

The SCI London Regional Group is currently the largest of all SCI regional groupings with c.1000 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 and 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 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

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London Regional Group Programme Card Autumn 2013

Organised by SCI's London Group

Programme

Date	Time	Speaker	Event Details
1 Oct 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Prof Mark Miodownik UCL	Strange Material The development of the silicon chip fifty years ago was the materials science innovation that sparked the information technology revolution. Materials are a defining characteristic of society: its history, culture and economic welfare. In this talk, Professor Mark Miodownik will describe a project to build a Materials Library and to use the stuff it contains as a material language to engage in a multidisciplinary approach to research and teaching.
08 Oct 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Derek Prentice Brewing Manager, Fuller, Smith & Turner Chiswick	Memorial to Catherine Side - Beer Talk The London Group pays tribute to Catherine Side, former London Group committee member, who sadly died in 2012. Derek Prentice, Master Brewer and Brewing Manager at Fuller's Brewery, will explain the science behind beer-making, the industry where Catherine started her career.
15 Oct 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Prof Andrew Abbott University of Leicester	Plastic from Potatoes, Rubber from Rice This talk discusses how the incorporation of a simple quaternary ammonium salt can lead to a flexible plastic with mechanical properties similar to oil derived plastics. It will show thermoplastic starch can be used in place of the thermoset resin to produce materials of similar mechanical strength but with clear environmental benefits.
22 Oct 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Various	Your Career, Advice from UCL's ALumni Join us for a one-off chance to get ahead in your career. A diverse range of speakers in industry from UCL's alumni will offer career's advice and share their experiences.
25 Oct 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Prof Andrea Sella UCL	Terra Rara: The Strange Story of Some Political Elements This talk gives an introduction to the lanthanide elements and considers the features which made them a maddening puzzle for the chemists of the 19 th century, how they are a key example of turning swords into ploughshares, and their role in bringing these very words to your computer screen. With growing concern that the world may soon face a shortage of the rare earths we will consider the political and economic ramifications of their distribution and technology.
29 Oct 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Dr Ian Lancaster UK Technical Manager Nynas UK	The Chemistry and Physics of Bitumen and Asphalt This lecture aims to explain the chemistry and physics of bitumen on a number of levels including; structural chemistry and relation to physical properties, the complexity of chemical species within bitumen, the chemistry of ageing and the chemistry of adhesion.

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05 Nov 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Prof Steve Jones UCL	Is Man Just Another Animal? The View from Genes This talk will cover how humans share a substantial proportion of their DNA sequence with other creatures, especially primates and how evolution has changed us in comparison to our relatives. Professor Jones will argue, that in the end, the fear that humans are on the same level as animals, is largely irrelevant to the question of what makes us human.
12 Nov 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm		An Evening At the Grant Museum - UCL's Zoological Museum Join us for a guided tour of UCL's Zoological Museum, the only remaining university zoological museum in London. It houses around 67,000 specimens, covering the whole Animal Kingdom. The Museum is packed full of skeletons, mounted animals and specimens preserved in fluid. Many of the species are now endangered or extinct including the Tasmanian Tiger or Thylacine, the Quagga, and the Dodo.
19 Nov 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Prof Peter Belton University of East Anglia	Exploring Microstructure in Food and Pharmaceuticals Using NMR This talk will consider the way in which NMR, a technique using wavelengths of the order of metres, can be used to probe structures on length scales from nanometres to centimetres. Examples of the use of NMR and techniques will be given as well as a discussion of the limitations of these techniques.
26 Nov 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Dr Warren Corns Research Manager P.S Analytical Ltd	Mercury in the Oil and Gas Processing Industry This presentation will provide a general summary of what we understand and believe to be the fate of mercury and its potential impact on the oil and gas industry as a global pollutant. The challenges of trace analytical mercury measurements will also be discussed.
03 Dec 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Prof Andrew Cobbing	A History of the Choshu Five The London Group's talk on the history of the Choshu Five forms part of a series of events to commemorate the 150 th anniversary of their arrival from Japan to the UK, and their wish to study and emulate the success of the Industrial Revolution and, ultimately transform Japan into a modern society.
05 Dec 13	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Ben Russell Curator, Mechanical Engineering, Science Museum	'An Eminently Heritage Operation': the Anarchic Rise of the Science Museum The Science Museum began life as the collections of the Patent Office Museum in the 1850s and has evolved into the world's pre-eminent museum of science and technology. This talk will shed light on how the museum, in its early days, was haphazard and chaotic, taking in elements of blackmail, curatorial skulduggery, and even unauthorised exhumation.
14 Jan 14	5.45 for 6.00 pm	Michael Maunders	How Photography Changed the World Since 1975 More details coming soon.

All events take place at the Department of Chemistry, UCL, 20 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AJ. Additional events are promoted by the group and can be found on www.soci.org/events.

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