



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

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Birsá**, 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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\*Biogen sponsored the component of the symposium not contributing to CPD credits (ie. Plenary Lecture)