



THE
FRANCIS
CRICK
INSTITUTE

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

www.crick.ac.uk

The Francis Crick Institute Limited is a registered charity in England and Wales no. 1140062 and a company registered in England and Wales no. 06885462, with its registered office at 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.



The Francis Crick Institute is a biomedical discovery institute dedicated to understanding the fundamental biology underlying health and illness. Our work is helping to understand why disease develops and to translate this into new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, strokes, infections, and neurodegenerative diseases.

By bringing together scientists from many disciplines, the Crick will help to improve people's lives and keep the UK at the forefront of innovation in medical research, attracting high-value investment and strengthening the economy.

The Crick is a consortium of six of the UK's most successful scientific and academic organisations – the Medical Research Council (MRC), Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust, UCL (University College London), Imperial College London and King's College London.

By combining specialist knowledge, expertise and resources from each of these organisations, the Crick undertakes ground-breaking research across a range of scientific disciplines and helps laboratory discoveries to be turned into treatments as quickly as possible.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AT THE CRICK

Engaging the public is a priority for the Crick. Our size, location and profile allow us to play an important role in generating excitement and interest in science. We also have an opportunity to help promote health and wellbeing in the local area.

Our engagement covers a wide range of audiences: people living, working or studying within a mile of the Crick; people with an interest, but no specialist knowledge, in science; students and teachers from schools in Camden and neighbouring boroughs; and special interest groups, such as patients, funders, politicians and opinion-formers.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH SCIENCE

Our stimulating public engagement activities, supported by the Crick's researchers, range from events and talks, through exhibitions, projects and appearances at festivals, to dialogues and debates which seek to involve the public in the future direction of our research.

SCIENCE BUSKERS

The Crick's Science Buskers are roving performers who use simple science demonstrations to engage people at festivals and events with specific areas of our research, including the immune system and neuroscience.



THE BUSKING WAS ADDICTIVE – IT WAS GREAT TO SEE THE KIDS' EYES LIGHT UP WHEN THEY THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS IMPRESSIVE!

Rob, Science Busker and PhD student, UCL

CRICK CHATS

Crick Chats bring together researchers and the public in an informal setting to explore a contemporary area of biomedical research. Topics have included antibiotic resistance, the role of stem cells in depression, and cancer and the power of genetics.

I ENJOYED LEARNING ABOUT NEW AND EMERGING TECHNIQUES IN SCIENCE ...GREAT DISCUSSION!

Crick Chat audience member



CRICK LATES

Our first major public event – a Crick Lates event at the Science Museum – drew a record-breaking audience of 6,900 people. It gave visitors the chance to meet researchers from the Crick and its partners and to get hands-on with science. In one of our most popular activities, visitors could photograph developing zebrafish on their smartphones, then share the image on social media. Another unique experience was the chance to meet some of the twins taking part in a long-term study in epigenetics, and ask questions about what it's like to be part of a clinical trial.

From 2017 we will present Crick Lates in our own building, featuring themed activities, entertainment, food and drink.

IT WAS WONDERFUL TO ENGAGE SUCH A VARIETY OF PEOPLE ON THE SUBJECT OF MY WORK. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE AUDIENCE SEEMED GENUINELY ENTHUSED!

Crick researcher, following the Late event

IN THE LAB, YOU GET VERY FOCUSED ON ONE QUESTION, BUT TAKING PART IN ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES REIGNITES MY PASSION FOR SCIENCE IN GENERAL

Michelle Harreman,
Crick research scientist

FESTIVALS

To reach a wider audience, we have taken part in a number of high-profile events. The most notable include Imperial Festival, a two-day showcase of innovative research that attracts more than 15,000 visitors, and Hay Festival, where three of our leading researchers discussed the importance of collaboration for scientific progress. We also took over a pub in King's Cross for three nights of talks as part of the international 'Pint of Science' festival.

EXHIBITIONS

In our dedicated exhibition space, the Manby Gallery, we create innovative exhibitions that engage audiences with our world-leading research. Opening late 2016, our first exhibition, 'How do we look?', will showcase some of the best scientific research images submitted by Crick staff. In spring 2017, we will launch the Crick's first major exhibition, 'Open for Discovery', which explores the key science questions guiding work at the institute.

► FIND OUT MORE

For more information about past projects and updates on our Public Engagement events and activities, please visit: www.crick.ac.uk/engagement/public-engagement





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

By working in partnership with the local community, we have an opportunity to engage people with the institute's work and help improve the health and wellbeing of those living in the area. We have built relationships with many local residents and organisations, and their input has helped shape our community engagement programme.

COMMUNITY CHEST

Since 2011, the Crick Community Chest has supported more than 30 community-led initiatives that improve wellbeing in the area. These include: gardening groups; a playwriting course for local children; a girls' club; a health and wellbeing programme for older people; group therapy sessions for women experiencing domestic violence; employability workshops; and an interview 'clothes bank'.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AT THE CRICK

We are committed to providing job and training opportunities for people living locally. Working closely with community jobs hubs, we have held employability workshops and jobs fairs, and recruited local residents to jobs and apprenticeships both at the Crick and with our contractors.

THE SOMERS LIGHT PROJECT

In partnership with Wellcome Collection and Origin Housing, we celebrated the International Year of Light 2015 with a packed programme of activities in the Sidney Estate, Somers Town. Through workshops and craft, children and adults explored what light meant to them and the amazing ways light can be used.

I THOUGHT THE
WORKSHOPS WERE
OUTSTANDING AND
ENTERTAINING
BECAUSE YOU
LEARNED NEW
THINGS

10-year-old resident,
Sidney Estate, Somers Town

LIVING CENTRE

The Living Centre, part of the Crick Laboratory, is at the heart of our local engagement. Opening in 2017 and run by a group of community organisations, the Living Centre will be a vibrant, inclusive and well-used community space that provides a range of affordable services to help improve health and wellbeing.

The Living Centre will also provide a unique opportunity for the Crick, its founding partners and the local community to engage and collaborate.

THIS IS A TRULY
EXCITING TIME. WE ARE
LOOKING FORWARD
TO DELIVERING WHAT
WILL BE AN AMAZING
NEW FACILITY IN
SOMERS TOWN,
WORKING WITH AND
FOR THE COMMUNITY

Sarah Elie,
Living Centre Partners



THE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

We joined forces with the London Wildlife Trust and local gardening groups to create a landscaped, wildlife-friendly garden at the Crick, for staff and residents alike. A community gardening group will support ongoing engagement with local people.

FROM NEGLECT AND
DARKNESS, WE'VE
COME TOGETHER AS
A LOCAL RESIDENT
GROUP TO CREATE
COLOUR, ATTRACT
WILDLIFE AND ENGAGE
THE COMMUNITY

Jon McGee, resident

► FIND OUT MORE

For more information about past projects and updates on our Community Engagement events and activities, please visit: www.crick.ac.uk/engagement/local-community

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Today's students live in a world where new discoveries and technologies surround them; we aim to help them understand, challenge and embrace these advances. At a time when the UK has a shortage of young people aspiring to jobs in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), we also hope to increase the number of those entering science-related careers.

Our education outreach programme fosters children's engagement with science and STEM professionals. The young people we work with will have the chance to take part in Crick activities and meet our staff and collaborators every year of their school career, from the early stages of primary school to when they leave school/college.

ALL THE CHILDREN ADORED IT, THEY CAME AWAY FROM IT BUZZING ABOUT BEING TINY SCIENTISTS. IT WAS FANTASTIC, I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THE CRICK STAFF BACK IN SCHOOL AGAIN

Teacher at Brookfield Primary School, Camden



THE WESTON DISCOVERY LAB AND THE DISCOVERY ZONE

Our activities are interactive, inclusive and inspirational, and incorporate hands-on investigation, discussion events, work experience, and teacher training. Many of these activities take place in the Weston Discovery Lab, a purpose-built space for school students in the Crick, or our Discovery Zone, at nearby Regent High School.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOLS

A key feature of our programme is that our activities are developed in collaboration with local schools, and are designed to meet the needs of their pupils and teachers, including those outside mainstream education. In collaboration with Frank Barnes School, we adapted our Senses workshop – which introduces very young children to working scientifically – for a deaf audience. Working in partnership with Regent High School we offer support to primary school class teachers who may have little experience of practical science.

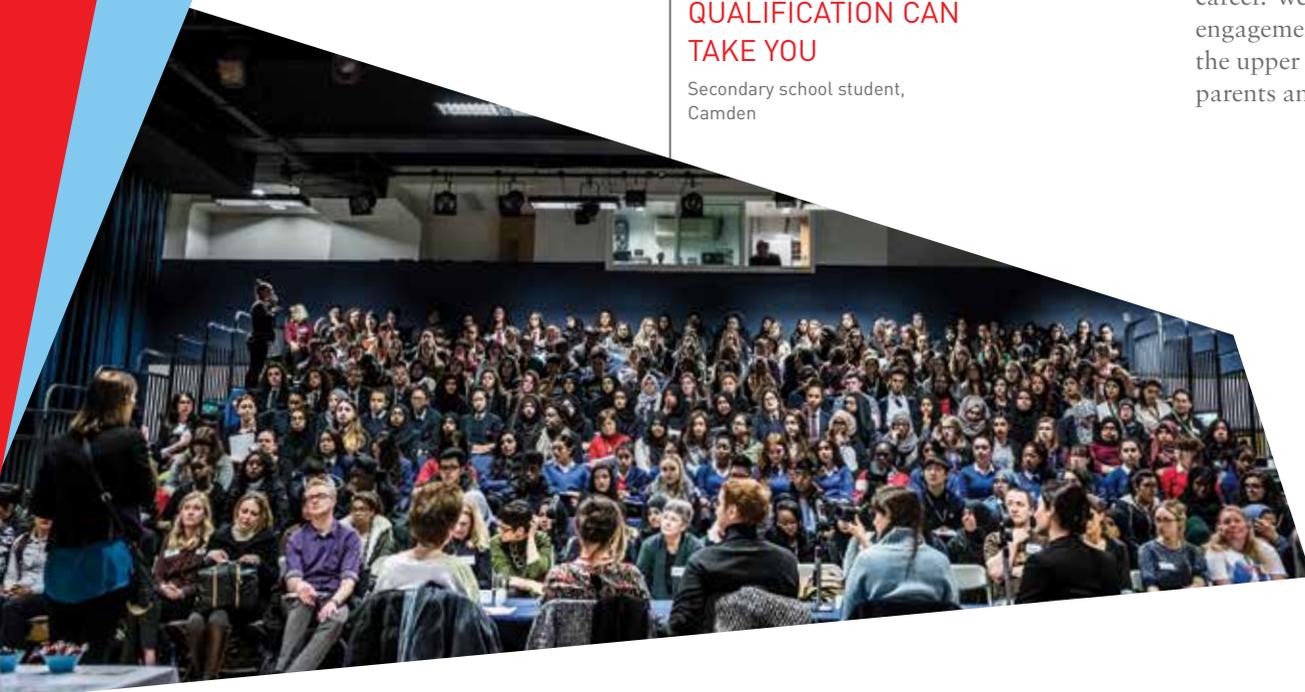


ANNUAL DISCUSSION EVENTS

Our 'Ask a Nobel Scientist' and 'Women in STEM' events have given several hundred secondary school students the chance to quiz some of the best minds in STEM on a broad range of topics, from biomedical breakthroughs to hurdles they have overcome in their own careers.

**AN EYE-OPENER TO
WHERE A SCIENCE
QUALIFICATION CAN
TAKE YOU**

Secondary school student,
Camden



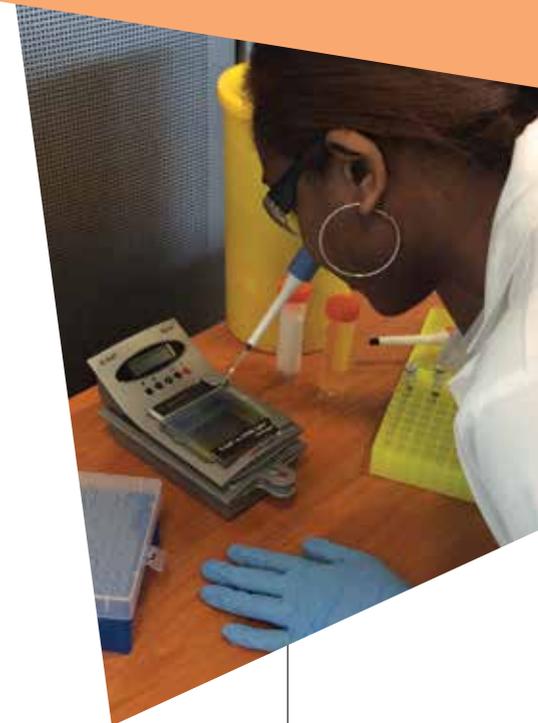
EXPANDING OUR EDUCATION OUTREACH

We have provided interactive science activities for more than 10,000 children in schools and colleges, focussing on our home borough of Camden. Building on the success of this work we are developing activities for every school year group. These include a Year 7 project involving students looking at the effects of UV dosage on DNA damage and a work experience programme.

We also want to engage parents and carers, as they often hold the key to young people's aspirations. With them, we hope to encourage a wider range of children to consider a STEM career. We are launching our parent/carer engagement with sessions where pupils in the upper years of primary school teach their parents and carers how to use microscopes.

**MY KIDS LOVED IT
– RATHER THAN
JUST TALKING AT
THEM YOU REALLY
ENGAGED AND
INVOLVED THEM
IN THE ACTIVITY**

Parent of primary school pupil,
Camden



► FIND OUT MORE

For more information about past projects and updates on our Education Outreach programme, please visit:
www.crick.ac.uk/engagement/science-education