



Third UCL Queen Square Motor Neuron Disease Centre Virtual Symposium Friday 9th September 2022 from 10:00 to 17:00 (UK Time)

10:00 – 10:05 Welcome and an Introduction to the UCL QS MND Centre
Andrea Malaspina, Clinical Academic Lead for MND, UCL Queen Square

Session 1: Chair – Adrian Isaacs

Online Question Moderator – Oscar Lazo Jerez

10:05 – 10:40 **UCL KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Professor Sir John Hardy**, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology
What is the relationship between mendelian disease and sporadic disease?

10:40 – 11:00 **Professor Ammar Al-Chalabi**, Maurice Wohl Clinical Neuroscience Institute, King's College London
What causes ALS?

11:00 – 11:20 **Professor Majid Hafezparast**, School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex
Circulating non-coding RNA as biomarkers of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

11:20 – 11:40 Break

Session 2: Chair – Jernej Ule

Online Question Moderator – Oscar Lazo Jerez

11:40 – 12:00 **Professor Laura Ferraiuolo**, SITraN, University of Sheffield
Astrocyte toxicity: one size does not fit all

12:00 – 12:20 **Professor Pietro Fratta**, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology
Cryptic exons: an opportunity for therapeutics and biomarkers

12:20 – 12:40 **Dr Nicol Birsa**, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology
Protein translation and phase separation alterations in ALS

12:40 – 14:00 Lunch Break

Session 3: Chair – Elizabeth Fisher

Online Question Moderator – Anna-Leigh Brown

14:00 – 14:20 **Dr Barney Bryson**, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology
An optogenetic cell therapy to restore lost muscle function in ALS

14:20 – 14:40 **Professor Chris Shaw**, UK Dementia Research Institute, King's College London
Gene therapy strategies for motor neuron disease

14:40 – 15:00 **Professor Mimoun Azzouz**, SITraN, University of Sheffield
Gene therapeutics for CNS diseases

15:00 – 15:30 Break

Session 4: Chair – Giampietro Schiavo

Online Question Moderator – Matteo Zanovello

- 15:30 – 15:50 **Professor Orla Hardiman**, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin
Cognitive Endophenotypes : A Window into Network Dysfunction in ALS?
- 15:50 – 16:10 **Professor Carolyn Young**, Walton Centre NHS Trust / University of Liverpool
TONiC- what's in it for you?
- 16:10 – 16:30 **Professor Sharon Abrahams**, Department of Psychology, University of Edinburgh
Should we assess cognition and behaviour in MND?
- 16:30 – 16:50 **Professor Nigel Leigh**, Brighton & Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex
Neuroinflammation and ALS: An Experimental Medicine Approach
- 16:50 – 17:00 Closing Remarks – **Linda Greensmith**, Scientific Lead for NMD, UCL Queen Square

CPD accreditation from the Federation of the Royal College of Physicians is pending

Further information on the Queen Square Motor Neuron Disease Centre is available here [QS MND Centre](#)
