

<b>Title</b>	Cannabidiol for psychosis in Parkinson's disease
<b>To start</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2020
<b>Award(s)</b>	1 fully funded 3-year PhD studentship
<b>Project</b>	<p>Symptoms of psychosis in Parkinson's disease (PDP) can be very distressing, cause considerable suffering to patients and caregivers and there are currently no approved treatments available. Existing antipsychotics have only modest benefits and significant side-effects.</p> <p>Cannabidiol (CBD) is one of the most promising novel treatments in mental health. Randomised clinical trials (RCTs) in people with psychosis indicate that cannabidiol has antipsychotic effects and is well-tolerated. Work from Bhattacharyya's group has shown that a single dose of cannabidiol partially normalises brain function abnormalities in the striatum and medial temporal cortex in early psychosis</p> <p>While cannabidiol is a promising candidate treatment, it's unclear if it will work for PDP. The next stage of clinical development for cannabidiol as a treatment for PDP involves the conduct of fully powered pivotal clinical trials. Such studies are expensive. Therefore, go/no-go decisions regarding further clinical development need to be informed by supportive mechanistic evidence in these patient groups to complement preliminary efficacy signals. However, no such evidence exists at this point of time. The proposed PhD will be nested within the already funded RCT using CBD in PDP. The proposed PhD project will generate such mechanistic evidence if it can demonstrate an effect of cannabidiol on some of the brain substrates implicated in psychosis in neurodegenerative disorders.</p> <p>This will involve using functional MRI to investigate the neurophysiological mechanisms underlying the antipsychotic effects of cannabidiol in PDP.</p> <p>The student will receive training in the acquisition and analysis of neuroimaging data using established protocols, relevant clinical, cannabinoid pharmacology and clinical trial methodology. They will join a group of researchers and PhD students investigating the therapeutic potential of cannabinoids across a range of disorders including other neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.</p>
<b>Supervisors</b>	Prof Sagnik Bhattacharyya and Dr Latha Velayudhan
<b>Entry requirements</b>	Standard PhD entry requirements: Applicants should have a Bachelors degree with 2:1 honours (or Overseas equivalent). A 2:2 degree may be considered only where applicants also offer a Masters with Merit.
<b>Award types and eligibility</b>	Fully funded for three years full time, Home/EU tuitions fees <b>(studentship not available to Overseas applicants)</b> plus a stipend.
<b>Further information</b>	<p><b>Standard links:</b></p> <p>About the IoPPN (link to <a href="http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/about/index.aspx">http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/about/index.aspx</a>)</p> <p>Studying at the IoPPN (link to <a href="http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/study/index.aspx">http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/study/index.aspx</a>)</p> <p>MSc programmes at the IoPPN (link to <a href="https://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/study/postgraduate-taught">https://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/study/postgraduate-taught</a>)</p>

	<p>Research degrees at the IoPPN (link to <a href="https://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/study/postgraduate-research-programmes">https://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/study/postgraduate-research-programmes</a>)</p> <p>Link to supervisors' work:</p> <p>Prof Sagnik Bhattacharyya (<a href="https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/professor-sagnikbhattacharyya">https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/professor-sagnikbhattacharyya</a>)</p> <p>Dr Latha Velayudhan (<a href="https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/dr-latha-velayudhan">https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/dr-latha-velayudhan</a>)</p>
<b>How to apply</b>	<p>Applicants must complete and submit an online admissions application, via the <a href="#">admissions portal</a> by midnight (23:59 GMT), <b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020</b>.</p> <p>On the 'Choosing a programme' page, please select 'Research degrees' and enter the keyword <b>(Psychosis) Research MPhil/PhD (Full-time)</b>.</p> <p>In your application, you will be asked to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Transcripts – where applicable, academic transcripts must be submitted with the online admissions application</li> <li>• Details of your qualifications (you will need to attach copies)</li> <li>• Details of previous employment</li> <li>• A personal statement describing your interests and why you wish to apply for this project. Please include this as an attachment rather than using the text box.</li> <li>• Academic References – all admissions applications require one supporting reference. If the applicant is relying on his/her referees to submit a reference directly to the College after he/she has submitted his/her admissions application, then the applicant must ensure that their chosen referee is made aware of the funding deadline.</li> </ul> <p>In the Funding section, please tick box 5 and include the following reference: <b>(PSYC-PDP-2020)</b></p> <p>Please note there is no need to complete the Research Proposal section in your application as the project has already been set.</p> <p>You are welcome to email <a href="mailto:sagnik.2.bhattacharyya@kcl.ac.uk">sagnik.2.bhattacharyya@kcl.ac.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:latha.velayudhan@kcl.ac.uk">latha.velayudhan@kcl.ac.uk</a> (supervisors) for more information regarding the project and studentship.</p> <p>If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact the Education support team at <a href="mailto:ioppn.educationsupport@kcl.ac.uk">ioppn.educationsupport@kcl.ac.uk</a>.</p> <p>References must be received by the deadline for the applicant to be eligible. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.</p>
<b>Closing Date</b>	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2020 (23:59 GMT)
<b>Interviews</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> August 2020