

SciSoc

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

EVENTS LENT 2009

Please check www.scisoc.com for last minute changes and further information.

VENUE: The **Pharmacology Lecture Theatre** on **Tennis Court Road** is the venue for all SciSoc talks unless stated otherwise. Please see www.scisoc.com for directions.

MON 19 JAN 7.30PM

Panel Debate

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WEEK 1

COGNITIVE ENHANCEMENT:

HOPE OR DOPE? We only use a fraction of our brains. But drugs to tap into this unused potential become increasingly available. Indeed, a recent study concluded that students use 'smart drugs' more commonly than one might imagine. What are the ethical, social and health-related implications? An expert panel will discuss this delicate issue. (Held in cooperation with The Triple Helix.)

TUE 27 JAN 8PM

Sir John Meurig Thomas

WEEK 2

UNPREDICTABILITY AND CHANCE IN SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

From penicillin to Teflon, many life-changing discoveries were the products of chance, accidents, or even bad lab practice. So, how much luck is there in science? This exciting question will be explored by Sir John Meurig Thomas, Honorary Professor of Materials Science.

TUE 3 FEB 8PM

Prof Chris Howe

WEEK 3

EVOLUTION FROM MALARIA TO

MANUSCRIPTS Inaccurate copying leads to the accumulation of changes – be it during DNA replication or when scribes copied manuscripts in the days before printing. The analysis of such changes can reveal surprising relationships, for example one between plant cells and the malaria parasite, which points to new approaches for antimalarial agents...

TUE 10 FEB 8PM

Simon Singh

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WEEK 4

TRICK OR TREATMENT? ALTERNATIVE

MEDICINE ON TRIAL Millions of people swear by it and much of it is free on the NHS, but most UK doctors consider alternative medicine to be little more than superstition. Presenting the conclusions of his book 'Trick or Treatment?', Simon Singh relies on scientific evidence to investigate which therapies are safe and effective, and which are useless and even downright dangerous.

TUE 24 FEB 8PM

Prof Gerard Gilmore

WEEK 6

SHEDDING LIGHT ON DARK MATTER

The nature of the Dark Matter, which makes up most of the matter in the Universe, remains poorly known. Recent discoveries and observations of the smallest and faintest galaxies in the Universe, which will soon be complemented by the findings of the LHC at CERN, are providing new clues to the nature of reality.

TUE 3 MAR 8PM

Dr Jenny Morton

WEEK 7

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

Huntington's disease is one of the most devastating neurodegenerative disorders. Dr Morton's lab is focused on finding strategies to delay or prevent the death of neurons and thus develop a treatment for the disease. Most of her studies use transgenic mouse models of Huntington's to investigate psychological changes to behavior and pharmacological approaches.

TUE 10 MAR 8PM

Brendan Moriarty MD

WEEK 8

FIGHTING BLINDNESS IN THE DE-

VELOPING WORLD Brendan Moriarty is a renowned ophthalmic surgeon who recently introduced intraocular surgery for macular degeneration. He spent four years in the developing world to treat and prevent blindness and will outline the problems and solutions with particular regard to the undertaking to treat preventable visual loss sponsored by The World Health Organization.

SciSoc is supported by:

