

Alumni News

ALUMNI NUMBER:



Dear

,

As we each continue to adjust to our changing circumstances, I want to highlight the many positive stories emerging from the UCL community.

Our staff, students and alumni are innovating at pace in response to COVID-19: from co-leading a [clinical trial for an anti-viral drug](#) to [providing vital guidance on mental wellbeing](#). We are also acutely aware of our responsibility to students and graduates facing their own real challenges. Since our last newsletter, hundreds of you have signed up to support one another through our newly launched [digital volunteering roles](#), including UCL Coffee Connect, while others have made gifts to the [UCL Coronavirus Response Fund](#). Thank you.

All your contributions are invaluable to us and the upcoming [UCL Alumni Volunteering Awards](#) represent a welcome opportunity to celebrate them. We look forward to revealing our winners during UK Volunteers' Week between 1-7 June!

Meanwhile, you can immerse yourself in the usual array of features, podcasts and videos from UCL or visit our [Alumni Newsletter archive](#) to catch up on our recent editions. Please also join us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and the [Alumni Online Community \(AOC\)](#) for regular updates.

Best wishes,

James Davis

Deputy Director of Alumni Relations

UCL's response to COVID-19



An international clinical trial for remdesivir, an anti-viral drug, has produced "[very promising results](#)" for its effectiveness on patients hospitalised with COVID-19. The trial, which was co-led by UCL and the Medical Research Council, showed that the speed of recovery for hospitalised COVID-19 patients treated with the drug was 31% faster than for those patients who had the placebo.

Meanwhile, [UCL academics united in the fight against COVID-19](#), are studying the global inequalities exacerbated by COVID-19. This includes: [low-income workers in developing countries](#) facing a higher risk of losing their livelihoods; [Britain's ethnic minorities](#) experiencing a disproportionately high mortality rate from COVID-19; and how [younger adults' mental health and wellbeing](#) is worst affected by the ongoing lockdown.

On mental health and social wellbeing, Professor Alan Thompson, Dean of the Faculty of Brain Sciences and Pro-Vice-Provost (London), has written a piece on how UCL is [transforming our understanding of this area](#) through the pandemic. From experts issuing advice for frontline workers on coping with stress, to researching happiness at a time of social distancing, this forms a vital strand of UCL's response to COVID-19.

UCL on demand

Podcasts and programmes that you might find informative and interesting



A philosopher's take on COVID-19

Professor James Wilson (UCL Department of Philosophy) explores the meaning of health as a "human right", as well as trade-offs between public health, liberty and economic activity.

[Watch video \(European Institute\) >>](#)



Join us on a virtual tour of campus

UCL Security staff are keeping our campus safe throughout the pandemic. If you miss Bloomsbury, join UCL Security Officer Burke for a virtual stroll.

[Watch video >>](#)



Catch up with UCL Minds' podcast

In the fourth episode of "Coronavirus: The Whole Story", experts from the Institute of Education discuss the long-term impact of lockdown on children's learning.

[Listen online >>](#)



Preparing Year 13 for life at university

UCL's Access and Widening Participation Office has launched UCL Study Prep, a free online course, to help students in Year 13 prepare for university entry in September.

[Find out more >>](#)



UCL Press at three million downloads

The UK's first fully open access university press has reached three million global downloads of its books and journals. You can find these for free on the [UCL Press website](#).

[Read news story >>](#)



Lunch Hour Lectures in virtual debut

Back with a virtual makeover, UCL's Lunch Hour Lectures this month will look to a world beyond COVID-19 and how to care for our mental health in the meantime.

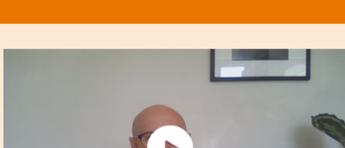
[View online >>](#)

Globally United

Ollie in London: "Take up virtual chess!"

With UCL alumni worldwide reacting to the challenges posed by COVID-19, we continue to receive messages of solidarity and advice as part of our [Globally United video series](#).

This week, [we hear from UCL alum, Master's student and staff member Ollie Day](#).



"I feel really privileged to be part of the UCL community," said Ollie. "We genuinely are at the heart of the response and part of the solution and I think we can all share in that feeling."

If you'd like to share ideas and resources with the UCL community by submitting your own Globally United video, please contact alumni@ucl.ac.uk detailing your professional background, role and response to the coronavirus pandemic.

More UCL alumni news



Take the Alumni Volunteer Survey

If you've given the gift of time to UCL, or you're interested but haven't yet got involved, we want to hear about it. Fill out our short form and be part of building a better volunteering experience for our community.

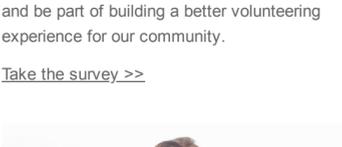
[Take the survey >>](#)



Alumni stories: Rudrani Dasgupta

Having graduated from UCL in 2016, Rudrani Dasgupta is a champion of children's rights and co-founder of the UN-recognised India-Pakistan peace initiative Chai Ki Duukan.

[Read Rudrani's story >>](#)



Digital volunteer blog: Mia Brown

Writing for our blog, digital volunteer Mia Brown explains how she maintains her mental wellbeing in the age of 24 hour news.

[Read Mia's blog >>](#)



Media leaders inspire on campus

In March, alumni Harry Bradbeer (Director, 'Fleabag') and Chantal Rickards (former CEO, BAFTA Los Angeles) returned to UCL for 'A Celebration of Student Media'.

[Here's what we learned >>](#)

While you're here...

We're making exciting changes to our alumni communications and want you to be a part of them. To ensure you continue to hear about UCL news and events, and receive your new, digital Portico magazine, please make sure you [opt in here](#).

Visit the UCL Alumni website: www.ucl.ac.uk/alumni

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