of patients and the population.
The funding will be invested in researching innovative treatments and speeding the uptake of new techniques to benefit patients across our 'local' population of six million people. It will help ensure patients benefit from new treatments and techniques that could revolutionise the future of healthcare.
To read the full article visit: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dahr
Researchers find key differences in brains of abused and neglected young people

The brains of some children who have been abused or neglected are structurally different from those of young people who have not been exposed to ill-treatment, researchers have found. Researchers speculate that these structural abnormalities may be biological markers of vulnerability as a result of early exposure to mistreatment. The findings were presented at the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect conference in Dublin. A team of experts at UCL scanned the brains of more than 20 children aged between 10 and 14 years of age who were referred to social services following documented experiences of mistreatment.

To read the full article visit: http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/researchers-find-key-differences-in-brains-of-abused-and-neglected-young-people-1.1529960

Current Funding Opportunities

Share Academy – Grants of up to £10,000 available
Deadline for applications: 25 October 2013

Share Academy is a partnership project between UCL, UAL and London Museums Group (LMG) funded by Arts Council England. Its aim is to build sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships between the higher education sector and specialist museums in London who are non-government funded. Museums can provide a great opportunity to pilot academic research in a public space. They can provide a forum to enhance and develop public engagement, and provide opportunities to make your research have greater public impact. Currently they are calling for applications for research projects. If your bid is successful, Share Academy will provide:

- Grants of up to £10,000 to enhance research and develop beneficial partnerships
- Support and advice on kick-starting partnerships

For further information visit: http://www.londonmuseumsgroup.org/share-academy/.

If you would like to discuss the possibilities of Share Academy within your discipline, or your ideas for collaborative research projects, please contact Laura Lannin (Share Academy Academic Coordinator) on 020 7679 7667 (x37667) or email l.lannin@ucl.ac.uk.
Call for research proposals
Deadline: 1 November 2013

Ataxia UK is collaborating with the US charity Friedreich's ataxia research alliance in inviting proposals for projects to develop biomarkers for evaluating the molecular and pathological features of affected neurons in Friedreich's ataxia patients. Those eligible to submit proposals include investigators from biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies, other for-profit entities, public and private nonprofit universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and government agencies, irrespective of the country of origin. A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required for all proposals and must be submitted by November 1st 2013. The LOI must contain a brief description of the objectives, rationale, and key preliminary data for the project (1-3 pages is sufficient), an estimate of the budget, and the CV/biosketch for the principal investigator and any key collaborators.

The LOI must be submitted as a PDF file via email to jen.farmer@curefa.org. The subject line should read as follows, LOI FARA/Ataxia UK RFP. The LOIs will be reviewed by the FARA and Ataxia UK Scientific Research Committees and, based on the outcome of this review, the submitting investigators will be either invited to submit a full proposal or informed that the LOI has been declined. This notification should be made within two weeks of the LOI deadline. The deadline for receiving full proposals is January 15th, 2014. Awards will be announced March 20th, 2014, and will have a start date of April 1, 2014. As a general guideline budgets should not exceed $150,000 for a 12-month period; however budgets >$150,000 will be considered if the applicant can present adequate justification of expenses required to support the proposal. While initial proposals will be accepted for one year, contingent upon significant progress and quality of results, funding may be extended for a second year to enable collection of additional longitudinal data. FARA and Ataxia UK do not support indirect costs.

For more information visit:

BRC Patient and Public Involvement Bursary Fund
Deadline: 4 Nov 2013

The BRC, with funding from the Wellcome Institute, is inviting applications to a new Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) bursary fund. In a groundbreaking scheme, researchers are invited to apply for up to £2,000 for initiatives that actively involve lay people in the planning, design and execution of biomedical research at UCL and UCLH. There is also one bursary of £4,000 available for cutting-edge and innovative PPI. A total of £10,000 is available in this round.

The aim of the fund is to not only embed PPI in the research process across UCL/UCLH biomedical research but also to make sure PPI has a beneficial impact on research and is a good experience for both the public and researchers.

Priorities of the bursary fund are to:

- enable researchers to involve patients and the public at an
early stage in their research

- promote PPI that has a demonstrable and meaningful impact on research
- improve the quality and effectiveness of PPI activities already taking place
- find imaginative and innovative ways of involving patients and the public
- encourage the active involvement of patients and the public in setting research priorities and the strategic development of research.

Deadline for applications, which can be for PPI in one particular project or group of projects, or in setting research priorities at departmental or divisional level, is 5pm 21 October 2013.

For more information visit: 
http://www.uclhospitals.brc.nihr.ac.uk/news/brc-invites-applications-new-ppi-bursary-fund

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**UCL Neuroscience Events and Seminars for October 2013**

**Neuroscience seminars and events website**

30 September, 2013 - Interfacing transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) with molecular biology
Time: 17:15 - 18:15
Speaker information: Professor Angelo Quartarone, University of Messina, Sicily. Host: John Rothwell, IMN Seminars.
Location: 4th Floor Seminar Room, FIL, 12 Queen Square
Contact: Deborah Hadley
Email: d.hadley@ucl.ac.uk

2 October, 2013 - A curious multisystem syndrome caused by deletion of a K+ channel beta subunit
Time: 13:00 - 14:00
Speaker information: Professor Geoff Abbott, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Pharmacology Professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, School of Medicine University of California. Host: Prof Kaila Srai
Location: Gavin de Beer Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Gower Street, London,
Contact: Prof Kaila Srai
Email: k.srai@ucl.ac.uk

4 October, 2013 - TBA
Time: 13:00 -
Organised by UCL Ear Institute
Speaker information: Christoph Kayser, University of Glasgow. Host: Ear Institute
Location: Main Seminar Room, UCL Ear Institute, 332 Grays Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EE
Contact: Roland Schaette
Email: r.schaette@ucl.ac.uk

4 October, 2013 - Memory, scenes and the hippocampus
Time: 16:15 - 17:15
Speaker information: Sinead Mullally, Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University.
8 October, 2013 - LOLZ! The science of laughter
Speaker information: Professor Sophie Scott, UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience. Host: UCL Lunch Hour Lectures 2013
Overview: If you ask people what makes them laugh, they will tell you they laugh at jokes; however if you look at when they laugh a very different pattern emerges, in which laughter can be seen as an extremely important social emotion.
This talk will explore the science of laughter, from laughter in other animals to the acoustics of laughter, and the ways that laughter is processed in our brains.
Location: Darwin Lecture Theatre access via Malet Place, Darwin Building
Contact: Cath Dean
Email: c.dean@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: 020 3108 3839

9 October, 2013 - Generation of synaptic vesicles by bulk endocytosis in central nerve terminals
Time: 13:00 - 14:00
Speaker information: Professor Mike Cousins, Centre for Integrative Physiology, University of Edinburgh. Host: Dr Frances Wiseman, Department of Neurodegenerative Disease.
Location: 2nd Floor Seminar Room, Institute of Neurology, Queen Square House, Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG
Contact: Stephen Walford, Departmental Administrator
Email: s.walford@prion.ucl.ac.uk

9 October, 2013 - Profound global institutional deprivation: The example of the English and Romanian Adoptee Study
Time: 16:30 - 17:30
Speaker information: Professor Sir Mike Rutter, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London. Host: CDCN Seminar Series.
Location: The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Queen Mary Wing, The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG
Contact: Esther Huntbach
Email: e.huntbach@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: (0)20 7905 2181

14 October, 2013 - Re-contextualizing the hippocampus
Time: 16:00 - 17:00
Speaker information: Charan Ranganat, Psychology Dept, UC Davis, USA. Host: Leun Otten, A Leverhulme-sponsored lecture.
Location: Basement seminar room (B10), ICN, Alexandra House, 17 Queen Square
Contact: Rosalyn Lawrence
Email: rosalyn.lawrence@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: 020 7679 1164

18 October, 2013 - How do prior beliefs shape perception?
Time: 16:15 - 17:15
Speaker information: Floris de Lange, Donders Institute, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
Location: 4th Floor Seminar Room, Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, 12 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG
Contact: Bernadette van Wijk
Email: b.vanwijk@ucl.ac.uk

21 October, 2013 - The cognitive neuroscience of reading for deaf signers
24 October, 2013 - Psychological and Biological Causes of Depression
Time: 12:00 - 13:00
Speaker information: Pr Glyn Lewis, UCL. Host: The Behavioural and Brain Sciences Unit.
Location: PUW4, ICH, 30 Guilford Street, London, WC1N 1EH
Contact: Radha Kothari
Email: radha.kothari.10@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: Please email

25 October, 2013 - TBA
Time: 16:15 - 17:15
Speaker information: Adam Hampshire, Imperial College London.
Location: 4th Floor Seminar Room, Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, 12 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG
Contact: Xiaosi Gu
Email: xiaosi.gu@ucl.ac.uk

28 October, 2013 - Individual differences in reading: What, where and why?
Time: 16:00 - 17:00
Speaker information: Anna Woollams, Neuroscience and Aphasia Research Unit (NARU), School of Psychological Sciences, University of Manchester. Host: TBA, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience Seminar Series.
Location: Basement seminar room (B10), ICN, Alexandra House, 17 Queen Square, London,
Contact: Rosalyn Lawrence
Email: rosalyn.lawrence@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: 020 7679 1164

External Events of Interest

Genetic testing in assisted reproduction: Selecting, not perfecting?
9 October 2013, 6.00-8.30pm
The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB

A panel discussion chaired by Dr Tom Shakespeare (UEA) with Dr Joyce Harper (UCL), Nick Meade (Genetic Alliance UK), Professor Rosamund Scott (King’s College London), and Dr Alan Thornhill (Guy’s and St Thomas’ Assisted Conception Unit) will provide a variety of perspectives on issues concerning genetic testing in assisted reproduction and some of the ethical questions these raise. This will be followed by an informal discussion with the audience.
In the course of the discussion the following questions will be addressed:

- How do we decide which conditions should be tested for?
- How accurate are the current testing methods anyway?
- Will designer babies ever become a reality?
- Where do we draw the line and who should draw it?

**TalkScience** is a popular evening Café Scientifique series where experts provide a short 30 minute introduction to the issues, followed by a discussion amongst an informed audience for an hour or so. The event is aimed at individuals from academia, industry, policy and all those interested in contemporary scientific issues.

More information and tickets (£5) can be booked through the [British Library Box Office](#).

Refreshments will be available.

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**Introduction to the news media for mental health and neuroscience researchers**

**Wednesday 30 October 2013, 1pm-5pm**

**Sir Alexander Fleming Building, South Kensington campus, Imperial College London**

If you’re frustrated by what you read and see in the news and you care about how the media presents your science, or you just want to know more about how the media works then this is the event for you. The Science Media Centre would like to invite you to a special **Introduction to the News Media event for mental health and neuroscience researchers**. There will be a drinks reception afterwards and the entire event is **free**.

The event is open to 170 scientists and you will be given a beginner’s guide to the media and insight into the way the news media works. You will hear from journalists, press officers and other scientists and you will be able to quiz them about:

- how journalists find science and health stories
- why certain stories make it into the news and others are ignored
- why timing matters
- top tips for dealing with the media and how to stop your work being misreported
- the role of the press officer
- the role of the news editor
- the importance of engaging with the media and how to do it

This event does NOT include skills-based media training. It will not prepare you for a confrontation with Paxman or Humphrys but it will give you a flavour of the media to help you understand its demands and make it easier for you to work with journalists. The event is designed specifically for scientists with little or
no media experience and we welcome scientists and engineers at any stage of their career in academia or industry from any institution (PhD level or professional equivalent and above). It is especially relevant for scientists working in areas that are controversial and receive a lot of media coverage.

This event is specifically geared towards researchers with little or no media experience. If you wish to attend please send your full name, job title, institutional e-mail address and phone number(s) to introduction@sciencemediacentre.org.

Neuroscience to Neurology National Undergraduate Conference 2014

Saturday February 1, 2014
Chancellor’s Building, Little France, Edinburgh

The Edinburgh University Neurological Society are hosting the second Neuroscience to Neurology National Undergraduate Conference following the success of last year’s conference.

Features of the 2014 conference:
- Talks by the esteemed Professor Siddharthan Chandran and Professor Seth Grant
- Poster and Oral Presentation competitions (submissions will be handled by Oxford Abstracts)
- A themed essay competition
- Workshops including last year’s popular workshop on a career in neurology or neurosurgery
- Delegate Pack including Abstract book and Certificate of Attendance

Additional talks and workshops will soon be finalised.
For more information visit: http://www.euns.co.uk/ed_ac/National_Conference.html

Please email Rachel Heatley (r.heatley@ucl.ac.uk) if you have story suggestions for future issues or any comments on the Neuroscience Newsletter