

## Director's view: December 2020



## Message from the Director and Manager



Welcome to the latest edition of the Institute's termly newsletter, which is an update and highlights some of the many excellent activities at the Institute over the past 4 months. There have been many recent significant Institute achievements, some attracting major media attention (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/news>).

It's been nearly a year since the Covid-19 pandemic emerged around the world and made it very challenging for the fantastic work you all deliver in the Institute to continue as normal.

We want to thank every single one of you who is helping us manage this unprecedented crisis and for the incredible innovation and collegiate spirit you have all shown. We have collectively adjusted to a "new normal" way of life, mastered the art of socialising with our friends and loved ones over Zoom, and gradually resumed most of our core work activities.

IoN was part of the UCL pilots for re-opening buildings in June and we have since successfully re-opened all of them throughout the summer, thanks to your help and support. For more information please visit the [Keeping safe on campus](#) pages. There are a range of tools and initiatives available to all staff and students to help you cope during these difficult times, and to support you whilst working remotely.

We have successfully restarted our planning for a new world-leading [Translational Neuroscience Centre](#) ; demolition of the old site on Gray's Inn Road is well

underway. As part of this major capital project, we are developing a number of new initiatives to [improve laboratory support](#) and ways of working.

We would like to invite all of you, particularly early career researchers to get involved with the [Arts Programme](#) for the new building, have your say and leave your mark! Please check out the new [IoN/DRI website](#) for more information, photos and a virtual fly-through of the new building.

We want to make sure that everyone, at all levels of our Institute, has an equal voice, and feels empowered to speak out. We are strongly committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and are proud to announce we have successfully renewed our Athena SWAN Silver Award in July 2020; we are delighted to have recently appointed a brand new Deputy Institute Director, Professor Helene Plun-Favreau who will champion EDI at IoN. [Please visit our new Athena Swan website](#) which celebrates people at the Institute, and incorporates lots of useful resources and initiatives that you can get involved with.

Another strategic priority for the Institute is environmental sustainability. The Institute, as a multiple Green Impact award holder, is taking part in the Christmas switch off in line with UCL sustainability policy. Last year thanks to everyone pledging to switch off, UCL saved enough electricity to run the lights on a Christmas tree for 1,538 years! With your help we can save more carbon and money this Christmas. Please do not forget to [switch-off](#) all non-essential items prior to the UCL Christmas closure. We would also like to invite you all to attend the upcoming IoN Green Day event.

Last but not least, huge congratulations to all of our 2020 [graduates](#)! Graduating from UCL IoN is a major accomplishment, particularly during a challenging year like the one we have just had. You should be proud of this achievement and we hope you enjoy your celebrations!

Thank you to our [Education colleagues](#) for their fantastic support this year. The pandemic has had a major impact on our teaching delivery; we have had to shift our teaching to online delivery, whilst retaining some face to face teaching for our students on campus. We do not under-estimate how much work this has represented for everyone involved.

All of IoN's achievements have been realised by your collective hard work, which is critical in enabling the Institute to continue to be highly successful across its full range of activities. 2021 will bring new opportunities and challenges; you should use the UCL Christmas break for some very well-deserved R&R. We express our gratitude to the outgoing President & Provost Professor Michael Arthur and look forward to welcoming his successor, Dr Michael Spence AC.

Hopefully, with the progressive roll-out of a successful Covid vaccine, we look forward to seeing you again soon, face to face. In the meantime, take care and stay well.

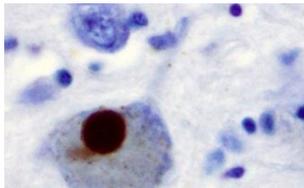
We hope you have an enjoyable break and wish you a happy (and welcome) new year!

Michael & Hélène

## IoN news

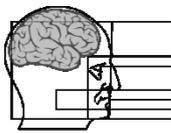
### [Parkinson's disease research at UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology gets £19m boost](#)

Parkinson's disease researchers at UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology are launching three new studies to understand causes and progression of the disease, with the aim of finding new approaches to treatment.



### [International Max Planck Research School COMP2PSYCH renewed for 6 years](#)

We are delighted to announce that Professor Ulman Lindenberger and Professor Ray Dolan have been successful in their bid to renew the International Max Planck Research School on Computational Methods in Psychiatry and Ageing Research for another 6 years (2020 - 2028).



MAX PLANCK UCL CENTRE

International Max Planck Research School

COMP2 PSYCH

### **The Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging successfully renews its funding until December 2023**

We are delighted to announce that the Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging has been renewed with a funding injection of £3.7M.

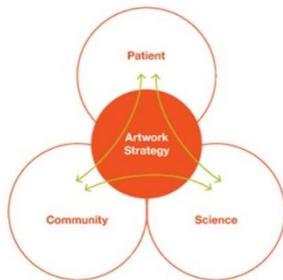


## Faculty leadership visit to Queen Square October 2020



## IoN-DRI programme update

### Public art programme: 'Harmony; Creativity; Welcome; Hope'



Over the next three years, the UCL Culture team will deliver a programme of arts activities for the new facility at Grays Inn Road. The aim is to unify patients, UCL's academic and research communities and the wider communities around the site and to broaden knowledge and awareness of the research the new building will support.

The UCL Culture team have been working for about a year with a Steering Group made up of representatives from IoN, the UK DRI and UCLH.

The team are now looking to reach out further to explore potential opportunities to work with academics and researchers, clinicians, patient groups and wider communities. Please get in touch if you're interested in being involved – details are on the website at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion-dri-programme/public-art-grays-inn-road>

### [Artist to explore hidden history of the site of UCL's new neuroscience facility](#)

Artist Freya Gabie has been appointed to create a series of artworks for UCL's state-of-the-art neuroscience facility currently under construction on Grays Inn Road. The artwork programme at Grays Inn Road, led by UCL Culture, will form a

key part of the site strategy's ambition to unify patients, UCL's academic and research communities and the wider communities around the site.

*'Pavel's Journey' by Freya Gabie.*



*'Romantic Gesture' by Freya Gabie. Franconia Sculpture Park, MN, USA.*

### [UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology develops new initiatives to improve laboratory support](#)

To accompany the construction of the new UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology (IoN) facility at 256 Grays Inn Road, IoN is developing a number of new initiatives to improve laboratory support. Initial work is now underway on clarifying requirements around asset management and cross charging with the aim of reviewing potential software solutions in early 2021.



### [IoN-DRI programme: new website launched](#)

The IoN-DRI programme, which will deliver a new world-class research and treatment environment for UCL neuroscience, has launched [a new website](#). The site provides a platform for programme updates and key information and resources relating to the new facility under construction at Grays Inn Road and the accompanying transformation across IoN.

### [Construction begins at 256 Grays Inn Road](#)

We are delighted to report that UCL has signed a construction contract with global construction specialist ISG to deliver the 17,500m<sup>2</sup> state-of-the-art new building at 256 Grays Inn Road. Drawn up by architects Hawkins\Brown, the building designs were recently shortlisted for the New London Awards 2020, which celebrate projects of the highest design quality that make a positive contribution to their surroundings and life in the capital.



### Education

- [An Open Letter to the Provost and UCL's Teaching Community from Students' Union UCL](#) The Union have published a letter expressing their gratitude to the Academic Community at UCL for their response to the coronavirus pandemic and commitment to delivering teaching and world-class learning opportunities.
- Lectures for term 1 have been delivered online, along with some face to face small group teaching in Queen Square, on the whole this model has worked well.
- Around 100 research projects have been offered, with students encouraged to make contact and arrange projects asap. Many students have secured a project.
- We are working closely with colleagues at UCL to deliver online courses on the use of MATLAB and R for term 2 and term 3.
- UCL shared the new [temporary operating model for Terms 2 and 3](#).
- **Student recruitment and marketing**  
Along with Sarah Lawson and the Faculty marketing team, we are working on updating our study webpages and enquiry/offer holder messaging. We are also working closely with marketing on a student recruitment strategy, which will include a partial scholarship scheme.

### [Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy \(SFHEA\)](#)

Dr Adam Liston has been awarded a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA)



## Teaching Awards 2020

The Education Team are pleased to announce their latest awards:

- **Djamshidian-Chinthapalli award for outstanding contribution to teaching** :  
Winner: Dr Krishna Chinthapalli; Runner-up: Dr Salman Haider
- **Clinical Tutor of the year** : shared between Dr Tabish Saifee, Dr Michael O'Brien and Dr Richard Perry
- **Dr Tony Pullen Lecturer of the Year** : Professor Ed Wild

## Dean's List of top performing students for 2019/20 is announced

Congratulations to the ION students recognised by the Dean

## Virtual graduation 8th December

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2020, we are all immensely proud of you!

In a ceremony unlike any before, ION students and family and friends were invited to join an online ceremony on 8 December 2020. The ceremony was an opportunity to celebrate all of your hard work and achievements.



*"Very proud to read out names of our 81 post graduates from Queen Square Institute of Neurology where degrees were conferred by the Dean! Well done to each and every one of you- now go make a difference in the world - but keep in touch!" Professor Michael Hanna*

Students were invited to capture their fond memories of their time at UCL by adding to the virtual yearbook with Flipgrid.



*"It's a major achievement, especially during the pandemic, to have graduated at this time. Congratulations and good luck for the future!"*

[Upload and view photos, videos and messages.](#)

Keep in touch and share your successes with us so we can celebrate them:

<https://ucl.ac.uk/alumni/services>

## **Congratulations!**

We're pleased to announce the following recent prizes and awards:

### [Dr Peter Kok awarded Wellcome-Beit Prize for Sir Henry Dale Fellowship](#)

We are delighted to announce that Dr Peter Kok (Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology) has been awarded the Wellcome-Beit Prize, which comes with a £25,000 supplement to his Sir Henry Dale Fellowship.



### [Five UCL academics awarded ERC Starting Grants](#)

Five researchers from UCL have received prestigious EU funding for the next five years for projects in economics, archaeology and brain sciences, including two researchers from UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology



### [Three UK DRI researchers awarded prestigious Chan Zuckerberg Initiative award for collaboration](#)

Dr Soyon Hong, Prof Adrian Isaacs, and Dr Tim Bartels all from UK DRI at UCL, have each been awarded a Collaborative Pairs Pilot Projects award by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative as part of a world-wide call.

### [Research team wins award from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease](#)

A team of researchers, including Dr Tim Bartels (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology and UK Dementia Research Institute), received a 'Ken Griffin Alpha-synuclein Imaging Competition' award from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's.

### [Congratulations Dr Pietro Fratta on receiving \*\*2021 Harrington UK Rare Disease Scholar Award\*\*](#)



[UCL academic awarded almost €3.3M by European Research Council](#)

Professor James Rothman is part of a research team which has been awarded close to €11.4M overall by the European Research Council (ERC) to continue ground-breaking research in cell biology.



[Professor Rickie Patani awarded the Graham Bull prize and Goulstonian Lectureship](#)



We are delighted to announce Professor Patani has been awarded the Graham Bull Prize in clinical science and Goulstonian lectureship, a prestigious annual prize awarded by the Royal College of Physicians. Professor Patani will deliver the Goulstonian lecture in 2021.

[Congratulations to Professor Karen Duff \(Centre Director, UK DRI at UCL\) on picking up the 2020 'Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience' award from British Neuroscience Association](#)



Professor Karen Duff is an expert on mechanisms driving Alzheimer's disease and FTD-tau but the insights from her work extend to just about every neurodegenerative disease. Her work on tau pathobiology is highly influential and has contributed to a paradigm shift in opinion on the importance of tau in AD disease pathogenesis, resulting in a focus on tau-based diagnostics and therapeutics that are now in clinical trials.

## Annual Education prizes 2020

Congratulations to the following prize winners who were announced at the Annual Address on 14th December 2020

- Haymon Gorlov Prize: Sophie Newton
- Queen Square Essay Prize : Paul Zeun and Edwin Jabbari
- Hugo James Ross Prize: Huda Shujaa Aldeen

## [IoN academics recognised in annual global list of influential researchers](#)



UCL academics are included in the 'Highly Cited Researchers 2020' list from Clarivate, which recognises authors of the most influential research papers around the world, including several researchers from UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology.

[See more IoN news](#)

## Grants over £500k

### ARUK

- Professor Gipi Schiavo (Department of Neuromuscular Diseases) awarded £1,417,359 for research into 'Alzheimer's Research UK Drug Discovery Institute 2020' from 1st November 2020 for 60 months.

### Ataxia UK

- Professor Paola Giunti (Department of Clinical and Movement Neuroscience) awarded £1,033,858 for research into 'Comprehensive Biomarker Characterisation in Dentatorubral-Pallidoluysian atrophy(CBC-DRPLA)' from 1st October 2020 for 36 months.

### CHDI

- Professor Sarah Tabrizi (Department of Neurodegenerative Disease) awarded £1,574,978 for research into 'Mechanism of the DNA repair response in Huntington's disease pathogenesis' from 1st September 2020 for 36 months

## The Jon Moulton Charity Trust

- Professor Nick Ward (Department of Clinical and Movement Neurosciences) awarded £553,029 for research into 'A randomised clinical trial of a novel immersive gaming platform for the treatment of upper limb dysfunction after stroke' from 1st June 2020 for 60 months.

## Michael J Fox Foundation

- Professor John Hardy (Department of Neurodegenerative Diseases) awarded £5,195,804 for research into 'Dissecting the Mechanisms Underlying Disease Progression' from 1st January 2021 for 36 months
- Professor Anthony Schapira (Department of Clinical and Movement Neurosciences) awarded £6,565,519 for research into 'The genome-microbiome axis in the cause of Parkinson disease: Mechanistic insights and therapeutic implications from experimental models and a genetically stratified patient population' from 1st January 2021 for 36 months.
- Professor Nick Wood ((Department of Clinical and Movement Neurosciences) awarded £5,714,453 for research into 'Mapping the PD brain: Oligomer-driven functional genomics' from 1st January 2021 for 36 months.

## MRC

- Professor Rob Brownstone awarded £801,575 for research into 'Beyond the Basal Ganglia: Spinal Circuit Dysfunction as A Final Pathway for Movement Disorganisation in Tor1a Dystonia' from 1st September 2020 for 36 months.
- Professor Kenneth Harris (Department of Neuromuscular Diseases) awarded £864,514 for research into 'Cellular-resolution in situ transcriptomics of the mouse brain and Alzheimer's disease models' from 1st October 2020 for 36 months.

## UCL Technology Fund

- Dr Gabriele Lignani (Department of Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy) awarded £710,969 for research into 'Activity-dependent-promoter-driven gene therapy for epilepsy Licensing Project' from 1st October 2020 for 24 months.

## Focus: Health, Safety & Lab Operations



## Important reminders about COVID-safety in IoN buildings

- All UCL and IoN buildings keep operating at 25% max occupancy. Exceptions have been made for Cruciform, Royal Free, Queen Square House and 1 Wakefield Street which are running at 50% max occupancy in labs only!
- As per government guidance, anyone who can perform their duties (including desk based) remotely, should not come into work.
- All returning staff must have read the building specific COP or Return to Work Staff Guidance.
- Adhere strictly to the staff guidance, risk control measures, personal hygiene standards and circulation flow around the buildings.
- Wear face coverings when moving around campus and inside buildings.
- Do not use shared kitchen utensils such as microwaves and cutlery.

### Work from Home DSE assessment reminder

Desk-based activities should be carried out from home and staff that can work remotely should continue to do so. Therefore, we must ensure we have appropriate working environments. UCL is asking all staff and postgraduate researchers to complete an online workstation assessment. It doesn't take very long to complete and is designed to reduce the risks of ill-health associated with using display screen equipment (DSE). [Access the assessment](#)

### Training requirements for handling Lab Gases or Liquid Nitrogen

If you are involved with handling lab gases such as CO2 cylinders and connections or filling up LN2 storage vessels you must have completed an online and in-person safety training. More information can be found on the [safety services training web pages](#)

## Focus: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)



### [IoN achieves Silver Athena SWAN award](#)

UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology has received a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of their commitment and progress towards gender equality.

### Taking the Lead Training

ION has rolled out Taking The Lead training 'which enables senior staff to work together to consider their responsibilities in creating and maintaining a positive workplace culture. To date, 99% of all Professors ; 95% PIs and 87% PS Team Managers have attended.

[Major strides towards equality and harnessing the power of diversity at the Institute of Neurology](#)

**EDI Deputy Institute Director**

We're pleased to announce that Professor Helene Plun-Favreau has been appointed as our EDI Deputy Institute Director.



*"I am delighted to be appointed IoN EDI Deputy Director. I will bring all my energy, enthusiasm and determination to build an even more diverse and inclusive community at the IoN, and more generally at UCL"*

**Athena SWAN Project manager**



We are delighted to announce that we appointed Dr Ana De Sousa e Faro, as full-time Athena SWAN Project Manager in summer 2020

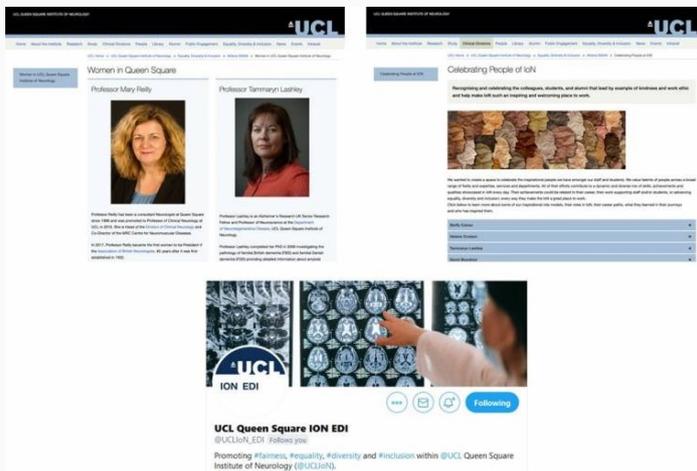
Ana is a Biologist by training, with a PhD in Stem Cell Biology, from the Utrecht University, and a post-doctorate in Developmental Neurobiology from UCL. In her spare time, Ana always had the desire to create a positive social impact, having worked to promote science and critical thinking via the outreach and education of young people and to increase representation of people from diverse backgrounds in STEMM. Currently she volunteers as Impact Report Manager for Native Scientist and as Head of Research for WHEN (Women in Higher Education Network).

*"It was an honor to be offered the possibility of joining IoN as the Athena SWAN Project Manager. I have always been interested in widening opportunities in STEMM and have worked towards increasing diversity in Academia via outreach, advocacy, and policy. I am truly excited about using my skills and expertise to help IoN cultivate a fair, diverse and inclusive community."*

## Athena SWAN website and twitter

Come and visit our new [ION Athena SWAN website](#) – a place to celebrate our diversity and our achievements, including:

- Women in Queen Square: Inspirational female scientists, past and present, who have been fundamental to Queen Square's success.
- Celebrating People of IoN: Colleagues, students, and alumni that lead by example of kindness and work ethic and help make IoN such an inspiring and welcoming workplace.



Follow us on our new [@UCLION\\_EDI](#) on twitter promoting fairness, equality and inclusion within ION

## Athena SWAN Committee

In September, we sent out a call for expression of interest to the Institute to join the Athena SWAN committee, in view of expanding the representation of PhD students and Postdocs on our panel. We are pleased to say that our initiative was a success and many colleagues have reached out to us.

**HELP US TACKLE INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE – ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE AT A TIME...**  
 Looking for new members. **Join us** and make a valuable contribution!

Join one of our 9 Action Groups:

**IoN Athena SWAN mission is to:**

- Tackle all sources of inequality and injustice in Academia.
- Promote equity, diversity and fairness in our workplace.
- Work towards a transparent career progression framework for everyone.
- Work towards a healthy work-life balance and wellbeing for everyone.
- Work towards giving everyone a fair opportunity to reach their full potential at IoN.

**IoN**  
ATHENA SWAN

If you think this could be for you, please contact [a.faro@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.faro@ucl.ac.uk)

## UCL Initiatives

### [New UCL Plan launched to ensure momentum on Equity and Inclusion](#)

UCL's Equity and Inclusion Plan 2020-21 has been launched, with a focus on empowering everyone at UCL to understand how they can contribute to making the institution as socially just as possible within the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

### ['Let's talk about race and racism' campaign](#)

UCL campaign has launched focusing on race education, increasing reporting of racial harassment and developing anti-racist approaches to change

### [UCL Athena SWAN SharePoint](#)

A new UCL Athena SWAN SharePoint has been launched. The site will act as a hub for news, good practice and guidance in completing Athena SWAN applications.

### [Inclusive Advocacy Scheme](#)

UCL are soliciting expressions of interest for the Inclusive Advocacy Scheme. Inclusive Advocacy is a new sponsorship programme designed to ensure high-performing, under-represented groups reach their full potential at UCL.

### [UCL Annual bullying and harassment report published](#)

UCL has published its first annual report into bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct following the launch of Report + Support in February 2019.

### [Launch of new equity and inclusion-focused UCL COVID-19 Career Support Scheme](#)

Funds are available to provide a short-term boost to staff to regain any lost career momentum that has been caused by the pandemic.

## Focus: Careers



### [Recording of ION academic, and research and teaching staff promotions workshop: 4th November 2020](#)

A new info session and workshop on senior-level promotions at IoN, delivered by Deputy Director, Professor Linda Greensmith. Newly promoted ION Professors Selina Wary and Sonia Gandhi shared their insights into successful promotion applications. Aimed at all research/academic staff interested in finding out more about senior promotions (to Grades 9 and 10).

### **IoN ECR and Teaching staff Promotions workshop 30th March 2021, 2-4pm**

What: An info session and workshop on ECR and Teaching staff promotions at IoN, delivered by Prof Helene Plun-Favreau.

Who is it for: This is aimed at all Early Career Research and Teaching staff interested in finding out more about promotions (to Grades 7 and 8). It is NOT just for those planning to go for promotion this round. Also suitable for those managing/mentoring ECRs and Teaching staff.

### [Wellcome centre launches new mentorship programme with In2science](#)

The Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging (WCHN) embarks on a new partnership with In2science, launching its pilot mentorship programme for PhD students.

## Focus: Wellbeing

The current situation with regards to Covid-19 is understandably stressful and upsetting for many of us, as our attention is drawn to our own physical health, and that of those around us, it is also important to remember to care for our mental health and wellbeing at this time. Self-isolation and quarantine can also have a significant impact on our mental health.

Resources to support you through self-isolation and home working

- [Working from home - tools and best practice](#)
- [Remote, not Distant at UCL](#)
- [You are not Alone](#)

### **ION yoga: online sessions**



ION continue to organise online yoga sessions. Please see [IoN Intranet wellbeing pages](#) for further information.

IoN wellbeing champions: Jacky Bauer, Linda Taib



- If you're doing something that you'd like to share, we want to hear about it!
- IoN wellbeing [Teams](#) is a space to chat with colleagues, take a break and share tips and photographs, including Pets Corner.
- or write to Sandra Porteous [s.porteous@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.porteous@ucl.ac.uk) or tweet and tag us @UCLIoN

Please keep an eye on [IoN Intranet wellbeing pages](#) for updates, as well as the list of resources from [UCL Health and Wellbeing Human Resources](#) including the [Your Wellbeing survey](#)

### Focus: Sustainability



### IoN sustainability pledges achieved 2019-20

- All of our events will now be vegetarian catering and we avoid plastic water bottles
- Achieve Green Impact Silver Office Award
- Organise an IoN green day
- Co-ordinate an IoN wide LEAF group
- Make waste and sustainability part of the IoN Labs induction
- Set up a Lab equipment repair service for IoN buildings
- [Christmas switch off](#) : As in previous years, the Institute pledges to switch off for Christmas!



## [IoN Green Day Symposium](#)

We are very pleased to let you know that the Institute has organised an ION Green Day Symposium on 25th January 2021, which will be held via Zoom.

### [Programme](#)

Please RSVP to [gsioneventsrsvp@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:gsioneventsrsvp@ucl.ac.uk)

## **Office Green Impact**

Welcome to the new Green Office reps, who are listed on the IoN [intranet](#). The [office workbook has been launched](#), for submission in May 2021. Please contact [sarah.lawson@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.lawson@ucl.ac.uk) if you would like to join the ION Green Office team.

- [Top tips for working sustainably remotely](#) including [blurring your background when using UCL's videoconferencing facilities](#)

## **Lab sustainability team**

An IoN Lab sustainability team which will be working on the 2020/21 LEAF submissions is currently being established. If you are interested in helping to make IoN labs greener please get in touch with Steffy Czieso [s.czieso@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.czieso@ucl.ac.uk). Further information on ION activities is on the [IoN website](#) and intranet

## **Sustainability at UCL**

- [UCL Living Labs projects](#)
- [Join UCL's Bike Buddy scheme to connect with experienced cyclists](#)
- [Offset your travel by planting trees in UCL's very own grove](#)

## [UCL's new #Climate Hub is now live!](#)

At UCL we know that we can't address the climate emergency with a single idea. That is why we bring together diverse perspectives to face humanity's greatest challenge. Learn more: [www.ucl.ac.uk/climate-change/](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/climate-change/)

## **IoN intranet**



Remember to check the [IoN intranet](#) regularly for further information on everything you need to know about working at the Institute: feedback is always welcome!

## **New Starters and staffing news**

Welcome to staff who joined ION in the past 3 months.

Miss Jen Yin Goh; Dr Matthew Keuss; Dr Mireia Carcole; Miss Jemima Phillips; Dr Christopher Record; Mr Peter Murkin; Dr Agostinho Lemos; Dr Lisa Clayton; Dr Michael Foster; Dr Kiran Samra; Dr Ashvini Keshavan; Mr Debayan Dasgupta; Dr Sanjay Cheema; Dr Pegah Khosropanah; Miss Arabella Bouzigues; Dr Ravishankara; Miss Anne Ritoux; Dr Hanyuying Wang; Ms Alice Gennari; Dr John Baker; Miss Elizabeth Chesterman; Dr Rohan Bhome; Dr Alexander Cammack; Ms Cristina Gonzalez Robles; Miss Fatumah Jama; Miss Lucy Job; Miss Monica Emili Garcia Segura; Miss Clarissa Rocca; Dr Duncan Alston; Miss Amber Wallis; Miss Giorgia Milotta

### **Academic retirements**

Professor John Rothwell

We wish our colleagues who have recently left IoN all the very best for the future.

### **Robert Balazs**

*With great sadness we would like to let you know that, after a short illness, Robert Balazs passed away on 23rd October 2020.*

*Robert came to the UK from Hungary as a refugee in 1956. He was appointed as the head of the MRC Developmental Neurobiology Unit based at the ION in 1975 and worked here till his retirement in 1987. Retirement only meant a change in scenery for Robert as he continued to be active in neuroscience, first as a senior scientist at the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research followed by a Research Professorship at the University of California, Irvine till 2005 when he returned to UCL. Despite his advanced age, Robert remained active up until January this year. Robert was liked by everybody who knew him. He was a very kind person, he helped everybody who approached him for advice. And in these days where intolerance is in fashion again in both his native and adopted countries, Robert was always tolerant and happy to see young scientists wherever they were from and share his passion for knowledge. Robert will be sadly missed.*

John Hardy and Tamas Revesz

[A Life in Neuroscience – Symposium for Robert Balazs](#)

### **Out for cocktails with three of our new Professors, Selina Wray, Ed Wild and Sonia Gandhi**

Photo credit: Professor Jonathan Schott



- Arman Eshaghi will be joining the Editorial Board of Neurology in 2021
- Professor Tarek Yousry is the Vice-President of the ESNR for 2 years to become the President thereafter.

### Christmas collection instead of IoN parties/secret Santa

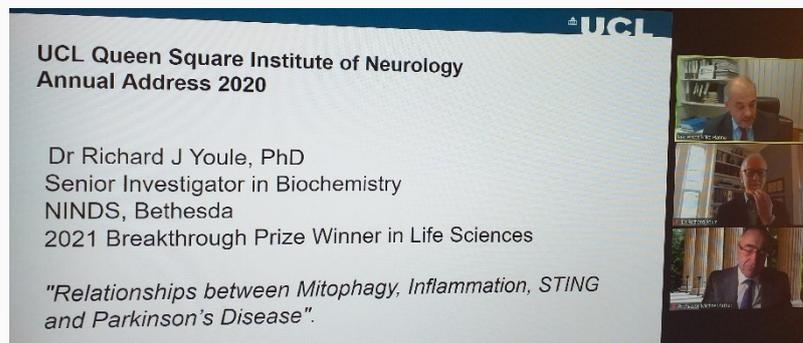


Selina Wray has initiated an IoN fundraising for The Trussell Trust this year, in lieu of our usual lab secret Santa/ Department parties. Suggested donation of £5.

[Feel free to contribute!](#)

### **Recent Queen Square events**

#### [2020 UCL Institute of Neurology Annual address 14th December 2020](#)



UCL

UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology  
Annual Address 2020

Dr Richard J Youle, PhD  
Senior Investigator in Biochemistry  
NINDS, Bethesda  
2021 Breakthrough Prize Winner in Life Sciences

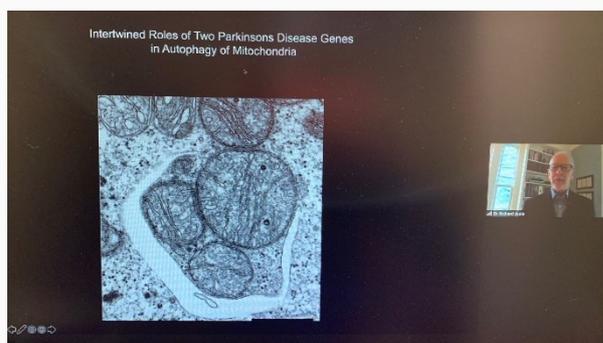
*"Relationships between Mitophagy, Inflammation, STING and Parkinson's Disease".*

This year's annual address, was joined by 275 virtual attendees, and began with a review of the past year's successes presented by Professor Michael Hanna, Director of UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology. Professor Hanna showcased wide-ranging examples of IoN's research impact, grants, awards and appointments, and new ION initiatives, and then presented the [Annual Education Awards 2020](#)

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We were delighted to welcome as the guest speaker the 2021 Breakthrough prize winner (\$3m) in Life Sciences, Dr Richard J Youle, Senior Investigator in Biochemistry NINDS, Bethesda, USA, who gave a presentation entitled "Relationships between Mitophagy, Inflammation, STING and Parkinson's Disease"



Dr Youle won his prestigious prize for his ground-breaking work on elucidating a quality control pathway that clears damaged mitochondria and protects against Parkinson's Disease.

The event closed with a vote of thanks by UCL President and Provost Professor Michael Arthur.



### [2020 UCL World Stroke Day Forum transformed entirely online](#)

This year in response to COVID-19 the UCL World Stroke Day Forum transitioned into an online format, with a range of talks, live Q&As, workshops and informal

events hosted by UCL researchers and charities.



### [Queen Square Symposium: 10th September 2020](#)

The Symposium is organised by the Queen Square Committee and brings together MSc and PhD students across diverse neuroscience domains, including clinical, cognitive and computational fields. The virtual symposium featured key note talks as part of a day-long event commencing with poster sessions in the morning, and talks by students and renowned UCL neuroscientists in the afternoon. Guest speakers included: Professors Karl Friston, John Hardy, Gipi Schiavo and Sarah Tabrizi.

### [Queen Square Brain Bank \(QSBB\) Virtual work experience event July 2020](#)

A virtual work experience event for GCSE and A level students interested in Neuroscience provided by Queen Square Brain Bank on 20th July 2020. We had over 300 attendees from all around the country and even some international students. This meant that we reached a far wider network than we would have, extending possibilities for many students.



### **Upcoming Queen Square events**

#### [IoN Green Day Symposium](#)

**25th January 2021, 3-5pm**

We are very pleased to let you know that the Institute has organised an ION Green Day Symposium on 25th January 2021, which will be held via Zoom.

 [Programme](#)

Please RSVP to [qsioneventsrsvp@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:qsioneventsrsvp@ucl.ac.uk)

### **Queen Square Inaugural Lectures 2021**

We are delighted to announce our inaugural lecture series 2021.

- First lecture at 5pm and the second at 6pm.
- Lectures will take place via Zoom.

- Please RSVP to [gsioneventsrsvp@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:gsioneventsrsvp@ucl.ac.uk)

### 9th March 2021

- Professor Rickie Patani (Dept. of Neuromuscular Diseases);
- Professor Rohan de Silva (Dept. of Clinical and Movement Neurosciences).

### 25 May 2021

- Professor Antonella Spinazzola (Dept. of Clinical and Movement Neurosciences);
- Professor Rosaline Quinlivan (Dept. of Neuromuscular Diseases).

### 29 June 2021

- Professor Helene Plun-Favreau (Dept. of Neurodegenerative Diseases);
- Professor Pietro Fratta (Dept of Neuromuscular Diseases).

Please check [www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/events](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/events) and [@UCLIoN](https://twitter.com/UCLIoN) for updates

## UCL wide announcements

### [GDPR Online training annual refresher course \(Mandatory for all returning staff, contractors and PhD students\)](#)

This page provides UCL staff and students with details on how to access UCLs GDPR Online annual training refresher course , the refresher should be completed by all staff students and contractors who previously completed the above UCL All Staff data protection training.

### [The UCL Office for Open Science/Scholarship](#)

The start of the academic year sees the launch of the new UCL Office for Open Science/Scholarship. The Office is headed by Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost for UCL Library Services and Open Science and Scholarship.

### [Revised REF code of practice published](#)

Incorporating COVID-19 Updates.

### [UCL Bibliometrics Policy launched](#)

In early 2020, UCL's academic committee approved a policy on the responsible use of bibliometrics at UCL, which [outlines eleven key principles](#). [These webpages](#) were developed to introduce the policy, including an introductory video and take our short introductory moodle.

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## UCL COVID-19 support and resources

### [UCL Connect to Protect reporting tool](#)

UCL has launched an online reporting tool for staff and students to notify us if you think you may have coronavirus – and a [step-by-step guide](#) on how to report or respond to potential cases.

- **UCL's coronavirus information hub**, including: [FAQs for UCL staff](#) and [UCL students](#)
- The [Keeping Safe on Campus](#) webpages provide information about what we're doing to protect our staff and students and how you can help keep campus as safe as possible.
- **Please see also IoN wellbeing and H&S sections above.**

## Research



### COVID-19 research

#### [COVID-19 linked to worse stroke outcomes](#)

People who experience strokes while infected with COVID-19 appear to be left with greater disability after the stroke, according to a study led by UCL and UCLH researchers

#### [Quarter of Covid victims in England and Wales have dementia](#)

People with dementia account for 25% of Covid-related deaths in England and Wales, and form the large majority of linked care home deaths globally, finds a cross-country report co-led by UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology and UCL Psychiatry academics.

#### ['Brain fog' emerging symptom following Covid-19 infection](#)

Up to 20% of coronavirus sufferers could be experiencing cognitive problems, such as difficulty thinking clearly or concentrating, as a long-term symptom of the virus, says Professor Michael Zandi.

See also [IoN media coverage](#)

#### [Ep 17 of Coronavirus The Whole Story: what's happening to healthcare during the pandemic?](#)

Professor Nick Ward talks to Vivienne Parry about neurorehab for stroke and brain injury during the pandemic - including our work with [NeuroRehabilitation OnLine](#) (N-ROL) at Queen Square helping to provide virtual neurorehabilitation for our patients who are missing out because of COVID-19.

#### [Spotlight on Nick Ward](#)

Nick talks about his work with recovering brain injury patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Covid-19 vaccine trialled in healthy volunteers](#)

A UCL supported trial, which is testing the Covid-19 vaccine candidate developed by Imperial College London, is now recruiting members of the public at UCLH. Professor Vincenzo Libri (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology and Director of the NIHR UCLH Clinical Research Facility) is leading efforts for the trial at UCLH, which is one of the study sites, supported by his teams at UCLH and UCL.

See also [COVID-19 research at UCL](#)



[Email to give your feedback on IoN newsletter](#)

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