

## **"Recovery of sensory function following damage to the brain"**

Recently we have witnessed an impressive advancement in our understanding of brain function in terms of multiplicity of processing areas and the functional organisation of different pathways. Damage to specific areas of the brain can cause selective loss of function that is particularly obvious in the sensory domain. Visual impairment following damage to the brain has been of great scientific interest and this is not surprising given the large amount of cortex that is involved in the processing of visual information. Advances in fMRI and other brain imaging techniques make it possible to identify areas of the brain that respond selectively to sensory inputs. New sensory psychophysical techniques enable us to monitor accurately changes in performance and this has been particularly evident in vision, touch and hearing. The application of such techniques to study the functional organisation of different sensory pathways and to monitor recovery following damage to the brain is a topic of great current scientific and clinical interest. The proposed seminar brings together researchers from City University and a number of contributions from external speakers that relate to various aspects of sensory function and recovery following damage to the brain.

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**Location: CM450, Tait Building, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB**

### Programme

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| <b>09.30-10:15</b> | <b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b>   |
| <b>10:15-10:30</b> | <b>Welcome address (Professor Julius Weinberg, Dean of the Institute of Health Sciences)</b>   |
| <b>10:30-11:00</b> | <b>Professor Manfred Fahle, Applied Vision Research Centre and the University of Bremen, Germany.</b><br><i>Diagnosis of visual deficits following cerebral damage</i> |
| <b>11.00-11.30</b> | <b>Dr Gordon Plant, National Hospital, Queen Square, London</b><br><i>Evidence suggesting reorganisation of central visual pathways following optic nerve damage</i>   |
| <b>11:30-12:00</b> | <b>Professor Bencie Woll, Language and Communications Science, City University</b><br><i>Deaf Brains: studies of normal and aphasic users of British Sign Language</i> |
| <b>12:00-12:30</b> | <b>Professor John Barbur, Applied Vision Research Centre, City University</b><br><i>The use of visual input in the clinically blind</i>                                |
| <b>12:30-13:30</b> | <b>Buffet lunch / Informal discussion</b>  |

<b>13:30-14:30</b>	<b>Invited speaker: Professor Alan Cowey, FRS, University of Oxford</b> <i>“Using Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation to Probe Visual Cognition”</i>
<b>14:30-15:00</b>	<b>Dr Arash Sahraie, University of Aberdeen,</b> <i>Spatial and temporal channels of processing in cortical blindness</i>
<b>15.00-15.30</b>	<b>Paul Barrett, Rehabilitation Resource Centre, City University</b> <i>Sense and sensibility post-traumatic brain injury</i>
<b>15:30-16:00</b>	<b>Tea / Coffee</b>
<b>16:00-16.30</b>	<b>Catharine Chisholm, Applied Vision Research Centre, City University</b> <i>Visual field loss following stroke and effects on driving</i>
<b>16.30-17:00</b>	<b>Professor Melissa Hines, Department of Psychology, City University</b> <i>‘Gonadal hormone influences on human neural/behavioural development’</i>
<b>17:00-17:30</b>	<b>Dr Jane Marshall, Language and Communications Science, City University</b> <i>The processing of British Sign Language: Insights from people with neurological impairments</i>
<b>17.30-17:45</b>	<b>Discussion / Summary</b>
<b>18:00-</b>	<b>Evening Dinner</b>

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**Copies of the programme, local map and a meeting registration form can be downloaded  
from the**

AVRC web site:

**<http://www.city.ac.uk/avrc/#Meetings>**