

LifeTimes

Summer 2022

I am delighted to welcome you to the summer edition of the Faculty Lifetimes newsletter in my role as Interim Dean for the Faculty. Professor Rees has moved into a new role as Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation and Global Engagement) and I wish him every success.

We have much to celebrate in the Faculty with the outcomes of the Research Excellence Framework in which we maintained our position as top in the UK for research in medicine, health and life sciences. You can find out more about how UCL research is transforming lives through our [new podcast series](#).

The Faculty continues to demonstrate success in research grant funding with £4.9 million awarded to an interdisciplinary team as part of a BBSRC scheme. Congratulations also go to Dr Stephanie Koch who has been awarded £300k by the Medical Research Foundation for her work on pain research in children.

Our staff have received recognition for their work, with Professor Abdul Basit being recognised for his contribution to advancing pharmaceutical research and Dr Atheer Awad named on the Forbes Top 30 under 30 list.

In the latest instalment of our 'Meet the Expert' series we spoke with Professor Mark Thomas on what inspired him to specialise in genetics and Professor Seirian Sumner who has recently published 'Endless Forms: The secret world of wasps'.

In September we will welcome our graduands back on to campus for their Graduation Ceremonies and look forward to celebrating with them.

Do keep in touch with us and if you are using Twitter, follow us on [@UCLLifeSciences](#) for lively and engaging content, and to keep in touch with what is happening here at UCL.

Professor Duncan Craig
Dean, UCL Faculty of Life Sciences (Interim)



Faculty of Life Sciences News



Geraint Rees appointed Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation & Global Engagement)

Professor Rees, previous Dean of UCL's Faculty of Life Sciences and Pro-Provost (Academic Planning), moved into his new role as Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation & Global Engagement) in May 2022.

Professor Rees said: "Together, research, innovation and global engagement must empower our staff, students and alumni to create public value that helps both humanity and our planet survive and prosper."

[Read about Prof Rees' new role >>](#)



UCL comes second in the UK for research power

UCL has come second in the UK for research power. 93 per cent of our research was graded 4* 'world leading' and 3* 'internationally excellent'. Our research received a 'grade point average' of 3.50 (out of 4) – an improvement from 3.22 in 2014. A total of 3,432 UCL academics submitted to this REF process.

UCL also maintained our position as top in the UK for research power in medicine, health and life sciences as well as social sciences.

[Read more about UCL's research impact >>](#)



Scientists for the day! Secondary school students at UCL School of Pharmacy

Dr Maria-Jose Martinez-Bravo, Associate Lecturer (Teaching) at UCL School of Pharmacy and Chair of the Women in Science committee at the Society for Spanish Researchers in the UK (SRUK), is committed not only to promoting higher education to secondary school students, but also encouraging female students to pursue STEM careers through various outreach activities.

In February, 20 school students attended an event at UCL, which resulted in positive feedback, with students saying they found the activity "inspiring" and "excellent".

[Read about the School of Pharmacy's event for school students >>](#)



Meet the Expert: Mark Thomas, Professor of Evolutionary Genetics, Division of Biosciences

Professor Mark Thomas uses computer simulation and statistical modelling to make inferences from genetic data – including ancient DNA – and archaeological information, on processes such as past migrations and dispersals, natural selection – particularly in response to changes in diet and infectious disease loads – and how demography shapes cultural evolution.

We recently spoke to Mark to find out what inspired him to go into the field of genetics and to learn more about his research.

[Read our interview with Professor Thomas >>](#)

Faculty Awards and Accolades



Dr Atheer Awad named in Forbes Under 30 list

Dr Atheer Awad is one of 14 people from the UCL community to be named on the Forbes Top 30 under 30 list. She has been recognised within the Science category for her work using 3D printing to rethink how drugs are manufactured to account for individual patients' needs.

Atheer said: "I am really honoured and humbled by this recognition. I wouldn't have achieved any of this if it wasn't for the great support and care I have been surrounded by the Basit Research Group, my UCL family and my loved ones at home."

[Read more about Dr Awad's accolade >>](#)



£4.9 million award to investigate pioneering biological electronics

Researchers from universities across the UK have been awarded £4.9 million from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the UK's largest bioscience funder.

The five-year award, part of the BBSRC's Strategic Longer and Larger (sLoLa) scheme, brings together an interdisciplinary team of academics from the Universities of Bristol, Portsmouth, East Anglia and University College London, with complementary expertise in protein design, electron transfer, biomolecular simulation, synthetic chemistry and ultrafast spectroscopy.

[Read more about the BBSRC award >>](#)



Professor Abdul Basit awarded Harrison Memorial Medal for 2022

The Harrison Memorial Medal is awarded every two years, in memory of the distinguished pharmaceutical chemist Colonel EF Harrison. It is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in advancing pharmaceutical science.

Professor Basit is internationally recognised for leading in the fields of oral drug delivery, microbiome medicines, three-dimensional printing of pharmaceuticals and digital health. He has also founded three start-up companies.

[Read about Professor Basit's award >>](#)



Dr Stephanie Koch awarded grant for pain research

Dr Stephanie Koch, a Senior Research Fellow from the Division of Biosciences, is one of several researchers from across the UK that has received funding from the Medical Research Foundation. The £300,000 grant allocated to Dr Koch's work on pain will look at how childhood experiences influence lifelong vulnerability to pain.

"Understanding how the young brain learns to respond to pain is the first step in identifying how these circuits can lead to chronic pain in adulthood," says Dr Koch.

[Read more about Dr Koch's work >>](#)

Professor Seirian Sumner launches new book "Endless forms: The secret world of wasps"



Professor Seirian Sumner, UCL Division of Biosciences, has recently launched a new book, "Endless forms: The secret world of wasps."

Whilst bees and ants are often considered the darlings of the insect world, Sumner wants to rehabilitate the much-maligned thug of the insect world, the wasp, and show the world that wasps are older, cleverer and more diverse.

[Read more about Professor Sumner's research >>](#)

Alumni Services and Benefits

Discover the wide range of services and benefits available to you as a UCL alum by visiting our [alumni website](#). Access a wide range of talks and e-journals, and benefits including discounts for London hotels, travel companies and much more.

Stay connected to UCL through [social media](#), and join our [Official Alumni Group](#) on LinkedIn to build your network and get involved with UCL's remarkable global alumni community.

[Visit the UCL Alumni website](#)

Connect and share:



[Unsubscribe](#): By clicking this link you will unsubscribe from all future UCL fundraising and alumni communications.

Contact: alumni@ucl.ac.uk +44(0)20 3108 3833

View the UCL Office of the Vice-President (Advancement) [Data Protection statement](#).
Copyright UCL Alumni Relations. All rights reserved.