

Got a webcam?
Get virtual



Who's new?
So many people!



Umbrella study
What's it all about?



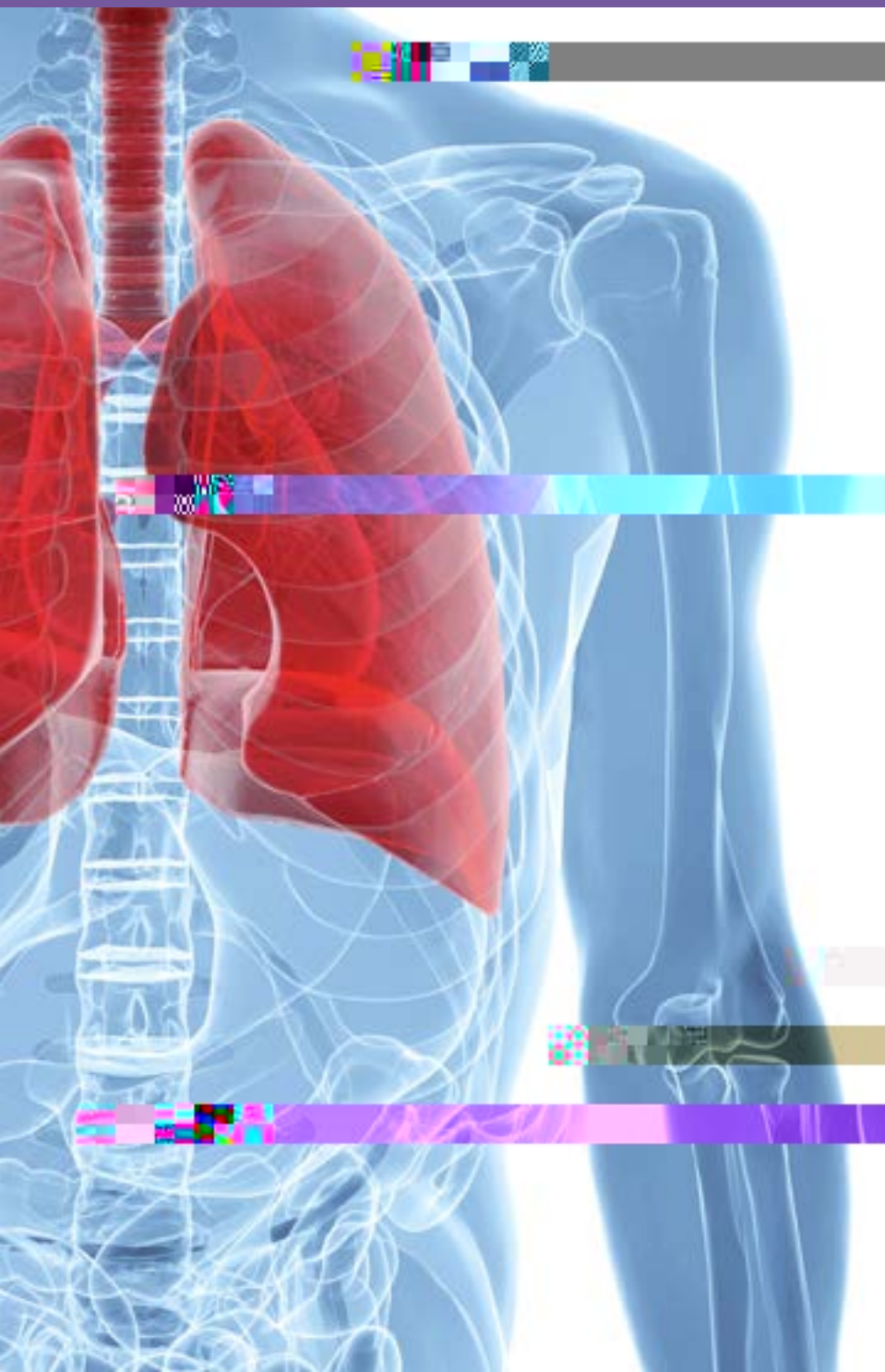
IMMUNOLOGY MATTERS



...the no. 2 of our patient newsletter. We hope you find it interesting
...enjoy hearing about what's happening at the department of clinical
...the Royal Free Hospital.

Continued inside...

Congratulations to Andrew and Sary!



Web-cam and training at home

The internet is a wonderful thing and our department is now able to take advantage of it a bit more.



New faces

We'd like to introduce you to some of the new members of staff you might meet at your next visit and tell you more about what they're doing here.

Welcome Chanell!

It's been a long time coming but we've finally got a permanent secretary! Except secretaries are now called Pathway Co-ordinators.

Anyway, Chanell is here Monday to Friday and, as well making sure you get all your letters, she is also happy to help with questions to do with clinic appointments and scans, especially if you're having trouble getting them arranged for the same day. Our specialist nurses, Andrew and Sarita, have been doing a lot of this during the (long) period we didn't have anyone filling her post but, now that we do,

Hello, my name is Vanessa...

I am a specialist in immunology from Venezuela and completed my training in Spain in 2012. I am currently a clinical research fellow at the UCL Institute of Immunity and Transplantation where I am undertaking research in PID for a PhD.

I will be working as a registrar in the out-patient clinic gaining experience treating patients with immunodeficiency.

! S A CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGIST COMMITTED TO 0)\$) VALUE THE opportunity to share ideas and knowledge with professionals from different countries as well as collaborating with the study OF 0)\$

I am currently researching the pathophysiology (diseases23 2w 0u

Special Feature: What you need to know about antibiotics

What are they? Let's start with the basics.

Antibiotics are medicines which act to kill or stop the growth of bacteria (a type of harmful bug). The idea is to remove infecting bacteria from where they shouldn't be and restore the 'normal balance' in the remaining bacteria, which always live in and on our bodies. Treating bacterial infections with antibiotics can help prevent permanent lung damage (i.e. conditions like bronchiectasis).

What are bacterial infections? Bacterial infections cause conditions like pneumonia (severe chest infection) and cystitis (bladder infection). Antibiotics do not do anything against viruses like the common cold, although you may need them if a cold becomes 'complicated' by a subsequent bacterial infection. They also do not work against fungi like thrush, and in fact can often make fungal infections worse by killing the bacteria and allowing the fungi to grow instead!

When will people with immunodeficiency be given antibiotics?

Some people just take prophylactic antibiotics over the winter, when the chances of infection are higher.

There are two main reasons:

How should I take them?

1) To treat bacterial infections. We recommend taking them if you develop a new cough with green or yellow sputum, and certainly if you also develop a fever. Any fever which does not go within a few days needs assessment so, if in any doubt, contact us or YOUR GP.

As directed by the doctor or pharmacist, but remember that we treat infections in people with immunodeficiency for longer, i.e. usually two weeks for a chest infection, instead of one week for people with normal immunity.

2) As prophylaxis. This is where we give long-term antibiotics to try and prevent infections from developing and can be given even if you're already on replacement immunoglobulin infusions.

What are the risks of taking antibiotics? Antibiotics can cause side effects such as allergic reactions, stomach upset, and yeast infections. They can also interact with other medications. Always take antibiotics exactly as prescribed and complete the full course.



Plans for Research Centre Approved

Planning permission for the Pears Building, which will be home to the UCL Institute of Immunity and Transplantation (IIT), has been granted by Camden Council.

Here's a reminder of how to get hold of some of us during different times throughout the week:

Secretary (Chanell): via switchboard
(020 7794 0500) ext 34519

Infusion ward (Irene and Nonzame):
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday ext 22525

Mary (ward administrator):
Monday & Friday ext 37387
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
ext 22524

Andrew (clinical nurse specialist):
020 7830 2140, ext 34425 or bleep 2029
via switchboard

Sary (research sister): ext 33832 or
BLEEP VIA SWITCHBOARD