

## **UCLPartners-UCB Pharma PhD programme in the 3Is**

### **Training biomedical scientists in discovery science and enhancing collaborations with industry.**

In early March, UCB Pharma hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> UCLPartners-UCB Pharma joint PhD programme workshop. It was attended by a team steered by Professor David Abraham (UCL) and Professor Mauro Perretti (QMUL). The meeting of over 60 scientists from UCLPartners and UCB Pharma was chaired by Martin Procter (UCB Associate Director Academic Alliances and Contracts) and Professor Tim Johnson (Director pre-clinical Fibrosis, Immunology TA) with an introduction by Dr Ray Jupp (VP Immunology Research, UCB).

The symposium showcased the broad biomedical research studies undertaken at UCL and QMUL within the UCLPartners Academic Medical Centre themes of Infection, Immunology and Inflammation (3Is) which is led by Professor Hans Stauss. Research themes covered at the symposium were focussed towards inflammation biology, chronic diseases, tissue repair and fibrosis. UCLPartners secured projects from both the UCL Inflammation, Tissue Repair, Scarring and Fibrotic Diseases (FLARRE) consortium and the Centre for inflammation and Therapeutic Innovation (CiTI) at QMUL.

Successful proposals will be developed into PhD projects that will be supported by UCB Pharma. During the workshop senior UCB PIs provided an overview of the resources, drug discovery approaches and technologies available to the PhD studentships. The UCLPartners-UCB Pharma PhD programme will run for four years and aims to train PhD students in biomedicine and discovery science, in addition to providing critical exposure to an industrial environment and platform technologies.

The joint proposals between two world leading academic institutes (UCL and QMUL), and UCB Pharma, a global biopharmaceutical company with world-class facilities will provide a particularly attractive opportunity for high-calibre students to obtain an applied PhD and to embark upon a research career in biomedical sciences. The scheme also enhances academia-industry collaborative research. Training provided within the partnership will develop skills and tools needed to provide high quality research using innovative approaches and techniques, promoting translational science that will lead to long-term patient benefit.



<http://uclpartners.com/what-we-do/clinical-themes/infection-immunity-and-inflammation/>  
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/flarre>  
<http://www.qmul.ac.uk/citi/>  
<http://www.ucbpharma.co.uk/home>