Director's view: July 2023

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 3 months, some attracting major media attention (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/news).

This has been another busy term as our plans for a new IoN/DRI Translational Neuroscience Centre at Gray’s Inn Road and Dual-Hub are progressing well; The Topping Out Ceremony was held on the 11th May, with over 100 major stakeholders in attendance. The hour-long ceremony included speeches from key partners including President & Provost Dr Michael Spence; a panel discussion hosted by Deputy Director Professor Selina Wray focused on innovation and collaboration in the building. We wanted to express our huge thanks to Selina Wray for her leadership in the organisation of the Topping Out Ceremony, and to Deputy Director Professor Gipi Schiavo for his leadership on the ongoing planning for the Core Technology Platforms and ongoing input into the planning for the new building at GIR. We also recently hosted a building tour for our Professional Services team Leads, Lab Managers and DAs, which provided a glimpse of what their new home will look like once completed; touring all 6 floors of the building also contributed to our stepcount and wellbeing!

Speaking of wellbeing, thank you to our Wellbeing champions for putting together a fantastic programme for Mental Health week in May.
We wish to offer our congratulations on the 2022/23 successful ECR and Academic, Teaching, Research promotions. The success of our staff represents the huge amount of talent and commitment they share. Successful promotion at UCL is a major achievement, years in the making. Please scroll down for further details about the promotions process, Academic Careers Framework, Academic Promotions and Early Career promotions (grades 7 & 8).

We have celebrated our new graduates at the UCL Graduation ceremonies: Congratulations to all our Queen Square graduates, this is a huge achievement. Thank you also to the staff who contributed to the graduation ceremonies and made it such an enjoyable event for our students and their guests. We were very sad to say goodbye to David Blundred IoN Education Manager, after significantly contributing to shaping our Education portfolio at IoN over the past 15 years. We're delighted to announce that Alex Addo will be returning to Queen Square as IoN Education Manager in September 2023 and want to express our gratitude to Masuda Khanom for acting up in the interim.

We have continued to pursue our environmental sustainability and EDI strategies, which are top priorities for the Institute; Deputy Director Professor Sanjay Sisodiya hosted a highly successful Hot Brain conference on May 18th 2023. Once again this year we have prominently figured in the UCL Sustainability Awards 2023 huge thanks and congratulations to all.

Please take a look at our newly published 2022/23 EDI report, which outlines all the major activities ongoing in EDI at IoN under the fantastic leadership of Deputy Director Professor Hélène Plun-Favreau and our IoN EDI Committee, all impeccably managed by our EDI Manager Dimitrios Zachos.

We also recently launched our Translation & Enterprise webpages, thanks to our Senior Translational Research Manager Eleonora Lugara and Deputy Director Professor Dimitri Kullmann, and which includes a lot of useful information to support you in your research.

Lastly, we offer our congratulations to Professor Siddharthan Chandran, a world-leading expert in neurodegenerative diseases, who will become the new Director of the UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI), based at UCL, from 1 October 2023.

We were very pleased to see so many of you at our Institute summer drinks at the October Gallery. Thank you all for your hard work and fantastic achievements over this past academic year. We encourage you all to take a well-deserved break this summer, have some fun, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Michael & Hélène

ION news

First ‘gene silencing’ drug for Alzheimer’s disease shows promise
A world-first trial at UCL and UCLH has found a new genetic therapy for Alzheimer’s disease that is able to safely and successfully lower levels of the harmful tau protein known to cause the disease.
Imaging Neuroscience awarded funding to discover how the brain allows us to live our lives
Wellcome funding has been awarded to establish The Discovery Research Platform for Naturalistic Neuroimaging at UCL.

World first trial for patients with progressive MS launches in the UK
The first patients have been recruited for a revolutionary trial, led by UCL researchers, that will transform the way that treatments are tested for progressive multiple sclerosis (MS).
Professor Siddharthan Chandran appointed new Director of the UK Dementia Research Institute

Professor Siddharthan Chandran, a world-leading expert in neurodegenerative diseases, will become the new Director of the UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI), based at UCL, from 1 October 2023.

Senior academic and early career 2022-23 staff promotions

Huge congratulations to the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology staff who have been awarded a promotion in this year’s promotions round. The following promotions are effective from 1st October 2023.

Professors

- Dr Beate Diehl (Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy, Professor of Neurophysiology applied to Epilepsy)
- Dr Gabriele Lignani (Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy, Professor of Translational Neuroscience)
• Dr Robert Pitceathly (Neuromuscular Diseases, Professor of Clinical Neurology and Mitochondrial Medicine)
• Dr Rimona Weil (Neurodegenerative Disease, Professor of Neurology)

Professorial Research Fellow
• Dr Declan Chard (Neuroinflammation)

Principal Research Fellows
• Dr Robert Wykes (Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy)
• Dr Keir Yong (Neurodegenerative Disease)
• Dr Arman Eshaghi (Neuroinflammation)
• Dr James Sleigh (Neuromuscular Diseases)

Associate Professors (Teaching)
• Dr Afm Islam (IoN Central Administration)

Professor (Teaching)
• Dr Tim Young (IoN Central Administration)

Principal Research Fellows
• Dr Robert Wykes (Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy)

Senior Research Fellows
• Stefano Benvegnu
• Jenna Carpenter
• Viorica Chelban
• Micol Falabella
• Emma Harding
• Samuel Harris
• Olga Kopach
• Suran Nethisinghe
• Aitana Sogorb Esteve
• Christina Toomey

Research Fellows
• Naomi Hannaway
• Jemima Phillips
• Rebecca Street
• Claire Waddington
• Olivia Wood

ION-DRI update

‘Topping out’ ceremony held for new centre of excellence for UCL Neuroscience
UCL’s new world-class neuroscience building has reached its highest point in construction, which was celebrated with a ‘topping out’ ceremony on 11th May.

**Topping Out Virtual Ceremony**
If you missed the event, catch up now. The hour-long ceremony includes speeches from key partners including President & Provost Dr Michael Spence; a panel discussion hosted by Prof Selina Wray focused on innovation and collaboration in the building, and the rooftop ceremony. [Watch the ceremony here](#)

**Event Photographs**
Image gallery, including photos of the science fair, showcasing the amazing research already happening across our institutes, rooftop ceremony, speeches and more.

**On site with...**
We invited a group of researchers, scientists and clinical staff to Grays Inn Road to see progress on site for themselves and capture it on film. Gipi Schiavo and Selina Wray, alongside researchers and NHS staff looked around the outpatient areas, MRI suite, as well as taking in the view from the third floor roof terrace. [Read more about the visit](#)

Ahead of Topping Out, UCL Estates lead Martin Treacy took researchers, scientists and clinical staff for a sneak preview. Dr Tatiana Alvarez Giovannucci, Prof Selina Wray, Chiara Panzi, Prof Gipi Schiavo, Sam Crawford and Joe Hamilton joined NHS staff Sylvia Etabag and Jessica Marr on a sunny day in April to see the spaces for themselves [Watch our film here](#)

**Dr Nic Cade and the team behind the Cell Imaging and Microscopy core technology platform** took a trip to the basement areas on site to see their future dedicated imaging rooms "The space and layout in the rooms will make it a lot easier to optimise the performance of the most demanding systems and allow users to do their imaging more..."
effectively and efficiently."

IoN PS team members visit the inside of the new IoN/DRI GIR building on 10th July

Meet the Team...
Dr Hélène Crutzen, Institute Manager at ION has worked on the ION-DRI programme for eight years. She tells us about the huge opportunity for us to do things differently, creating a sense of community and looking forward to a coffee on the new third-floor roof terrace!

Progress on site at 256 Grays Inn Road
Progress on site continues well. The metal-framed cladding system and installation of windows and glass is being installed on site and internally the teams are working hard on the ‘first fix’ – including installing electrical cables, pipework for water and heating and ventilation services.

Time Lapse
From ground-breaking and demolition works to reaching 25 metres above ground, we’ve put together a time-lapse video of construction progress so far.
See the monthly newsletter for the project, **The ION-DRI Dispatch** for regular updates on the work happening behind the scenes.
Artists-on screen
Our on-site artist studios were alive with collaboration and creativity as we opened them to showcase some of the brilliant work that is happening. Find out more about the public art programme, including hearing from ION and UK DRI researchers about Arbor - our knowledge-exchange programme, between researchers, artists and communities with lived experience of neurodegenerative diseases.

Take Part
We're looking for people with early-stage dementia and their carers who would like to take part in Cally Smell Club - a series of workshops from 7 May at Calthorpe Community Garden based on smell and its personal and cultural associations.
If you're working with people who might be interested in this opportunity, please do spread the word.

Here be Dragons public art workshop

Resident artist Annie Cattrell hosted 'Here be Dragons' - an on-site staff workshop, exploring how to imaginatively ‘navigate’ into unknown creative and conceptual territories.
During the workshop, participants drew, wrote and used casting techniques to explore these ideas, taking wonderful and meaningful creative risks!
Everything is Connected - a highly visible sculptural artwork, set on the corner of the new building, gilded in 24-carat gold, is based on ideas of dendritic growth formations and seismic change, inspired by the magnitude of the neurological research and clinical treatments that will take place in the centre.

Congratulations!

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

UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology academics elected to Academy of Medical Sciences
Professors Olga Ciccarelli, Henry Houlden, and Ley Sander have been elected Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the advancement of biomedical and health science, pioneering research and translating developments into benefits.

Professor Sarah Tabrizi’s MRC Millennium Medal Lecture A recording of Professor Tabrizi’s recent Medical Research Council (MRC) Millennium Medal lecture is now available to view.
**Professor Sarah Tabrizi receives the 2023 Arvid Carlsson Award** We are pleased to announce that Professor Sarah Tabrizi has received the 2023 Arvid Carlsson Award.

**Professor Schapira elected to the Academia Europaea** We're delighted to announce that Professor Schapira has been elected to Academia Europaea.

Professor Jonathan Schott who has been **awarded the 2023 Bill Thies Award** for Distinguished Service to the Alzheimer's Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment.

**Professor Tobias Hauser receives 2024 FENS EJN Young Investigator Prize**
The awards recognise excellent scientific work in any area of neuroscience and outstanding contributions to neuroscience by early career researchers.
Professor Sir John Hardy ranked 21 in world ranking and 4 in United Kingdom ranking in the 2023 Edition of Research.com Ranking of Best Scientists in the field of Genetics. He has also been recognized with their Genetics Leader Award for 2023.

Congratulations to Ariel Sereda (PhD student) on being a finalist in the London Mayor’s Entrepreneur Competition.

Dr Amy Richardson has been awarded an Emerging Leader Fellowship in 2023 ERUK Research Awards to investigate a groundbreaking new gene therapy to target seizures and cognitive comorbidities.

Lisa Tedesco Triccas receiving a Young Scientist Award and Mireia Coll Omaña a Best Poster Award at NNR congress 2023.
Sanjay Budhdeo awarded The Charlotte and Yule Bogue Research Fellowship in honour of Sir Charles Lovatt Evans and A.J. Clark to visit the Broad Institute of Havard and MIT under the supervision of Dr Anthony Philippakis in September 2023. Sanjay has also been awarded an Alan Turing Institute PhD Enrichment Placement Award starting in October 2023.

UCL PhD student and ICGNMD team member Natalia Dominik receiving her Richard and Mary Bunge Prize at the Peripheral Nerve Society meeting in Copenhagen.
Dr Melissa Salazar won a poster prize at the ARUK London Network Centre Science Day today.

Immy Swift won the UCL Three Minute Thesis competition, presenting on her research into frontotemporal dementia.
Congratulations to Viorica Chelban for her Early Career Award nomination at ESHG 2023

Congratulations to the 3rd round recipients of UK DRI Translation Awards, including Prof Adrian Isaacs, Group Leader (UK DRI at UCL) Project title: A high-throughput small molecule screen in iPSC-neurons for modulators of toxic ALS proteins.
We're delighted to announce the latest awardees of UK DRI Pilot Studies programme - including Dr Martha Foiani, *Investigating tau-dependent mechanical stress in the brain* and Dr Stephanie Fowler, *Is mitochondrial dysfunction in Alzheimer’s disease associated with mis-localised tau on or within cellular mitochondria?*

**Grants over £500k**

**CHDI Foundation Inc**

- Professor Ed Wild (Dept of Neurodegenerative Disease) awarded £884,076 for research into 'HD Clarity Study' starting 1 May 2023 for 24 months

**Max Planck Institute for Human Development**

- Professor Ray Dolan, (Dept. of Imaging Neuroscience) awarded £614,173 to continue research into IMPRS COMP2PSYCH 01 Oct 2022 to 30 Sep 2028

**Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research**

- Professor Sonia Gandhi (Dept. of Clinical and Movement Neurosciences) awarded £567,198 for research into 'Defining mechanisms in neurons and oligodendrocytes that drive progression in Parkinson’s’ starting date 16 January 2023 for 24 months Clinical and Movement Neurosciences).

**MRC**

- Professor Huw Morris (Dept. of Clinical and Movement Neurosciences) awarded £1,336,135 awarded for research into ‘Early assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of Parkinson's Plus Related Syndromes’ (ExPRESS) starting 1 June 2023 for 60 months.
- Professor Bart de Strooper (UK DRI) awarded £5,170,119 for research into 'The Mechanisms of the cellular phase of Alzheimer’s disease’ starting 1 June 2023 for 58 months.
- Dr Peter Zeidman (Dept of Imaging Neuroscience) awarded £1,174,003 for research into ‘Physiology of cognitive changes in ageing and dementia’ starting 1 September 2023 for 60 months.
• Professor Sarah Tabrizi (Dept of Neurodegenerative Disease) awarded £624,622 for research into ‘TransNAT (Transforming delivery, safety and efficacy of nucleic acid therapeutics: from intracellular uptake to targeting brain and muscle’ starting 1 November 2022 for 36 months.

RegUp NewCo, Inc.

• Professor Pietro Fratta (Dept. of Neuromuscular Diseases) awarded £962,716 for research into ‘UNC13A cryptic splicing: a novel target for sporadic ALS and FTLD-TDP’ starting 24th April for 24 months.

See more IoN news

Focus: Education

Firstly we were very sad to say goodbye to David Blundred after 15 years at ION. Education Team, DAs and team managers enjoyed a send-off in Ciao Bella!

We're delighted that Alex Addo will be returning to Queen Square as ION Education Manager in September 2023.

The Education team have begun preparation for the new academic year with planning of induction and offer holder events. We have a record number of applications for 2023/24 with over 350 offers made across all PGT programmes and over 220 offers already accepted! This includes welcoming our first undergraduate cohort for the iBSc Clinical Neurology and Brain Sciences.
We would like to highlight the work of student representatives Elise Zeinstra and Eleanor Swanson-Scott who have been working with the Education Team and Prof Alex Leff to create a hoodie for all master's students finishing their degree at Queen Square this year. Students will be working on a design (as per UCL guidelines) and we look forward to sharing this with everyone in the next newsletter!

We would also like to thank MSc Students Juman Isstaif, Mollie Huggins and Milica Doric for their hard work and contributions in creating a guide for future students on the student honorary contract process. It will be a valuable resource for all students next year and will ensure the process works smoothly and efficiently.

MSc-CNS team member, Dr. Sarah Aldous, Research Associate, UCL Huntington’s Disease Centre, Department of Neurodegenerative Disease, was successful in her application to become: Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA).

**UCL celebrates 2023 graduates**

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2023, we are all immensely proud of you! ION students and family and friends were invited to join the ceremonies on 14th July 2022. The ceremony was an opportunity to celebrate all of your hard work and achievements, and students were invited to capture their fond memories from their time at UCL.

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**UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology PhD Careers Event**

This event was a great opportunity to learn from Career experts and individuals, including Professor Fiona Ducotterd; Dr Aoife Kiely; Dr Elodie Chabrol and Dr Sophie Williams

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“Pathways to a PhD”
Following a previous successful session on “Pathways to a PhD” in November 2022, the IoN hosted a further session on Thursday 13 July 2023 to support the career progression of IoN PGT students and Research Assistants/Technicians.

There was a panel discussion which explained the different routes to obtain a PhD at the IoN and shared PhD student experiences.

PhD Away Day
The IoN hosted its first ever PhD Away Day on Wednesday 26 July 2023 for first year PhD students!

They went on a day trip to Hastings to explore the Castle, the pier and most importantly, interact with each other.
New UCL PPE standard
The UCL Work Health and Safety Committee has approved and introduced a new UCL Standard for wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in wet labs. This Standard is making the use of PPE including lab coats and eye protection mandatory in wet labs for all UCL Staff, Students and Visitors. All IoN Staff, Students and Visitors should ensure that this standard is followed at all times when entering a wet lab area. More details can be found on the UCL link: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) within Wet Laboratories Standard

Updated IoN Emergency Plan
The plan is designed to be used by Staff, Managers and the Major Incident Team to enable the Institute to respond to ‘common’ emergency scenarios such as flooding, fire, power cuts or chemical spills. An updated version of the plan was circulated amongst departments and published on the IoN Intranet H&S pages.

Reminder Departure Checklist
All departments are reminded that staff leaving IoN must complete the IoN Staff Departure Checklist. This is to facilitate an orderly handover of work material (such as samples) and responsibilities and will help to improve safety and sustainability standards at IoN.

Focus: Translational Research, Advanced Therapeutics and Enterprise
Advanced Treatment and Therapy Centres Translational research webinars

UCL Therapeutic Innovations Networks (TINs) | UCL Therapeutic Innovation Networks
The recognised UCL Therapeutic Innovation Networks (TINs) are: Biologics, Cell & Gene Therapies, Devices & Diagnostics, Regenerative Medicines, Repurposing and Small Molecules. Explore the TINs to see how we can help with getting your therapeutic intervention to the clinic and learn about the success stories to come out of such collaborative work.
Keep updated via the Translational Research, Advanced Therapeutics and Enterprise pages on the ION website

Knowledge Transfer Partnership programme
Through the Knowledge Transfer Partnership programme, UCL academics can work with a UK-based business, charity, or public sector organisation on a strategic innovation project. A KTP provides funding and support for UCL academics of all disciplines to collaborate with organisations to employ a high-calibre associate to solve a significant business challenge. Together you’ll work for one to three years on developing a new product, process, service, or efficiency saving.

Cost of a KTP
KTPs typically cost around £100,000 to £120,000 a year at UCL. Innovate UK will fund a substantial part of these costs:
- 50% for a large company (more than 250 employees), or some public sector organisations
- 67% for a small to medium size enterprise (SME)
- 75% for a non-profit
The partner organisation will then fund the remaining percentage.

Funding rounds open throughout the year, approximately every two months. Exact dates are listed on the UKRI website.

KTPs will fund:
- Associate employment costs (100% FEC)
- At least two academics’ time to contribute to the project, totalling 10% of their week (100% FEC)
- Associate development activates - £2,000 per year
- Travel and subsistence - £1,250 per year
- Consumable costs - £2,000 per year. You can exceed this but you must justify your request

Next Steps
To find out more, discuss a potential project and start your application, email ktp@ucl.ac.uk or fill in an expression of interest form.
More information can be found at the UCL academics web page, UCL’s KTPs for business web page, or the Innovate UK KTP web page.

Gene Therapy Accelerator Centre
**Dr Joanne Ng** is delighted to join GTAC led by Professor Francesco Muntoni, to support translational adeno-associated viral (AAV) gene therapy research at IoN. Jo comes from a clinical background training in paediatric neurology at Great Ormond Street Hospital with an interest in movement disorders and childhood parkinsonism.

Jo was awarded MRC Clinical Research training fellowship for her PhD in Gene therapy for Dopamine Transporter Deficiency Syndrome (DTDS) supervised by Professors Manju Kurian and Simon Waddington at Institute of Child Health and Institute for Women’s Health.

Her proof of concept study won the British Society for Gene and Cell Therapy Fairbairn Award and Otto Wolff Translational Neuroscience Prize. Follow-on studies have enabled DTDS gene therapy to receive Orphan Drug Designation in EU and USA and progress to scale up manufacture in 2023. DTDS gene therapy will move to clinical trial at GOSH led by Professor Kurian in 2024.

Jo continues to develop translational AAV gene therapies for genetic neurological disorders and was recently awarded LifeArc Philanthrophic Fund to develop gene therapy for infantile parkinsonism. Jo is excited to bring this project to IoN and looks forward to her new role in GTAC to support researchers interested in translational AAV research. She will be available on a monthly basis to discuss AAV projects with interested researchers in IoN to support queries from capsid selection, construct design, vector production to in vivo experimental design.

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**Dr Sara Aguti** is a molecular biologist with a profound interest in the development of RNA therapies to address unmet clinical needs. Sara holds a European PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Florence (Italy) and University College London. With over four years of postdoctoral experience at UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, under the guidance of Professor Muntoni and Dr Haiyan Zhou, and one year at MINA therapeutics, Sara has acquired extensive expertise in RNA therapies, particularly in antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) therapy.

During her post-doc she developed an ASO therapy for collagen VI related congenital muscular dystrophy, a rare disorder for which a cure is currently unavailable. Her work has generated several awards, including travel grants to present her research at national and international conferences, the WMS poster prize and the Dubowitz Prize in 2020. Additionally, she has filed three patents and received support from organizations like BRC, TIN, MDUK, and LifeArc for her translational research.
Currently, Sara’s primary focus revolves around the development of ASO-peptide targeted delivery methods in various cells and tissues to overcome the challenges associated with ASO in vivo delivery.

She is thrilled to have joined GTAC led by Professor Francesco Muntoni to support RNA therapy development for neurological and neuromuscular disorders at IoN. She will be available on a monthly basis to support ASO research at IoN. Her specific contributions include providing assistance in designing and chemically optimizing ASO sequences, optimizing ASO in vitro screening procedures, and refining in vivo delivery methods.

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

**ION EDI Annual report 2022-23**

We are thrilled to announce the release of the Queen Square Institute of Neurology’s (IoN) annual Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Report for the academic year 2022-23. Read the report and submit feedback.

**ION EDI away day 29th June**
We hosted our 1st ever in-person EDI Away Day!

The day had a focus on disability and aimed to:

- Bring together staff and students interested in EDI.
- Recognise and celebrate the efforts of the IoN EDI Committee and Departmental Committees in making our work and study environments more equitable and inclusive.
- Raise awareness about challenges people with disabilities might face and support available.
- Set IoN priorities for supporting students and staff with disabilities.

Stay informed
Please keep an eye on [ION EDI website](http://ionedi.com) and [@UCLIoN_EDI](https://twitter.com/UCLIoN_EDI) for updates.
Contact the IoN EDI team: [ion.equality@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ion.equality@ucl.ac.uk)

FBS EDI Awards

The EDI Celebration 2023 event was held by the Faculty to recognise the remarkable contributions of staff and students.

Congratulations to all of the ION winners and nominees for their remarkable work!

- **Contribution to EDI in Education and Student Experience: Winners**: Tim Young; Tracy Skinner; Jessica Jiang; Benito Maffei; E’Jane (Yi Jie Li); Kangxin Chen Huang; Mena Farag, Michael Foster.
- **Contribution to EDI in Leadership: Nominee**: Benjamin O’Callaghan.
- **Contribution to EDI in International Community: Winner**: Angela Hwang.
Focus: Wellbeing

Zumba

FAQs and more information can be found on [ION Intranet](#). View [Tracy’s Zumba® website](#) or check out the Zumba Channel in [IoN wellbeing](#) Teams.

ION yoga: online sessions
ION continue to organise online yoga sessions. Please see IoN Intranet wellbeing pages for further information.

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.

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 or tweet and tag us @UCLIoN

Wellbeing champions at Queen Square

![IoN wellbeing champions: Catherine Hills, Jacky Bauer, Linda Taib (above).](image)

Learning Resources

- **Learn skills to support your mental health and wellbeing** Access a range of training options for mental health and wellbeing. Includes facilitated and self-paced training options.
- **Learn skills to be healthy at work** Learn techniques to help you get the most out of resources available to you, prioritise and overcome day to day challenges in the workplace.
- **Learn skills to support others** Upskill yourself and feel confident in supporting and connecting with colleagues who may be experiencing a mental health or wellbeing issue.

- **Mental Health Awareness Week 2023**
  ION hosted a programme of events centred around your wellbeing, including: sessions on managing work-related stress, LGBTQ+ and men's mental health. [Recordings and photos are available on our MHAW 2023 page](#)
Thank you!

“Thank you Friday” initiative aimed at our IoN Professional Services colleagues
Anyone can send a quick email to send a special thanks to an IoN Professional Services staff member - there is no right or wrong reason to say thanks, it is quick and easy, and highly motivational. The sender can ask for it to be anonymous also. Send an email, with a short message and name of the addressee(s) to Sandra Porteous s.porteous@ucl.ac.uk before 12 noon on the first Friday of each month.

Focus: Sustainability

Office Green Impact
This year’s office workbooks were audited on 24th May 2023.
Please contact sarah.lawson@ucl.ac.uk if you would like to join the ION Green Office team.

**Lab Sustainability**
If you would like to participate in IoN’s labs sustainability team please get in touch with s.czieso@ucl.ac.uk

**UCL Sustainability Awards 2023**

Congratulations to all our award winners!

**Vegetable planting in 12 Queen Square**

**Planter of flowers outside 7 Queen Square**

Find out more about Sustainability at ION on our [intranet](#) and [website](#).

**The Hot Brain - Climate Change and Neuroscience 18th May 2023**
UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology held its first climate change conference on 18th May 2023, which was joined online and in person by many UK and international attendees. This one day hybrid conference highlighted the impacts of climate change across the spectrum of neuroscience, beginning dialogues on how we can respond in neuroscience.
Lancet Neurology: Sanjay Sisodiya provides a round-up of The Hot Brain, a conference on climate change and neuroscience

Focus: Public Engagement

The Patterns of Perception in Parkinson’s disease (PoP-PD) team launches two new booklets to open up conversations about Parkinson’s dementia

The complementary pair of booklets – designed for people living with Parkinson’s, and healthcare professionals – were co-developed by a multi-disciplinary team, including people living with Parkinson’s.
Understanding MRI: animations co-created alongside research participants explain key aspects of MRI

The Understanding MRI team have co-created two new animations which explain important aspects of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) – a key neuroimaging technique frequently used by researchers at UCL’s Department of Imaging Neuroscience.

Pint of Science 2023

Dr Amanda Heslegrave: My Week in Westminster at the Royal Society Pairing Scheme
Alzheimer's Research UK London Network Open Day 10th June 2023
A day of talks and hands-on activities showcasing how we study dementia.
Department of Imaging Neuroscience Celebrates Annual Public Engagement Awards

On Friday 16th June 2023, we welcomed external collaborators and staff from across the Department of Imaging Neuroscience to the 2023 Public Engagement Awards.

Held as an in-person event at 12 Queen Square, the ceremony celebrated outstanding contributions to the Department’s public engagement programme over the past year.

Read the NEW UCL World Stroke Day Forum 2022 Magazine. It showcases the events hosted during the 2022 World Stroke Day Forum, and highlights the impact on stroke survivors, their loved ones, researchers and charity partners.

Artificial Intelligence for Diagnosing Focal Epilepsy: A collaborative project to co-develop an
information sheet with patients and their families

New Starters and staffing news

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

Miss Melissa Barber; Dr Eleftheria Kodosaki; Ms Hannah Collins; Mrs Fatima Pansari; Mr Roger Atkins; Miss Patrycia Gaszczyk; Miss Katie Thompson; Dr David Jakabek; Miss Isha Puntambekar; Ms Katie Tucker; Miss Suraya Mohamud; Miss Yashica Gupta; Mr Simone Barattucci; Miss Rhiian Convery; Ms Irene Gorostiaga Belio; Mr Adrian Ku; Mr Sebastijan Veselic; Miss Naomi Rambarack; Miss Jasmaine Lee; Dr Jack De Havas Gwenlan; Miss Wai Han Sin; Miss Kathryn Whelan; Miss Sophie Busby; Dr Joanna Bartkiewicz; Dr Anna Combes; Miss Tatiana Georgiades; Ms Lianne Keighery; Mr Viktoras Konstantellos; Mr Pak Hang Timothy Sit; Mrs Rossella Rispoli; Ms Adelina Romano; Miss Orla Mitchell; Mr Wing-kin Chan; Miss Zeynep Sahin; Miss Lodina Recica; Dr Dilan Athauda; Mr Liam Kemptorne; Dr Nathasia Mudiwa Muwanigwa; Dr Chi U Seak; Mr George Thomas; Dr Zeliha Gozde Turan; Dr Emily Clarke; Dr Dario Dattilo; Miss Zhiyao Zhou; Dr Sara Aguti; Dr Karl Frontzek; Ms Jessica Jiang.

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

Professor Eileen Joyce retirement

Dementia Action Week interviews

- Dr Soyon Hong
- Professor Selina Wray
- Dr Marc Busche
Dr Catherine Mummery has been announced as the new Chair of the National Institute for Health and Care Research Dementia Translational Research Collaboration (D-TRC)

Professor Alex Leff and Dr Jenny Crinion talk about the intensive aphasia treatment programme at Queen Square - intensive rehabilitation treatment for stroke

Listen to our own @alexander_leff and @CrinionJenny from @UCL_NT @UCLoN @uchh talking about the wonderful intensive aphasia treatment programme at Queen Square - intensive rehabilitation treatment for stroke ‘for as long as it is beneficial’ @NICEComms

bbc.co.uk
All In the Mind - Aphasia - BBC Sounds
Communication problems after stroke: intensive speech therapy can make all the difference.
Professor Mike Hanna led the CNMD team in the ASICS London British 10K run on 9 July, to raise money for CNMD.

Members of the Queen Square MS research group are fundraising for the MS Society.
Members of the Queen Square MS research group are fundraising for the MS Society (10 in 10 Challenge in the Lake District):

IoN Handbook
Remember to check the IoN Handbook for further information on everything you need to know about working at the Institute: feedback is always welcome!

Recent Queen Square events

Queen Square Inaugural Lectures 2023
23 May 2023: Professors Antonella Spinazzola and Christos Proukakis

16th UK Neuromuscular Translational Research conference 2023
We welcomed the opportunity to connect with clinicians and scientists and hear about their latest research at this year’s UK Neuromuscular Translational Research Conference.
Dr Elisabeth Bik lecture: Double Trouble: Inappropriate Image Duplications in Biomedical Publications

Dr Elisabeth Bik has single-handedly identified many hundreds of instances of data manipulation. Dr Bik helped uncover "paper mills", illegal organisations that sell authorship on fraudulent manuscripts. Recording of the lecture

ION Summer Drinks 2023

We were delighted to be able to meet and celebrate ION's achievements at our drinks evening on 6th July 2023 at the October Gallery.

Upcoming Queen Square events

Queen Square Inaugural Lectures 2023
Queen Square Annual Address and Symposium. 2nd November 2023

- **Symposium: Digital technologies for Clinical Neurosciences**, 1-4.30pm, Gilliatt Lecture Theatre, Queen Square House. [Registration](#) (this is only open to UCL staff and students).
- **Annual address: Sir Patrick Vallance**, Chairman of the Natural History Museum, formerly Government Chief Scientific Adviser: 5.30pm, 33QS, followed by a reception in the foyer area.
  - Please could you indicate if you are attending in person this years’ Annual Address by emailing RSVP to [qsioneventsrsvp@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:qsioneventsrsvp@ucl.ac.uk) by 24th October 2023.
  - If you are unable to join on the day please use this link to [view the Annual Address online](#).

See [more IoN events](#)