



## Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



### Uncovering the true extent of Parkinson's disease in Africa

UCL scientists are leading genetic studies of Parkinson's disease in Africa to raise awareness, provide equitable access to treatments and help reduce the global impact of this debilitating condition.

Parkinson's disease is the fastest-growing neurodegenerative illness worldwide. By 2040, more than 13 million people will be living with the disease – a quarter of them in Africa.

Studies have found at least 20 genes linked to an increased risk of Parkinson's in Caucasians and several promising diagnostic and therapeutic targets have been identified, but these potentially successful treatments are likely to be ineffective in patients from other racial backgrounds.



"Parkinson's disease is prevalent in all parts of the world, but few research studies have included black African and Asian populations," explains Dr Mie Rizig (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology).

The team has built collaborations with neurologists and healthcare organisations in Nigeria and advocacy groups such as Parkinson's Africa. As well as supporting local healthcare workers, the team is screening the genomes of hundreds of black Africans with Parkinson's for known susceptibility and disease genes.



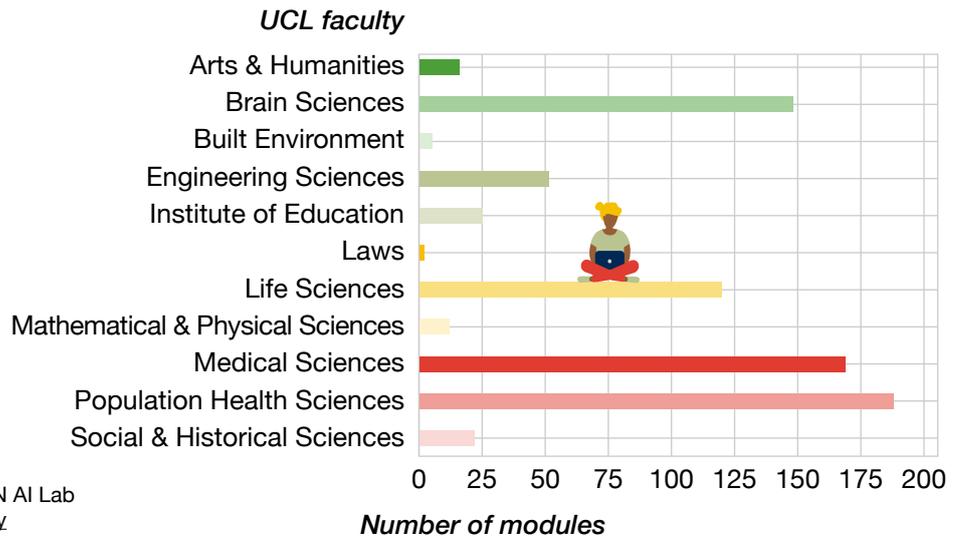
### UCL students join national response to global pandemic

More than 300 UCL Medical School students were fast-tracked through graduation in April 2020, ready to be made frontline NHS doctors, joining the national effort to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

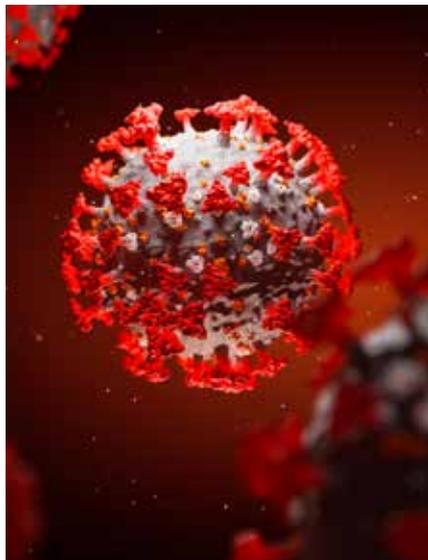
*"This is an altruistic and inspirational cohort of medical students who have answered the call and are eager to utilise their skills to help the NHS."*

**Professor Deborah Gill, then Director of UCL Medical School**

## Taught modules at UCL supporting SDG3 in 2021–22



Source: PPMI, a partner in the UN AI Lab  
– more details in the [methodology](#)



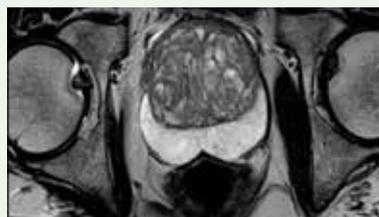
◀ Professor Deborah Gill, then Director of UCL Medical School, said: “This is an altruistic and inspirational cohort of medical students who have answered the call and are eager to utilise their skills to help the NHS – we could not be any prouder.”

Helping to achieve Target 3.3

### New imaging technique radically improves prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment

A new MRI scanning technique developed by UCL scientists and clinicians using multi-parametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging (mp-MRI) allows, for the first time, specialists to identify tumours in the prostate without the need for invasive, risky and sometimes unnecessary procedures; it has transformed the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer, saving lives and reducing healthcare costs.

Helping to achieve Target 3.4



### UCL experts engage public through podcasts on coronavirus

A unique UCL podcast series examined the variety of issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of the university’s experts.

Coronavirus: The Whole Story explored a range of topics with a panel of academics drawn from UCL’s breadth of disciplines, from intensive-care medicine and education to economics and health psychology.

In its first seven months the podcast series received more than 30,000 listens from over 50 countries.

Over 53 episodes the series tackled questions as varied as: ‘How has the pandemic highlighted BAME inequalities?’, ‘How do we kick-start the economy?’, ‘What’s happening in India?’ and ‘How do we build pandemic resilience?’.

Helping to achieve Target 3.3

# 2,292

SDG3-related policy citations  
in 2016–20

Source: Overton – see [methodology](#)

## Medical School course encourages sustainable and healthy food choices

Teaching embedded in UCL's medical education programmes is addressing the link between sustainable and healthy living and health and disease.

The UCL Medical School's Culinary Medicine in Primary Care addresses aspects of the World Health Organisation's 'triple billion'

targets and the SDGs, which aim to support 'universal health care' delivery and promotion of health and well-being through delivery of primary care.

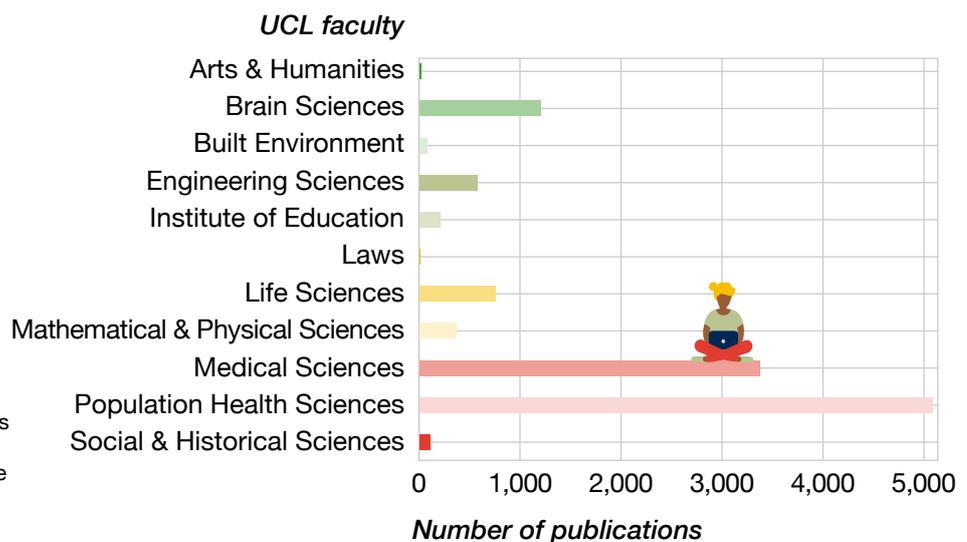
"Our teaching supports students' and their future patients' learning by providing spaces for conversations about sustainable and healthy living; considering its inter-relationship with health and disease," explains Dr Sara Thompson (UCL Primary Care & Population Health).

The course includes a one-day practical culinary medicine workshop, during which students discuss how they and their future patients can reduce the carbon footprint of their food.

Helping to  
achieve  
Target 3.4

## Number of UCL's research publications supporting SDG3 by faculty in 2016–20

Graph based on keywords searches of publication databases using a set of SDG keywords developed by Elsevier. Read more about the methodology used on the [SDGs Initiative website](#)



# 25.4%

of UCL's SDG3-related publications are in the top 10% most cited for all research of similar papers in 2016–20

Source: Scopus and Clarivate – see [methodology](#)

# 66.2%

of UCL's SDG3-related research publications are international collaborations, 2016–20

Source: Scopus and Clarivate – see [methodology](#)

## DISCOVER MORE

Read more on these activities and other examples of how UCL is helping to achieve SDG3 are on the [UCL SDGs Initiative website](#).