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Professor Andrew D Dick

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 - Moorfields Eye Charity

Welcome to the 2022-2023 edition of the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology's Annual Review

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have managed to continue an upward trajectory for our research, education, and community, as the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic proved.

I was very pleased to see our inaugural lectures continue throughout 2022-2023, with people joining us both on site, in our Lecture Theatre, and remotely. The content is available for everyone to see [in a dedicated space](#) on our website. It was also a great pleasure to celebrate Dr Anthony Khawaja's Lister Award at a special lecture on 16 May. If you missed it, you can [watch the recording](#) of an inspiring and very informative talk.

This year we had several exciting news on AI applications to vision science with, among other things, the announcement of an [AI 'innovation to accelerate health'](#) award granted to Professor Pearse Keane, and then the publication of the largest study to date on

[retinal imaging in Parkinson's research](#), led by Siegfried Wagner and Pearse Keane and combining with the wider strengths UCL brings. We also welcomed six new research fellows: Siyin (Shane) Liu, Rodrigo Young, Celian Bimbard, Tom Burgoyne, Giulia De Rossi, and Davide Zecchin, their excellence bringing and sustaining our future fundamental research.

L'] 'klyj| 'g^l'] 'f] o 'pn] %q] Yj' hYjlf] jk` a`o a` 'E ggjP] d`k`=q] ' Hospital, was a valued occasion to develop our ambitions in experimental and translational ophthalmology, with the grant and fellowship awards expanding our fundamental science.

'Collaboration' being one of our core values, it was great to see the launch of a series of [Cross Innovation Hub](#) events, aimed at encouraging and facilitating dialogue and cooperation between clinicians and researchers.

This year we had another fantastic round of promotions with six members of our academic [UCL Senior Academic, Research and Teaching Promotions 2022-23](#) list and four of our [early career researchers](#) promoted in July.

In March I was happy to hear that two of our students were recognised in the [Dean's list](#), a testimony to the great talent we attract at the institute. On the educational front we continue to develop, and I am so pleased with the expansion of our [menu of educational offerings](#) for our students.

I was delighted to announce the crucial appointment of [Associate Professor Rashmi Mathew](#) as the

which allows us to link in with our faculty's work on this, and to develop our ownear Remarkable to see our team receive three awards for the thir

Great milestones were achieved on the Oriel front. Following regulatory approval, the Oriel team [in this short video](#). Later in the year we received news of a [£300 million contract being awarded to Bouygues UK to build our new health centre](#). The news was very well received both on social media and in the [local press](#). This was then followed by a very exciting 005p [forward with a breaking ground ceremony on construction site](#).

We are now one big 005p closer to creating our new integrated centre.

We have kept growing our international partnerships, with Santen continuing to support PhD proISs at our institute, among other things and continuing to partner with many biotech and pharma companies to facilitate our common aims.

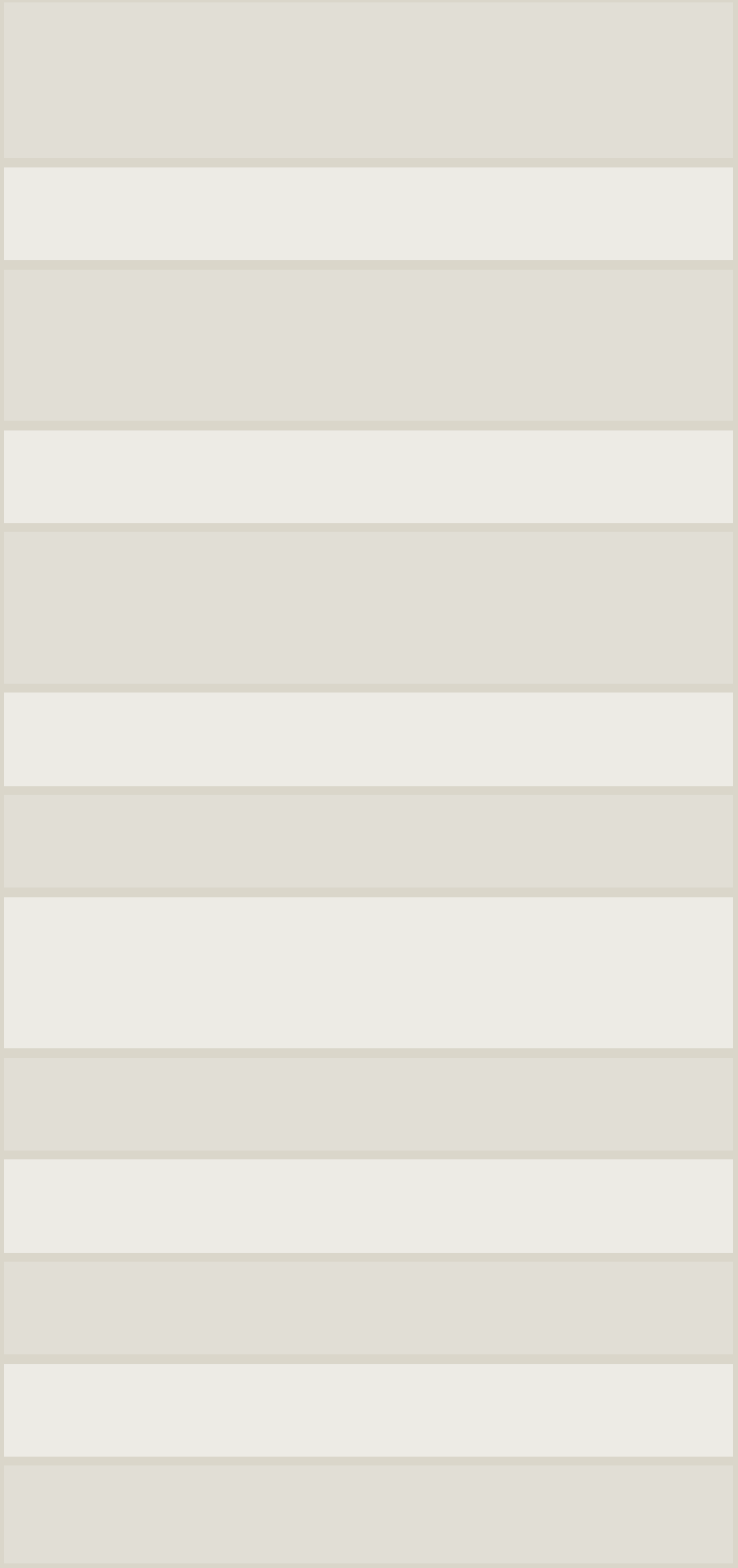
We had to say goodbye to some key people including D5C0s Lincoln, Cynthia Wilson our long-term [after more than 20 years at the institute you could likely take on this opportunity to also congratulate Astrid Limb, Julie Daniels, Phil Luthert \(and for his many years as Director\), and Steve Moss on their achievements over the years have helped \[make the institute a vibrant and inspiring place to work and study\]\(#\).](#)

[Read on for further details on these activities and more.](#)

Professor Andr
Director, UCL Institute of Ophthalmology



ng award



Human Resources

Communications and Events

Bulletins disseminated of whom 7 special editions with Director's update
followers on X (previously Twitter)
followers on LinkedIn
subscribers on YouTube
all-staf meetings
seminars with external guest speakers (average attendance: 40)
research networking events (average attendance: 35)
Inaugural Lectures (average attendance: 100)
Annual Lecture (97 attendees)
Lister Award Lecture (75 attendees)

Another great year for celebrating grant and fellowship success, and through these awards we have continued to build on our shared infrastructure and new equipment. Thank you to everyone for all your hard work, it is wonderful to see our ground-breaking and impactful research hit news headlines.

Deputy Institute Director
and Deputy Director for Research,
Professor Alison Hardcastle

Activity surrounding our four inter-related research themes has been steadily growing over the last year with an increased number of seminars, workshops, guest lectures, monthly meetings, events, away days and training sessions on the use of the equipment.

“Following on from the ‘Ocular Health and Disease’ discussion at the PI Away Day in September, we were excited to announce the instigation of regular focus groups as part of our monthly ‘Development Ageing and Disease’ and ‘Rescue, Repair and Regeneration’ theme meetings. These sessions will bring together research scientists and clinicians from the UCL



**We had nearly 500 papers published
in 2022 – 2023 including:**

Early Career Researchers (ECRs) highlights

Our annual ECR symposium was the highlight of the summer. This sixth edition was held in person at UCL Institute of Child Health and was supported by the Institute of Ophthalmology.

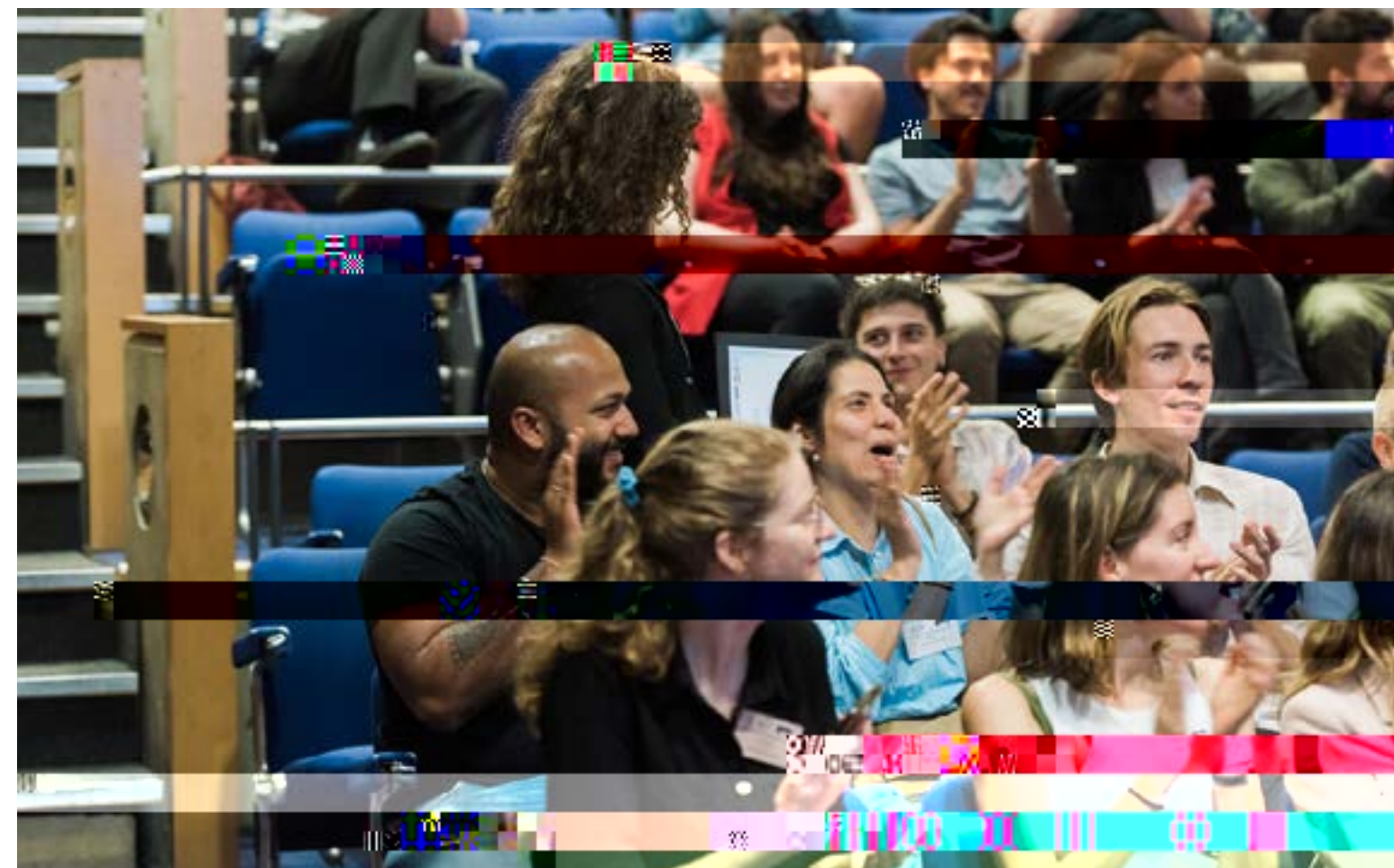
There were over 150 attendees and more than 50 early career researchers showcasing their research in talks and posters.

We were joined by Professor Julie Daniels as the keynote speaker, who shared her inspirational yet personal career story highlighting the importance of mentorship and working with others.

Our event was supported by the Institute of Ophthalmology, the Institute of Child Health, and the UCL Institute of Child Health. We were joined by Professor Julie Daniels as the keynote speaker, who shared her inspirational yet personal career story highlighting the importance of mentorship and working with others.

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Best Talk

First	Amy Leung
Second	Sara Toros
Third	Cecile Mejecase
Communication Award	Mark Chia

Best Poster

First	Yuting Zou
Second	Martina Rudnicki
Third	Natalia Jaroszynska
Communication Award	Natalia Jaroszynska

Best Lay Abstract

Joint First	Mark Chia
Joint First	Ana Alonso-Carriazo Fernandez
Runner-up	Dominic Williamson

Best Scientific Image

Best	Julio Corral Serrano
Runner-up	Yuan Tian

Best Data Visualisation

Best	Riccardo Cheloni
Runner-up	Atika Safriti

Thanks to generous supporters to the Thunder microscope
appeal in 2022, the institute was able to purchase the Thunder

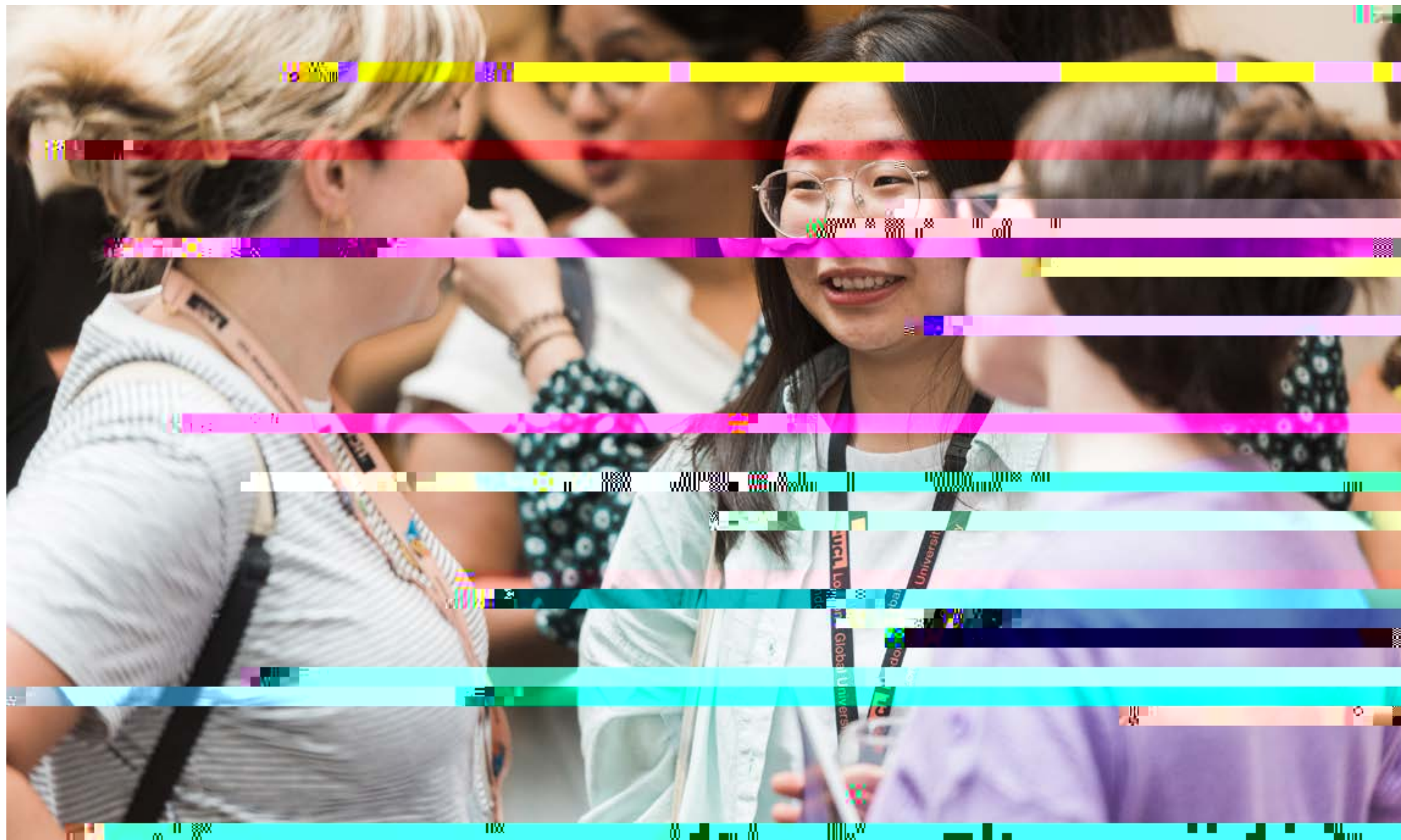
In September 2023 UCL was named University of the Year 2024 for UCL's world-leading performance in multidisciplinary research and education, the enhanced career prospects of UCL's graduates, along with our ambitious work around sustainability.

www.ucl.ac.uk/news



Degree Programmes at UCL Institute of Ophthalmology 2022-2023

Postgraduate Taught Courses



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2022-23 has seen us staring down another problem-shaped opportunity in IoO education: student numbers. This was the year when institute's student recruitment was hit by a perfect storm. Changes to NHS education funding, and timing, changes to career and training pathways, accreditation, fees, Brexit and more, brought into focus a big challenge - essentially a communications challenge - of

how to raise awareness of our world-leading programmes, out there where it matters.

Marketing education in Ophthalmology is a non-trivial job. There are a dozen or more \a]j] f l [gmj k] k\$e gkl 'Yl m] d _' \a [m] %g %h] d d] f _' o gj \ k ' o d ` lots of consonants all beginning with O, that have to reach scattered professional, clinical and student communities, all over the world that has heard of

Dominic Wong, MSc Ophthalmology, 2022-2023, AI Co-Creators project

I want to work together to enhance the learning experience of students and outputs produced from this work will fuel further discussions at

"I am currently a medical student at King's College London who studied the MSc Ophthalmology in 2022-2023. I got involved in the AI Co-Creators project after being invited by my personal

Aimee Cecil, MSc Orthoptics (pre-registration),
2022-2024

K Y'h Ub_ U`'cdYfUjcbg'ghU 'Zcf'h Y]f'Vcb]bi YX'
commitment and work at the institute.

Log'e]e Z]jk\$=p] [man] '9kkaIYfI'; qfI` a'O akgf 'Yf\`K] f'aj '@J`
Administrator Liz Hurst, retired in 2023 after more than 20 years of
k]jnā] &E gj] 'gh]jYlāgf k'kIY 'lggc'gf 'k] [gf\`e] fl'ghhgjInf āā k`
across UCL this year to support their career development. The team
continued to assist the Research Themes in the organisation and



Oriel

Charity under one roof to create a world-class centre of excellence for ophthalmic research and education.

Oriel is a joint initiative to build a new state-of-the-art centre for eye health, research, and education. It will see services move from our current location near Old Street, Islington, to part of the St Pancras Hospital site in Camden. The new centre will enable closer collaborative working between clinicians and researchers to speed up the delivery of... term philanthropic partner the Wolfson Foundation. A £300m contract with building contractors Bouygues UK secured the start of demolition in February 2023.

The start of construction was marked with a breaking ground event... Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Care,



Get in touch

Stay in touch and let us know if you have any questions about anything you saw in this publication.



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