THE GUY FOUNDATION

2026 Spring Series on Magnetic Fields and Biology

Programme

All sessions 15:00hrs–17:00hrs UK-time on Zoom*

Magnetic fields are increasingly being recognised as crucial to biological processes, from bird navigation to human cellular functions. In this series we will explore the 'magnetobiology' field, including the underlying mechanisms, the evidence for its effects in plants, animals and humans and its potential for medicine.

Session 1: Wednesday 11 March*

Magnetic fields and biology

Introduction: Professor Alistair Nunn, The Guy Foundation and University of Westminster

Speaker: Professor Jonathan Woodward, University of Tokyo

Speaker: Dr Brian Ross, The Quantum Biology Institute

Session 2: Wednesday 25 March*

The therapeutic use of magnetic fields

Introduction: Dr Rhys Mould, University of Westminster

Speaker: Professor Margit Egg, University of Innsbruck

Speaker: Professor Martyn A Sharpe, Houston Methodist Hospital

Speaker: Kamran Ansari, Stanford University and GP Bullhound Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Session 3: Wednesday 22 April

The evidence for magnetobiology – Part I animals and humans

Introduction: Sanika Ghayal, University of Westminster

Speaker: Professor Wendy Beane, Western Michigan University

Session 4: Wednesday 6 May

The evidence for magnetobiology – Part II plants

Introduction: Dr Betony Adams, The Guy Foundation and Stellenbosch University

Speaker: Professor Massimo Maffei, Università di Torino

Session 5: Wednesday 20 May – roundtable session

Implications of magnetobiology

Recap of the series: Dr Betony Adams, The Guy Foundation and Stellenbosch University

Speaker: Professor Alistair Nunn, The Guy Foundation and University of Westminster

Followed by roundtable discussion

NB Eastern/Central/Pacific timezones: 1 & 2 start 1hr later than usual as UK clocks do not go forward until 29 March

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About the series

There is growing consensus that magnetic fields play a subtle but fundamental role in biology. From the navigation systems of migratory birds to the regulation of cellular processes in humans, living systems appear to sense and respond to magnetic influences in ways we are only beginning to understand. At the molecular level, weak magnetic fields can influence the spin states of electrons involved in chemical reactions - a mechanism known as the radical pair mechanism - which may affect processes such as circadian rhythms, oxidative stress, and even metabolism. For medicine, this growing field of magnetobiology opens possibilities for novel diagnostics and therapies that harness magnetic interactions rather than conventional pharmacology. In the context of space travel, where magnetic fields differ dramatically from Earth's, understanding how life depends on magnetic cues could prove vital, helping us protect astronaut health and sustain biological function beyond our home planet.

Registration and talks

Scientists, researchers and interested individuals are invited to register to attend the live meetings by contacting Nina Copping, Programme Director n.copping@theguyfoundation.org

Watch the talks: videos of the talks will be available on our website: https://www.theguyfoundation.org/our-online-lectures/ and YouTube channel: https://youtube.com/@theguyfoundation. Stay up to date by subscribing to our YouTube channel and opt to receive notifications when new talks are uploaded.

About The Guy Foundation

The Guy Foundation is a UK-based charitable foundation established in 2018 to facilitate thinking and research on the role of quantum mechanics and thermodynamics in living systems, with the ultimate goal of using this understanding to advance healthcare. We curate, lead and fund an inter-disciplinary research collaboration and have published a number of scientific papers. We support the scientific community by convening online symposia on quantum biology and bioenergetics and we host an active network of over 300 scientists and institutions across the globe. You can find more details on our website, including talks, publications and who we are: https://www.theguyfoundation.org/

Previous lecture speakers

Dr Betony Adams	Stellenbosch University and The Guy Foundation
Professor Margaret Ahmad	Sorbonne University
Dr Clarice Aiello	The Quantum Biology Institute
Professor Masashi Aono	Keio University
Dr Nathan Babcock	Howard University
Professor Wendy Beane	Western Michigan University
Dr Afshin Beheshti	University of Pittsburgh
Professor Jimmy Bell	University of Westminster; Scientific Advisor to The Guy Foundation

Professor Stanley Botchway	Central Laser Facility, UKRI; Scientific Advisor to The Guy Foundation
Dr Wolfgang Brysch	MetrioPharm AG
Dr Ed Calabrese	University of Massachusetts
Dr Michal Cifra	Czech Academy of Sciences
Dr Dave Ecker	Ionis Pharmaceuticals
Professor Matthew Fisher	University of California Santa Barbara
Dr Robert Fosbury	UCL and the European Southern Observatory (ESO)
Professor Wayne Frasch	Arizona State University; Scientific Advisor to The Guy Foundation
Dr David Furman	Buck Institute for Research on Aging
Professor Michael Hamblin	University of Johannesburg
Dr Theodore Goodson	University of Michigan
Dr Ali Hassanali	The International Center for Theoretical Physics, Trieste
Dr Lise Hébert	Picchio International
Professor Mohab Ibrahim	The University of Arizona
Professor Glen Jeffery	UCL Institute of Ophthalmology
Professor Judith Klinman	UCLA Berkeley
Dr Philip Kurian	Howard University; Scientific Advisor to The Guy Foundation
Professor Nick Lane	University College London
Professor Mike Levin	Allen Discovery Center at Tufts University
Professor Johnjoe McFadden	University of Surrey
Dr Alasdair Mackenzie	Central Laser Facility, UKRI at the Harwell campus
Professor Joao Pedro Magalhaes	University of Birmingham
Dr Thomas H Marshburn	Sierra Space and retired NASA Flight Surgeon and Astronaut
Professor James Moon	Barts Heart Centre
Professor Karl Morten	University of Oxford
Dr Rhys Mould	University of Westminster
Professor Alistair Nunn	University of Westminster; Director of Science, The Guy Foundation
Professor Marco Pettini	Aix-Marseille University
Professor Martin Plenio	Ulm University
Dr Jan Pokorný	Czech Academy of Sciences
Professor Christopher D Porada	Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine
Dr Ken Raj	Altos Labs Cambridge Institute of Science
Professor Gregory Scholes	Princeton University
Dr Roger Seheult	Loma Linda University
Professor Christoph Simon	University of Calgary
Dr Scott M Smith	Human Health and Performance Directorate, NASA Johnson Space Center
Steve Thorne	The Copernican Project
Professor Li-Heui Tsai	Picower Institute, MIT
Professor Jack Tuszyński	University of Alberta
Professor Gábor Vattay	Eötvös Loránd University
Brent Vaughan	Cognito Therapeutics
Professor Vlatko Vedral	University of Oxford
Professor Giuseppe Vitiello	University of Salerno
Professor Douglas C Wallace	The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
Professor Steve Wedge	Cancer Research UK
Professor Richard Weller	University of Edinburgh
Professor Jonathan Woodward	The University of Tokyo