



UCL Queen Square MND Centre Sixth ALS/MND International Symposium
in Partnership with the UK MND Research Institute

Friday 05 September 2025 from 09:30 to 17:30 (UK Time)

Hybrid Meeting

In-person attendance - Basement Lecture Theatre, 33 Queen Square

Zoom Link: *details to follow*

TRANSLATING TARGETS TO THERAPIES

Symposium Programme

09:30 – 09:40 Welcome and Introduction to the UCL QS MND Centre
Andrea Malaspina, Clinical Academic Lead for MND, UCL Queen Square

Session 1: GENETICS

Session Chair: Pamela Shaw (Sheffield Institute for Translation Neuroscience, University of Sheffield)

09:40 – 09:55 **Alex Cammack**, UK DRI at UCL / UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology
Dual targeting CRISPR/CasRx reduces sense and antisense C9orf72 repeats

09:55 – 10:10 **Johnathan Cooper-Knock**, School of Medicine and Population Health, University of Sheffield
Antisense oligonucleotide depletion of CCDC146 has broad-spectrum therapeutic potential for ALS

10:10 – 10:25 **Pietro Fratta**, (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology)
UNC13a ASO therapy for ALS

10:25 – 10:40 **Stephanie Fradette**, Vice-President, Head of Neuromuscular Development Unit, Biogen
Title: TBC

10:40 – 10:55 **Panel Q&A**

10:55 – 11:25 **Coffee/Tea Break**

Session 2: IMMUNOLOGY

Session Chair: Andrea Malaspina (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology)

11:25 – 11:40 **Timothy Tree**, Department of Immunobiology, King's College London
T cells / Tregs in ALS + update on clinical trials

11:40 – 11:55 **Derya Shimshek**, Novartis Pharma AG, Biomedical Research/Neuroscience
VHB937, a TREM2 stabilizing and activating antibody binding to the IgSF domain for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases

11:55 – 12:10 **Panel Q&A**

Session 3: PERIPHERAL NEURONAL PATHOLOGY

Session Chair: Elizabeth Fisher (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology)

- 12:10 – 12:25 **Ashley Kalinski**, Department of Biological Sciences, University of South Carolina, USA
New roles of SARM
- 12:25 – 12:40 **Michael Coleman**, John van Geest Centre for Brain Repair, University of Cambridge
Classic roles of SARM
- 12:40 – 12:55 **Panel Q&A**
- 12:55 – 13:05 **Group Photo**

12:55 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

Session 4: PROTEIN AGGREGATION AND DISAGGREGATES

Session Chair: Jenna Gregory (School of Medicine, University of Aberdeen)

- 14:00 – 14:15 **James Shorter**, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Pennsylvania, USA
Countering deleterious phase transitions in ALS
- 14:15 – 14:30 **Angela Genge**, Director of the ALS clinic at The Neuro (Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital), McGill University, Canada
Title: TBC
- 14:30 – 14:45 **Suchira Bose**, Associate VP– Neuroscience Research, Eli Lilly & Co Ltd
Therapeutics for TDP43 and Beyond
- 14:45 – 15:00 **Bhuvaneish Thangaraj Selvaraj** on behalf of Alamar Biosciences
Title: TBC
- 15:00 – 15:15 **Panel Q&A**

15:15 – 15:45 **Coffee/Tea Break**

15:45 – 16:00 *** **Motor Neurone Disease Association: Young Investigator Prize** ***

Short Session: LESSONS FROM AN ALS TRIAL

Session Chair: Linda Greensmith (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology)

- 16:00 – 16:15 **Pamela Shaw**, SITraN, University of Sheffield
M102, a combined NRF2 and HSF-1 activator for neuroprotection in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- 16:15 – 16:35 **Ammar Al-Chalabi**, Co-Director, UK MND Research Institute / Director, King's MND Care and Research Centre, King's College London
MIROCALS and Lighthouse 2
- 16:35 – 16:50 **Panel Q&A**
- 16:50 – 17:00 Closing Remarks – **Linda Greensmith**, Scientific Lead for NMD, UCL Queen Square and **Ammar Al-Chalabi**, Co-Director, UK MND Research Institute

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



[Registration for Sixth UCL Queen Square MND International Symposium](#)



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