# UCL Neuroscience Symposium

**Tuesday 13 June 2023 | 8:15-18:00**

## 08:15 – 09:00  
**Registration**

## 09:00 – 09:10  
**Welcome**

**Professor Antonella Riccio**, Chair, Symposium Programme Committee  
**Dr Michael Spence**, UCL President & Provost

## 09:10 – 10:25  
**Session 1**

**Chair: Professor Sonja Hofer**, Professor of Neuroscience, The Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, UCL Faculty of Life Sciences

- **9:10-9:45**  
  **Professor Oliver Hobert**, Columbia University, Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
  **Homeoboxes and Neuronal Identity Control**

- **9:45 – 10:10**  
  **Dr Thomas Wills**, Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, UCL Faculty of Life Sciences  
  **The Influence of Environment Geometry on Developing Neural Maps of Space**

- **10:10 – 10.25**  
  **Jon Driver Prize Winner**

  **Sara De Felice**, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, Department of psychology and language sciences  
  **The Role of Social Interaction in Learning: Behavioural and Neural Mechanisms**

## 10:25 – 11:40  
**Poster Session 1, Trade Exhibition & Tea/Coffee Break**

## 11:40 – 13:10  
**Session 2**

**Chair: Professor Steve Wilson**, Cell and Developmental Biology, Faculty of Life Sciences

- **11:40-12:15**  
  **Professor Beatriz Rico**, Professor of Developmental Neurobiology, King’s College London  
  **Molecular Programs Orchestrating the Synaptic Specificity of Cortical Circuities**

- **12:15-12:40**  
  **Dr Gabriele Lignani**, Associate Professor, Clinical & Experimental Epilepsy, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, UCL Faculty of Brain Sciences  
  **On-demand Cell-autonomous Gene Therapy for Brain Circuit Disorders**
12:40-12:55 Early Career Prize Lecture – Junior Category

**Tom George**, Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, UCL
*From theory to mechanism: how the hippocampus learns predictive maps*

12:55-13:10 Early Career Prize Lecture – Advanced Category

**Asaph Zylbertal**, Department of Neuroscience, Physiology & Pharmacology, UCL
*Recurrent network interactions explain tectal response variability and experience-dependent behaviour*

13:10 – 14:30 Poster Session 2, Trade Exhibition & Lunch

Lunchtime Workshop sponsored by Bio-Techne

14:30–16:40 Session 3

Chair: **Dr Soyon Hong**, Group Leader, UK Dementia Research Institute, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, UCL Faculty of Brain Sciences

14:30-15:05

**Professor Sir John Hardy**, Chair of the Molecular Biology of Neurological Disease, Neurodegenerative Diseases, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, UCL Faculty of Brain Sciences
*Genomics of Neurodegeneration: On the way to therapies*

15:05-15:30

**Professor Sanjay Sisodiya**, Institute Deputy Director Sustainability & Climate Change and Consultant Neurologist, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, UCL Faculty of Brain Sciences
*Climate Change and Neuroscience*

15:30-15:55

**Dr Paula Alexandre**, Associate Professor, Developmental Biology & Cancer Department, UCL GOSH Institute of Child Health, Faculty of Population Health Sciences
*Understanding the Mechanisms that Regulate Neurogenesis*

15:55-16:20

**Professor Alison Lloyd**, Professor of Cell Biology, UCL Laboratory for Molecular Cell Biology, UCL Faculty of Life Sciences
*Characterisation of the structure and regulation of the blood nerve barrier identifies new avenues for therapeutic delivery to the nervous system*

16:20-16:40 Prize Giving & Closing Remarks

**Professor Trevor Smart**, Chair, UCL Neuroscience Domain

16:40–18:00 Poster Session 3 & Wine Reception