

COMMUNITY

A centre for the whole community

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ABOUT THE CRICK

The Francis Crick Institute (formerly UKCMRI), is a new medical research institute being built at Brill Place, Somers Town.

It's named after one of the UK's greatest scientists, who co-discovered the structure of DNA.

The Institute was set up by the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust, and UCL (University College London).

Discoveries made in the laboratories will speed up the development of treatments for major diseases such as cancer, heart disease and stroke.

The Francis Crick Institute will bring new jobs, community facilities and other benefits to Somers Town.

A welcoming, accessible, well-designed and multi-functional space the whole community can use – that's what local organisations and residents on the Living Centre community working group have been helping to design over the past few months.

Now the group has agreed the basic layout for the Living Centre that will be set up in The Crick's building, to help improve local health and wellbeing.

As well as a large space for sports and physical activity sessions, the 450m² Living Centre will have two meeting/training rooms, smaller rooms for one-to-

one sessions and health checks, a kitchen, and a bright and airy reception.

Chair of the working group, Cllr Peter Brayshaw, said: "I'm really impressed at the progress made by the working group already. It's a genuine partnership between the community and the Institute. We've worked very closely with the architects and engineers, against tight construction deadlines, and have signed-off plans for a flexible Living Centre which will add real value for the health and wellbeing of the local community".

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Right: How the Living Centre Reception could look.
© The Francis Crick Institute.



GET INVOLVED

We are looking for another local resident to join the Living Centre working group, which meets every two months. You don't need any special skills but should have a good knowledge of the Somers Town and St Pancras area and a keen interest in improving local health and wellbeing. For more information, contact us on 0800 028 6731, email info@crick.ac.uk or go to www.crick.ac.uk.

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It's vital that the Living Centre works closely with other local community facilities – such as the Somers Town and St Pancras Community Centres – to make sure its services fit with what's on offer elsewhere, and are what local people want.

The working group is now beginning to look at the best ways of consulting the community and what the Living Centre might offer. This could include health information, sports and exercise classes, advice services (for example, on training and employment, debt, and welfare rights), and adult and community education.

Above: An illustration of a meeting space within the Institute. © The Francis Crick Institute.

Local community benefits

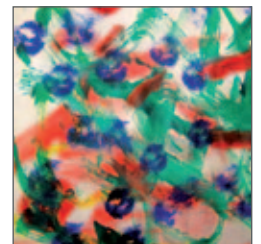
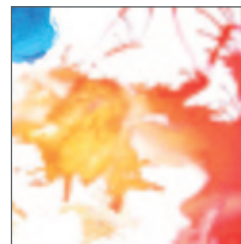
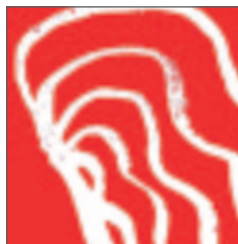
In addition to creating the Living Centre, The Francis Crick Institute has committed almost £10 million to help improve the health, wellbeing and prosperity of the local community.

This includes:

- £1.7 million to Camden's Better Homes programme to improve council housing close to the Institute
- £3.8 million towards Camden's new district energy centre, supplying cheaper heat and power to homes in the area
- Improvements to public open spaces and a direct pedestrian route between Midland Road and Ossulston Street
- Almost £500,000 for community safety measures
- Training opportunities and at least 40 construction apprenticeships for Camden residents.

Hoardings project

These panels were created by youth and community groups as part of a Crick arts project. A selection of individual artworks and one of the decorated hoardings around The Francis Crick Institute site are below.





RESEARCH FOCUS



In search of the 'genetic signature' for TB

"Many people think TB (tuberculosis) is a disease of the past, but it's not: every year TB kills 1.7 million people throughout the world. And it's here on our doorstep in London," says Dr Anne O'Garra of the Medical Research Council's National Institute for Medical Research.

The UK is the only European country where TB rates are on the rise, with 9,000 cases diagnosed in 2009. The problem is worst in London, where rates have increased by nearly 50% since 1999.

In 2009 a TB outbreak hit a Somers Town school.

Caused by a bacterial infection, TB usually affects the lungs, though it can spread to other parts of the body, including the lymph nodes and bones. Symptoms may include coughing, weight loss, fever and sweating.

If left untreated, TB kills over 50% of its victims. But treatment involves taking strong drugs over a number of months, and is not suitable for everyone.

One of the biggest challenges facing researchers is to understand who will

get the disease. This would allow doctors to focus on treating those at high risk of developing active TB, rather than treating healthy people who are unlikely to get sick.

"Although almost a third of the world's population is infected by TB, only one in 10 of those go on to develop the disease. But at present we don't know who will get full-blown TB or why," Anne says.

For the last five years Anne and her team have been investigating why some people infected with TB stay healthy and others get sick. They've discovered a "genetic signature" in the blood of patients with active TB that's also present in 10% of those with inactive TB. When patients are treated, the signature seems to get weaker, showing the drugs are working.

The research could help develop a blood test to identify who will get full-blown TB and spread the infection. At present, a skin or blood test can only show if someone has previously been infected with the bacteria that cause TB, not whether they will go on to develop the disease.

"It's a tough one, but if we are right this blood test could really help in treating TB. We'd be able to treat people with active TB sooner and target treatment at people who are likely to get sick – vital to stopping the TB epidemic both in developing countries and here in the UK."

Now the team is looking at whether healthy people with the genetic signature go on to develop full-blown TB over the next two years. The researchers are also investigating whether the genetic signature could help diagnose TB in other parts of the body.

RESEARCH AT THE CRICK

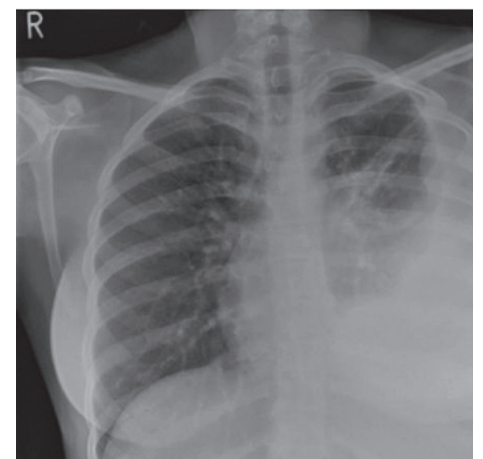
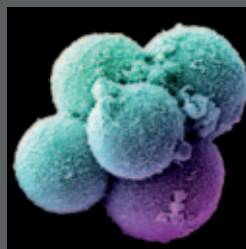
The Francis Crick Institute will carry out medical research of the highest quality using the latest technology.

Its work will help understand why disease develops and find new ways to prevent and treat illnesses such as cancer, heart disease and stroke, infections, neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, and behavioural disorders such as schizophrenia and autism.

It will encourage connections between researchers, between disciplines, and between academic institutions, healthcare organisations and businesses.

Doing this will help speed up the process of turning discoveries made in the laboratories into effective drugs and other treatments for use in hospitals and pharmacies.

We expect these discoveries to be developed into many of the cures, vaccines and drugs from which the NHS and its patients will benefit for many years.



Above: X ray of a lung affected by TB.

Institute staff join START Festival 2011

For the fourth year running, The Crick joined the local community for the Somers Town Festival of Cultures (START Festival) in July.

Staff from the Institute were on hand throughout the day to answer questions about the new research centre. They were joined by colleagues from building firm, Laing O'Rourke, who provided information about construction apprenticeship opportunities, and scientists from the Medical Research Council's National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute (LRI).

The LRI and NIMR scientists staged a number of fun and engaging activities for visitors to the Institute's stall, including a chance for children to wear a lab coat and goggles and carry out a scientific experiment. Children also got to make bracelets using UV beads which changed colour in the sun, highlighting the benefit of using sun cream to help protect against skin cancer.

Cancer Research UK brought their Cancer Awareness Roadshow Bus to the festival, with nurses on hand to offer information and advice on leading a healthier life to help reduce the risk of cancer, and the importance of spotting cancer early.



Local youth football team gets a helping hand from The Crick

The Crick is to sponsor local youth football team Origin FC for the 2011-12 season.

The team was set up in 2006 by Origin Housing to give 16-24 year olds opportunities for personal development and the chance to contribute to the local community while honing their football skills.

More than 100 young people from Camden – many from Somers Town – have benefited over the last five seasons, including some who have gone on to gain FA coaching qualifications and coached children in a local school.

Last season the team finished top of Division One of the Islington Midweek League, a major adult north London league in which England's Joe and Ashley Cole have played.

This season Origin FC joins the Midweek Premier League. The Crick is sponsoring the team's football strip and helping with coaching costs.





FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CRICK

The Francis Crick Institute has launched a brand new Visitor Centre on Ossulston Street (opposite Hadstock House).

Open two afternoons a week, the Visitor Centre features up-to-date information on the design and construction of the Institute, as well as details of our proposed research and plans to work in partnership with the community. There are also models of the new building and artist's impressions of the planned Living Centre on display.

We are keen to welcome school and community groups to the Visitor Centre and can open it at other times on request.

To find out more about bringing a group along, contact us on 0800 028 6731 or email info@crick.ac.uk.

Normal opening hours are Tuesdays 1-5pm and Thursdays from 3-7pm.

Considerate Constructors Scheme rates site 'exceptional'

The Francis Crick Institute's building site has been rated 'exceptionally good' in its first Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) inspection.

A monitor from the CCS visited the site in July and assessed the site's performance in eight categories including safety, cleanliness and respect for neighbours.

The site was awarded 37.5 out of a possible 40 points: a clear indication of commitment to the Considerate Constructors Scheme from The Crick and building firm Laing O'Rourke.

The report stated: "This is an exemplary site and though it is early days for this long term project, there has already been an impressive level of community involvement. The initiative to engage 40 apprentices during the project and the level of information issued to those affected by the project is outstanding."

The site scored the maximum five points for being considerate, responsible and a good neighbour. The top rating is only awarded when a site is doing something exceptional, which at Brill Place included good communications with people who live nearby and a detailed complaints procedure.

Andy Smith, The Francis Crick Institute's Construction Director said: "On-site works began only a few weeks ago so achieving such a positive report at this stage is a tremendous start to our four-year construction programme. We are very pleased with progress to date and are confident that high standards will be maintained throughout."

CCS inspectors will visit the site regularly to make sure it continues to operate in line with the Scheme.

Construction apprenticeships and other jobs on site

If you live in Camden, are aged 18-24, and want to work in the construction industry, you might be interested in Laing O'Rourke's two-year apprenticeship scheme. To find out more call the King's Cross Construction Skills Centre (KCCSC) on 020 7974 5161.

KCCSC also handle recruitment for other jobs on The Crick construction site, including the recent appointment of an assistant engineer. Give KCCSC a call for information on any jobs available now.

SOMERS TOWN YOUTH TO CONTRIBUTE TO 'TIME CAPSULE'

Local schoolchildren have been invited to contribute stories and poems on the theme of science to a 'time capsule' that will be buried to mark the start of construction of The Francis Crick Institute. Another group of young people will make a short film.

Other items to be buried include a cobble from the goods yards that stood on the site of the Institute and a set of coins from 2011.

Construction questions? Call the construction hotline free on 0808 165 0180, or email projectinfo@laingorourke.com



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Building work on The Francis Crick Institute is underway.

Main contractor Laing O'Rourke is now creating the 110 concrete panels that will form the basement wall of the Institute. Each panel is seven metres wide and up to 40 metres deep, and is made using concrete from up to 25 ready-mix concrete lorries.

Other work taking place includes the removal of soil from the site so Laing O'Rourke can start building the basement. Clay soil is used to help restore a bird sanctuary, whilst heavier soil which may contain concrete is cleaned at a washing plant and then recycled.

Laing O'Rourke is also working on the "capping beam" which links the individual wall panels together to form a solid box. Once the capping beam is finished along the Ossulston Street end of the site the contractor will start fully excavating the site, digging up to eight metre below ground in the first phase of the work.



OUTLINE TIMETABLE

Early Summer 2011

Building work started.

Spring 2013

External work completed, internal fit-out starts.

Spring 2015

Internal works completed.
The building is ready for use and staff move in.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Email: info@crick.ac.uk

Web: www.crick.ac.uk

Phone: 0800 028 6731

Post: The Francis Crick Institute (UKCMRI)
Gibbs Building
215 Euston Road
London, NW1 2BE

Visit: The Crick Visitor Centre,
Ossulston Street
(opposite Hadstock House), NW1

Staff will be on hand to answer your questions and you will be able to see the latest designs and plans for the building.

OPENING TIMES

Tuesdays: 13.00-17.00

Thursdays: 15.00-19.00

We can also open the Visitor Centre for groups on request. Please contact us to arrange a visit.

This newsletter tells you about The Francis Crick Institute and its plans to build a medical research centre on Brill Place, Somers Town. If you would like a copy in Bengali, please send your name and address to The Francis Crick Institute, PO Box 64746, London, NW1W 8HB or email info@crick.ac.uk.

এই সংবাদ-পুস্তিকাটি আপনাকে দ্য ফ্রান্সিস ক্রিক ইন্সটিটিউট (ইউকেসিএমআরআই) এবং এদের ব্রিল প্লেস, সোমারস টাউনে একটি চিকিৎসা গবেষণা কেন্দ্র তৈরীর পরিকল্পনার বিষয়ে জানায়। যদি আপনার বাংলাতে একটি অনুলিপি প্রয়োজন হয়, অনুগ্রহ করে আপনার নাম ও ঠিকানা The Francis Crick Institute (UKCMRI), Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE-তে পাঠান বা info@crick.ac.uk-তে ইমেইল করুন।