

The SCI London Regional Group is currently the largest of all SCI regional groupings with c.1,000 members in Central and Greater London, the counties of Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Surrey, Middlesex, Kent and Sussex. The majority of whom are based in the region and are employed in the chemical, pharmaceutical and allied industries. There is also a good percentage of members in education and academia. The Group's geographical remit includes more than 60 universities and colleges, the City of London, Westminster and Parliament, headquarters or London offices of some of the largest industrial companies in the world, and a plethora of science museums, galleries, societies and associations.

The Group has a long and continuous history and was established shortly after the foundation of the Society itself in 1881. Its first Chairman was Sir Frederick Abel, the co-inventor of cordite.

The London Group organises a regular and dynamic schedule of activities throughout the year in keeping with its mission statement 'utilising our capital city to publicise science and allow networking opportunities for all'. The broad-based programme of general interest and specialist events attracts a wide range of attendees - from students and families to science professionals and politicians.

The SCI London Regional Group has a strong relationship with UCL's Chemical & Physical Society, the students' society of UCL's Chemistry department (and the oldest UCL student society), and sponsors their lecture programme.

Contact Details

If you would like more information about the Group and its activities, or if you would like to get involved in the organisation of events, please contact communications@soci.org

Join SCI Today!

If you are not yet a member, you are missing a chance to network with people across the chemical and chemical-using industries. SCI enables connections that spark innovation, gets careers moving, and sets business ideas rolling. As a member, you will also receive *Chemistry & Industry (C&I)* magazine every month, enjoy discounts on conference booking fees and a great range of other benefits.

Visit www.soci.org/membership to find out more and join us.








To find out more about this unique, multi-disciplinary society, please contact **SCI Membership** on:
T: +44 (0)20 7598 1503 E: membership@soci.org









London Regional Group Programme Card Spring 2016

Programme

Date/Time	Venue	Speaker		Event Details
12 Jan 2016 17:30 for 18:00	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Dr Jack Heal, University of Bristol		Do Scientists Dream About Synthetic Sheep? This comedy lecture, fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe, is a broad overview of the recent history and development of synthetic biology. Dr Heal will aim to go from the Human Genome to CRISPR in 50 minutes. On the way we'll consider important questions such as: what is a spider goat? Can we create artificial life? and why haven't we made Jurassic Park yet?
19 Jan 2016 17:30 for 18:00	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Nicholas Walt, L Cornellissen & Son Artists' Colourmen		Pigments and Dyes Synopsis tbc
26 Jan 2016 17:30 for 18:00	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Katy Woollard, Whittard of Chelsea		Tea In this talk we will cover, What is tea? Where does it come from and can anything be called a tea? We will explore the different types of tea, looking into how each type is made. This will be followed by a tasting of each tea. During this time we will talk about how best to make a cup of tea using loose leaf and also address the argument 'Loose vs Tea Bag!' We will also cover how tea brought two nations to war, and how because of this we now have one of the best teas in the world.
02 Feb 2016 17:30 for 18:00	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Prof Johnjoe McFadden, University of Surrey		Life on the Edge: The New Science of Quantum Biology Quantum mechanics is fundamental to physics and thereby chemistry and so must also be deeply involved in all of the processes of life. However, it has generally been assumed that the weird properties of quantum mechanics, such as coherence, entanglement and quantum tunnelling, are destroyed in large, complex and relatively warm objects by the process of decoherence. However, recent experiments have demonstrated quantum coherence in photosynthesis, quantum tunnelling in enzyme action and evidence for quantum entanglement in bird navigation. These and other areas of quantum biology will be explored in this talk which will address the question: how fundamental are the weird aspects of quantum mechanics to life?
09 Feb 2016 17:30 for 18:00	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Prof Steven Sparks, University of Bristol		How Volcanoes Work The scientific environment of major volcanic eruptions has promoted multidisciplinary research teams and collaborations, provided the opportunity to collect huge amounts of different kinds of data and facilitated the integration of major relevant disciplines such as applied mathematics, statistics, atmospheric sciences, experimental volcanology, seismology, instrument engineering, remote sensing, geodesy, geochemistry and petrology. In this address some emerging new concepts will be highlighted, including the understanding of cyclic volcanism, the nature of magma reservoirs and the role of magmatic fluids in driving volcanism.

Additional events are organised by the Group and can be found on www.soci.org/events.

Programme

Date/Time	Venue	Speaker		Event Details
23 Feb 2016 17:30 for 18:00	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Prof Martin Bureau, University of Oxford		Weighing Black Holes We will start with a brief look into the properties of light and the high-tech gadgetry that astronomers use to study the cosmos. We will further uncover the supermassive black holes hiding in galaxy centres, along with their importance for galaxy evolution. The current methods used to weigh black holes will be outlined, and the spectacular observations of the Milky Way black hole presented. A new, simple but powerful method to measure black holes which exploits the new Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA), the largest ground-based telescope project in existence, will be presented.
01 Mar 2016 17:30 for 18:00	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Dr Suze Kundu, Imperial College		Event Title TBC Synopsis tbc
08 Mar 2016 17:30 for 18:00	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Dr Louisa Preston, Open University and TED Fellow		Life in the Universe: the search for ET This talk will steer you through the search for life in the Universe and explain how we use 'extreme' forms of life on Earth to guide us. We will then discuss the chances of finding intelligent life elsewhere in the Universe, the search for habitable planets in other distant solar systems, and the future for our exploration, and ultimately colonisation, of the cosmos.
09 Mar 2016 18:00 for 18:30	New York University in London 6 Bedford Square WC1B 3RA	Prof Peter Rich, UCL		Peter Mitchell and the Chemiosmotic Theory - A Story of the Difficulty of Introduction of A Radical Idea into the Scientific Mainstream The history behind the revolutionary 'chemiosmotic hypothesis' (first postulated by Peter Mitchell in 1961), will be explained. It took many years before Mitchell's hypothesis, and its ramifications, gained widespread acceptance as the chemiosmotic theory for which Mitchell received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1978, though even today some aspects of development of the ideas have remained controversial.
15 Mar 2016 18:00 for 18:30	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Prof Frank James, UCL		'Science, Gentlemen is of infinitely more importance ot a state than may at first sight appear possible': The Life and Work of Humphry Davy (1778 - 1829) This talk will trace Davy's career from provincial obscurity as an apothecary's apprentice in Penzance, through to Superintendent of the Medical Pneumatic Institution in Bristol, to metropolitan fame as Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution and later as President of the Royal Society of London.
22 Mar 2016 18:00 for 18:30	UCL Chemistry Department, 20 Gordon Street WC1H 0AJ	Prof Tracey Clarke, CPS President, UCL		CPS Presidential Lecture Synopsis TBC

Details correct at the date of printing, please check our website www.soci.org/events for updates or changes.