**Second UCL Queen Square Motor Neuron Disease Centre Meeting**

**International Symposium**

**Friday 10th September 2021 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm (GMT)**

1:00pm – 1:10pm Welcome and an Introduction to the UCL QS MND Centre

**Linda Greensmith**, Scientific Lead for MND, UCL Queen Square

1:10pm – 1:40pm **Andrea Malaspina,** Clinical Academic Lead for MND, UCL Queen Square

***Clinical research at Queen Square in ALS and FTD: Biomarkers – will they work for clinical trials?***

*Session 1: Chair - Linda Greensmith*

1:40pm – 2:10pm **Robert Brown**, Department of Neurology, University of Massachusetts Medical School (USA)

***Gene Modulation Therapy in ALS - Early Lessons***

2:10pm – 2:40pm **Pietro Fratta**, Professor of Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience, Neurologist, UCL Queen Square (UK)

*Title: TBC*

2:40pm – 2:55pm BREAK

*Session 2: Chair - Giampietro Schiavo*

2:55pm – 3:25pm **Sandrine Da Cruz** VIB-KU Leuven Center for Brain & Disease Research (Belgium)

*Title: TBC*

3:25pm – 3:55pm **Jim Shorter**, Dept of Biochemistry & Biophysics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania(USA)

***Countering deleterious phase transitions in ALS***

3:55pm – 4:10pm BREAK

*Session 3: Chair – Elizabeth Fisher*

4:10pm – 4:40pm **Jan Veldink** UMC Utrecht Brain Center (Netherlands)

***How common and rare genetic variants help us towards a rationale basis for treatment in ALS***

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*Session 4: Chair – Orla Hardiman*

**DEBATE: Biomarkers are essential for successful clinical trials in ALS!**

4:40pm – 5:20pm Speakers Presentations

**Pamela Shaw, Bob Baloh, Michael Benetar, Albert Ludolph**

5:20pm – 5:25pm **Debate Summary – Orla Hardiman**, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)

5:25pm – 5:55pm **Questions, Discussion and Vote**

5:55pm – 6:00pm **Closing Remarks** - **Michael Hanna**, Director, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology and National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery

Further information on the Queen Square Motor Neuron Disease Centre is available here [QS MND Centre](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/research/centres/motor-neuron-disease-centre)

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*We are applying for Federation of the Royal College of Physicians CPD credits for this meeting - further details to follow*