INAUGURAL UCL Queen Square Annual Motor Neuron Disease Symposium:
Launch of the UCL Queen Square Motor Neuron Disease Centre

Friday 6th September 2019

Lecture Theatre, 33 Queen Square, Clinical Neurosciences Building, London WC1N 3BG

09:00 – 09:30  Registration and Coffee
09:30 – 09:35  Welcome, Professor Michael Hanna, Director, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology
09:35 – 09:40  Welcome, Dr Christopher Turner, Clinical Director, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery

CLINICAL RESEARCH, TRIALS, OPPORTUNITIES, RESOURCES

Chair: Professor Kevin Talbot, University of Oxford

Biomarkers
09:40 – 10:00  Dr Andrea Malaspina, Consultant Neurologist (QMUL). **Defining a biological signature of ALS for biomarkers and therapeutics development.**

The microbiome
10:00 – 10:20  Dr Nikhil Sharma, Consultant Neurologist. **The microbiome-microglia axis in MND (BIOMAX-ALS).**

New clinical trials and therapeutic prospects

Chair: Professor Chris Shaw, King’s College London

10:20 – 10:40  Dr Katie Sidle, Consultant Neurologist. **Unfolding the pathway from clinic to lab; how coming to clinic can inspire the basic scientist.**

10:40 – 11:00  Professor Vincenzo Libri, Consultant Clinical Pharmacologist; Director of the Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre and Director of the NIHR UCLH Clinical Research Facility (CRF). **The Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre at Queen Square: First-in-Human clinical trials and Antisense Oligonucleotide therapies in ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases.**

11:00 – 11:30  Coffee

Chair: Professor Linda Greensmith, UCL

11:30 – 11:50  Dr Richard Orrell, Associate Professor and Consultant Neurologist. **Clinical trials in ALS.**

11:50 – 12:10  Dr Rickie Patani, MRC Senior Clinical Fellow, Honorary Consultant Neurologist, ALS expert and stem cell scientist. **Using human induced pluripotent stem cells to model key aspects of ALS.**

12:10 – 12:30  Dr Barney Bryson NIHR BRC UCL Excellence Fellow and MND Association Lady Edith Wolfson Senior Non-Clinical Fellow. **Combining optogenetics and stem cells to restore lost muscle function in ALS.**

12:30 – 13:30  Lunch

Chair: Professor John Hardy, UCL

13:30 – 14:25  Plenary Lecture: Professor J Paul Taylor, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Edward Barry Endowed Chair in Cell and Molecular Biology St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, USA. **Bridging biophysics and neurology: aberrant phase transitions and neurodegenerative disease.**

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CLINICAL AND BASIC SCIENCE

Frontotemporal dementia and other disorders

14:25 – 14:55  Dr Jonathan Rohrer, MRC Clinician Scientist, Honorary Consultant Neurologist. **Frontotemporal dementia: insights into a complex disorder.**
14:55 – 15:20  Tea

Chair: Dr Majid Hafezparast, University of Sussex

15:20 – 15:40 Dr Pietro Fratta, MRC Senior Clinical Fellow, Honorary Consultant Neurologist, ALS/Kennedy’s disease expert and RNA biologist. RNA disruption in ALS.

New insights from model systems

15:40 – 16:00 Professor Elizabeth Fisher, Professor of Neurogenetics. Asking the right questions of the right models: ALS mouse models.

16:00 – 16:20 Professor Giampietro Schiavo, Professor of Cellular Neuroscience. On signalling, axonal transport and ALS.

16:20 – 16:30 Short Break

Chair: Professor Giampietro Schiavo, UCL

16:30 – 16:50 Dr Nicol Birsa, Postdoctoral Research Associate. FUS mechanisms of neurodegeneration.

16:50 – 17:10 Professor Adrian Isaacs, Professor of Neurodegenerative Disease. C9orf72 ALS/FTD: molecular mechanisms.

17:10 – 17:30 Professor Jernej Ule, Professor of Molecular Neurosciences. Understanding the mechanisms that keep protein-RNA networks in balance, or disrupt the balance in ALS.

17:30 – 17:35 Close, Professor Linda Greensmith, Scientific Director, UCL Queen Square Motor Neuron Disease Centre.

17:35 – 18:45 Wine Reception

UCL Queen Square Annual Symposium on Motor Neuron Disease has been approved by the Federation of the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom for 6 category 1 CPD credits.

Register here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inaugural-ucl-queen-square-annual-motor-neuron-disease-symposium-tickets-61581803833

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