



Careers Event: Speaker Profiles

Dr Curtis Asante

Associate Director of Members' Programmes, Microbiology Society

Curtis is currently the Associate Director of Members' Programmes at the Microbiology Society where he oversees activities that span conferences and events, policy and engagement, and journal development. Curtis's previous roles included stints at Cancer Research UK, where he was a Research Programme Manager for the organisation's Centres and Institutes; and at King's College London as a scientific Project Manager.

Curtis's first role outside of the lab was as an Editor at Nature Communications (Springer Nature), where he focused on neuroscience and the broader biological sciences. Curtis holds a PhD in neuropharmacology from University College London and carried out postdoctoral research in neurophysiology at Columbia University and the City College of New York .



Dr Carla F. Bento

Senior CNS Biologist & Project Lead, Astex Pharmaceuticals

Carla trained as a cellular and molecular biologist, and worked on the role of protein clearance and trafficking mechanisms in diabetes and neurodegeneration during her PhD (University of Coimbra and Univ. of Liverpool) and postdoctoral studies (University of Cambridge).

Carla then joined Astex Pharmaceuticals (Cambridge, UK), a pioneer in fragment-based and structure-guided drug discovery, where she is applying her solid academic background in supporting the discovery of innovative therapeutic solutions for neurodegenerative diseases. She is currently leading a CNS drug discovery project and supporting the New Targets and Exploratory teams.



Prof Martina Callaghan

Professor of MRI Physics, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging

Martina Callaghan is Professor of MRI Physics at the Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging where she is the Deputy Centre Director and Head of Physics. Her research focuses on the development of MRI-based methods for neuroscientific studies. Martina's research group is involved in public engagement activities aimed at explaining MRI to a wider audience with a particular focus on patient groups who attend the Centre.

Martina is a module convenor, lecturer and tutor on the MSc in Advanced Neuroimaging. She is also a mentor on the [In2Research](#) widening participation programme which supports students from disadvantaged backgrounds to progress into postgraduate STEM education.



Dr Arman Eshaghi
Senior Research Fellow, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology

Arman Eshaghi is a Senior Research Fellow in the Queen Square Multiple Sclerosis Center and the Centre for Medical Image Computing. Arman is a doctor from Iran who was awarded a PhD in Computational Neuroscience from UCL in 2018.

He is also co-founder of Queen Square Analytics, a UCL-spin out, that applies AI to clinical trials of multiple sclerosis to help select the right treatment for patients with multiple sclerosis. Arman serves on the Editorial Board of Neurology, which is the most widely read neurology journal in the world.



Dr Zoe Martin
Policy Manager, Cancer Research UK

Zoe Martin is a policy manager at Cancer Research UK, developing the charity's positions on how the Government can support a thriving research environment. This includes the impact COVID-19 on cancer research and medical research charities, the UK-EU relationship on research and the way research is funded in the UK.

Zoe originally studied an undergraduate degree in neuroscience, and has held policy roles at the Royal Society of Chemistry and Royal Society of Biology.



Dr Ione Meyer
Commercialisation Associate, Cambridge Enterprise

Ione is a Commercialisation Associate in the Life Sciences team providing support for the evaluation of new inventions, protection of IP, developing commercial opportunities and licensing technologies arising from the University of Cambridge.

Prior to joining Cambridge Enterprise, Ione worked as a Grant Scheme Manager at the Royal Society where she managed a portfolio of international grants. She has a PhD from UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, which has given her experience of working on translational research. She also has a BSc in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Warwick, and an MSc in Neuroscience from UCL.

