

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.

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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 2015

Organised by SCI's London Group

Programme

Date 12 Jan 15
Time 5.30 for 6.00pm
Speaker Prof Alwyn Davies
UCL



Kathleen Lonsdale
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Event Details

The History of the UCL Chemistry Department: two departmental characters - Alexander Williamson and Kathleen Lonsdale

In this lecture, the founding and growth of the UCL Chemistry Department will be briefly sketched, then against that background, the careers of two departmental characters – Alexander Williamson and Kathleen Lonsdale - will be described. Although a century apart, they are both as well known for their work outside the department as within it.

19 Jan 15 5.30 for 6.00 pm
Prof Lesley Yellowlees
University of Edinburgh



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Women in Science: What has chemistry ever done for me?

Prof Yellowlees is the first female president of the RSC and is passionate about inspiring and increasing the numbers of women studying and working in science. In this talk, she will address the concern that so many female scientists opt not to have a career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). Statistics, observations and recollections will all feature in the presentation.

26 Jan 15 5.30 for 6.00 pm
Prof Andrea Sella
UCL



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Terra Rara: The Elementary Unknown Sea

The rare earth elements made an unexpected appearance in the international news between 2010 and 2013 and featured prominently in discussions of international geopolitics. How could fourteen elements that most people have never heard of be so important? And why are they no longer newsworthy now? This is the story of the rare earths, of why they were so hard to discover and why they are so important in our world; it is a cautionary tale about the perils of not backing up your data and of thinking you can get rich quick.

02 Feb 15 5.30 for 6.00 pm
Dr Dave Alker
David Alker Associates



The Role of Chemists in the Discovery of New Medicines

Medicinal chemistry leads to the discovery of new medicines which impact millions of lives worldwide. This talk will describe the processes involved in taking the knowledge of modern day disease mechanisms and applying problem-solving techniques to design molecules which interact with specific biological targets. The talk will highlight how diverse technologies and ground-breaking discoveries in other scientific fields such as biology and engineering, are co-ordinated in the design of new therapeutic agents, with the emphasis being on how chemistry is the core science which makes this possible.

09 Feb 15 5.30 for 6.00 pm
Dr Fred Parrett
Parrett Technical Developments



Dead or alive? - airborne particles

Airborne Particles can be dead (dust) or alive (bioaerosols). Dust can arise from natural sources or be man-made. The lecture will outline the sources, health implications, monitoring and control of dust. It was this work that led to the development and manufacturing bio-aerosol samplers. Compared to 'dust', bio-aerosols, the terms for airborne viruses, bacteria, moulds etc... are more complex, such that their monitoring and control are more difficult. Due to this, the topic is often ignored, even by microbiologists. There are sound techniques that are used and these will be described.

Programme

Date 23 Feb 15
Time 5.30 for 6.00 pm
Speaker Dr Emily Mayhew & Major Daffyd Edwards
Imperial College London



Rod of asclepius
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Event Details

From the Western Front to Field Hospital Camp Bastion: modern military medical organisation and its origins in the Great War

Major Daffyd Edwards and Dr Emily Mayhew will outline the remarkable achievements made by medical staff of all trades on the Western Front, and how the system they created in the 20th century remains fundamental to the military medical organisation for Britain's conflicts in the 21st century.

02 Mar 15 5.30 for 6.00 pm
Prof Susan Hallam
Institute of Education,
University of London



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The impact of actively making music on the intellectual, social and personal development of children and young people: A research synthesis

This talk draws on research from neuroscience, psychology, education and music to set out our current understanding of the ways in which active engagement with music can impact on the intellectual, social and personal development of children and young people.

09 Mar 15 5.30 for 6.00 pm
Prof Pedro Ferreira
University of Oxford



The Perfect Theory: Einstein's general theory of relativity in the 21st century

Einstein's General Theory of Relativity is possibly the most perfect intellectual achievement in modern physics. Anything that involves gravity, the force that powers everything on the largest, hottest or densest of scales, can be explained by it. In this lecture, Ferreira will describe its complicated history, some of the characters who developed it and will try to convince you that something fantastic is bound to happen in the next few years...

16 Mar 15 5.30 for 6.00 pm
Phillip Ball
Freelance science writer



Invisibility: a Cultural History

Scientists have today worked out how to manipulate the path of light rays so as to render objects invisible. This is sometimes said to be the realization of an old dream; but the stories that we have told about invisibility are not stories of a technical capability but of power, desire, concealment, morality and corruption. What are these old tales of invisibility really saying, and how has the scientific understanding of light influenced them? From a history of invisibility that encompasses Plato, magic, spiritualism and Victorian physics, H G Wells, cinematography and the emerging new science of metamaterials, Philip Ball will show that ideas of invisibility are, like all ideas rooted in legend, ultimately parables about our own hopes and fears.

23 Mar 15 5.30 for 6.00 pm
Dr Matt Blunt
UCL



That's not my Nanobot: Is nanotechnology living up to the hype?

From Richard Feynman's seminal lecture in 1959 to the 'Grey Goo' of doomsday scenarios nanotechnology became one of the most hyped scientific ideas of the late 20th century. Now, more than a decade into the 21st century, has this hype transformed into the revolutionary new technologies we were promised, or do we still have a long way to go? This talk will touch on everything from using a scanning probe microscope to build structures atom-by-atom to how nanotechnology is portrayed in popular culture. Finally, Blunt will try and answer the most important question of all: where's my Nanobot?