THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFFECTIVE TOUCH: INAUGURAL CONGRESS

FRIDAY 20 TO SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2015
UCL, 33 Queen Square London WC1

C O N G R E S S  P R O G R A M M E

FRIDAY

12:30-13:30: Registration

13:30-13:40: Congress Welcome: Aikaterini Fotopoulou on behalf of the organisers

13:40-15:20: Plenary Session I (part 1): The Affective Touch Landscape

Chair: India Morrison

13:40-14:20: Johan Wessberg: The CT Afferent System: Peripheral Pathways
14:20-14:30: Questions from the Floor
14:30-15:10: Håkan Olausson: The CT Afferent System: Central Pathways
15:10-15:20: Questions from the Floor

15:20-15:50: Tea and poster presentations

15:50-16:40: Plenary Session I (part 2): The Perceptual and Affective Properties Pleasant Touch

Chair: Giandomenico Iannetti

15:50-16:30: Francis McGlone: The CT Afferent System: What is it For?
16:30-16:40: Questions from the Floor
16:40-17:00: Panel Discussion of all three speakers with Questions from the Floor
17.00-18:10: Special Guest Address

Chair: Aikaterini Fotopoulou

17.00-17.45: Camila Batmanghelidj: If My Hands Could Speak
17.45-18.10: Questions from the Floor

18:30-20:30: Reception

SUNDAY

09:30-11:30: Invited Symposium: Neural Pathways of Affective Touch from Receptor to Brain

Co-ordinator: India Morrison

India Morrison: Affective touch: brain and behavior
Emmanuel Bourinet: Low threshold calcium channels determine low threshold mechanoreceptor function
Sarah Lloyd-Fox: Staying in touch with baby brains
Steve Guest: Psychophysical Assessment of Pleasant Touch

11:30-12:00: Coffee and poster presentations

12:00-12:50: Plenary Session II: Theme: Affective Touch Beyond CT Afferents

Chair: Aikaterini Fotopoulou

12:00-12:40: Charles Spence: Affective Touch: Commercial Applications
12:40-12:50: Questions from the Floor

12:50-14:30: Lunch, poster presentations & Founding Society AGM

14:30-15:35: Data Blitz Session

Chair: Patrick Haggard

Hilary Abbey: Exploring the Potential Role of Affective Touch in Grounding Manual Therapy Interventions for Patients with Persistent Pain
Laura Case: Repetitive 1Hz TMS to Primary Somatosensory Cortex Alters Discriminative but not Affective Aspects of Somatosensation
Laura Crucianelli: Bodily Pleasure Matters: the Role of Affective Touch to a Healthy Sense of Body Ownership
Jan B.F. van Erp: The Midas Touch Effect: Can a Robot gain Compliance?
Emma Jönsson: Affective Touch Processing in Infancy: an fNIRS study
Charlotte Krahé: Pleasant Touch as Social Support: Exploring the Impact of Embodied Interactions on the Experience of Pain
Leehe Peled: Autistic Traits are Associated with Reduced Suppression in the Mu\Alpha Band for Social Touch
Alexander Toet: *Effects of Mediated Hand Touching on Affective Experiences and Trust*

15:35-16:00: *Tea and poster presentations*

16:00-17:45: **Invited Symposium: Affective Touch and the Bodily**

Chair & Discussant: Paul Jenkinson

Aikaterini Fotopoulou: *The Touched Self: Affective Touch and Body Awareness in Health and Disease*

Donna Lloyd: *Can Pleasant Touch Moderate the Experience of Pain?*

Chris Dijkerman: *Affective Touch and Body Representations*

18:00 Optional event:

**SUNDAY**

09:30-11:10: **Plenary Session III - When the Touch System goes wrong**

Chair: Susannah Walker

09:30-10:10: Martin Paulus: *Affective Touch - Evidence for Dysregulation in Substance Users*

10:10-10:20: Questions from the Floor

10:20-11:00: Carissa Cascio: *The Mind-Skin Connection: Affective Touch in Psychopathology*

11:00-11:10: Questions from the Floor

11:10-11:45: *Coffee and poster presentations*

11:45-13:30: **Research Presentations**

Chair: Nadia Berthouze

Rochelle Ackerley: *C-tactile Afferents are Tuned to the Temperature of a Skin-Stroking Caress*

Elisa Burato: *Touch in Osteopathy: an Exploration of its Role in the Clinical Setting*

Younbyoung Chae: *The Role of Body Ownership in Neurophysiological Responses to Acupuncture Stimulation*

Jan van Erp: *Mediated Social Touch: How Behavioural and Computer Science go Hand in Hand*

Antje Gentsch: *Social Softness Illusion - The Perceptual Experience of Active Interpersonal Touch*

Uta Sailer: *Brain Representation of Long-Lasting Pleasant Touch*

Oliver Turnbull: *The Neuroscience of Erogenous Zones*

13:30-13:45: **Closing Remarks - The Organising Committee with speakers and chairs**