

One-day Course: Nanotechnology for Drug Delivery

Northwick Park Hospital
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Speaker biographies

Richard Moore



Richard Moore is responsible for overall management of work programmes in nanomedicine and the lifesciences at the Institute of Nanotechnology. This includes the NanoMedNet nanomedicine network for clinicians and other professionals (www.nanomednet.org) and the development of a modular series of professional training courses and workshops in the field of nanomedicine.

He also participates on behalf of Institute of Nanotechnology in EU FP7 projects on the topics of nanomedicine and nanotechnology governance, in activities in the field of nanotechnology risk and safety, and in standardisation activities at UK, European and international levels in the field of nanotechnology.

Prior to joining the Institute of Nanotechnology, he worked for ten years as Director, Science and Innovation at Eucomed (European Medical Technology Association) in Brussels. At Eucomed, he was responsible for EU-level and international work in the area of standards, environmental legislation, new medical technologies (e.g. regenerative medicine and nanomedicine), risk and risk governance, and also for an industry programme of medical technology innovation.

Prior to Eucomed he worked for six years at the European Committee for Standardisation, CEN, where he was responsible for the development and publication of the programme of harmonised European standards supporting European Directives in the field of medical devices and the environment.

Richard is a biologist by training and is a Chartered Biologist (CBiol), a Member of the Society of Biology (MSB), a European Professional Biologist (EurProBio), a Fellow of the Institute of Nanotechnology (FIoN) and a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London (FLS).

Professor Ijeoma Uchehgbu



Ijeoma Uchehgbu holds a Chair in Pharmaceutical Nanoscience at the School of Pharmacy, University of London and is Director of Postgraduate Research Studies at the School.

Ijeoma obtained her PhD from the School of Pharmacy, University of London in 1994, was appointed to a lectureship within the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Strathclyde University in 1997 and a Chair in Drug Delivery at Strathclyde University in 2002. In 2006 Ijeoma was appointed to the Chair in Pharmaceutical Nanoscience at the School of Pharmacy, University of London.

Ijeoma's research in pharmaceutical nanoscience has provided insights into nanoparticle design for drug delivery, producing nanosystems (nanomedicines) that promote oral drug absorption and drug transport to the brain for example. Ijeoma and Andreas Schätzlein have also designed an anti-cancer gene medicine that is currently in pre-clinical development.

Ijeoma is the Science Secretary of the Controlled Release Society (CRS), a US based learned society with over 2,000 members and with interests in the delivery of pharmaceuticals, former Chair of the *Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Great Britain* and is the Academia Expert on the Department for Business Innovation and Skills' *Science Engineering and Technology Strategy for Women Expert Group*.

Ijeoma has been awarded various prizes for her work, the latest of which is the Department for Innovation University and Skills' *Women of Outstanding Achievement in Science Engineering and Technology* award. Ijeoma along with five other awardees took part in a national photographic exhibition in 2007 at various venues including the Science Museum and the British Museum.

Ijeoma is the editor of two books and over 80 patents, patent applications, peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters.

Dr Mohammad S. Alavijeh



Mohammad Alavijeh is Managing Director of Pharmidex and a science entrepreneur with over 20 years experience in the pharmaceutical industry, having responsibilities as wide-ranging as R&D and innovation, business development and strategic alliances. His experience covers most therapeutic areas, notably CNS, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular, infection, cancer and inflammation. He is now considered to be a world leading authority in CNS DMPK, with distinctive competence in neuro-pharmacokinetics. He also has extensive experience of drug discovery and has made a significant contribution to the development of drugs and drug candidates targeting amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, cancer, obesity and Parkinson's disease. Prior to co-founding Pharmidex in 2003, a company that has grown into a world leader in CNS solutions powered by NeuroPK®, Mohammad was head of drug metabolism, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic (DMPK/PD) at Vernalis Research, before which he was DMPK team leader at Aventis Pharma. On the academia front, Mohammad worked within the Clinical Neurology Department at the Institute of Neurology, University College London. Mohammad is a board member of IMET2000, the International Medical Education Trust charity.

Professor S Homer-Vanniasinkam BSc MD FRCSED FRCS



Professor Shervanthi Homer-Vanniasinkam was appointed Consultant Vascular Surgeon at The General Infirmary at Leeds in October 1995. In June 2008 she was awarded a Personal Chair in Clinical and Experimental Vascular Research by the University of Bradford; in 2006, she was appointed to the first Chair in Translational Vascular Medicine at Bradford. In September 2008, she was appointed Director of Research and Education at the Northwick Park Institute for Medical Research (affiliated to University College London; UCL) in London, and was invited to accept an Honorary Chair in Surgery, at UCL.

In addition to her clinical work as a full-time vascular surgeon, she is actively involved in a number of basic, applied and translational research projects. Her initial research interests focused on ischaemia-reperfusion injury in which she has published widely and has given a number of national and international presentations. She has successfully implemented a multidisciplinary research programme within the hospital and the universities of Bradford and Leeds, with clinical and basic science students engaged in a number of vascular surgical and biological projects. She has also been the principal investigator for many clinical trials, both investigator-initiated and based at Leeds General Infirmary and other multicentre studies.

In addition to her clinical and research activities, Professor Homer-Vanniasinkam is currently the Clinical Sub-Dean of Leeds Medical School and has significant medical undergraduate teaching and examining commitments. In 2006, she developed and launched a novel undergraduate medical research scholarship programme, LURE (**L**eeds **U**ndergraduate **R**esearch **E**nterprise) which is a 'first' for the UK. She also has an ongoing programme of medical under-and post-graduate teaching and mission work, especially in Asia and the Far East.

More recently, Professor Homer-Vanniasinkam has been associated with emerging technology projects and is keenly interested in the medical applications of these technologies; she has been appointed as the Chair of the UK Nanomedicine Network which has been set up by the Institute of Nanotechnology. She currently holds a number of Visiting Professorships and collaborative appointments in this country and abroad.

Professor Homer-Vanniasinkam has authored over 90 papers, has delivered numerous invited lectures in the UK and internationally, and her grant income exceeds £12 million, in the last five years.