



# IASAT

International Association for  
the Study of Affective Touch



# IASAT2017


## 2nd Congress

Friday **1st September** - Sunday **3rd September**

in **Liverpool, UK** at **Liverpool John Moores University**  
James Parsons Building, Byrom Street, Liverpool, L3 3AF, UK



# Welcome To IASAT2017



Following the successful inaugural congress (UCL, London, 2015), we once again look forward to welcoming delegates from around the world to Liverpool John Moores University for IASAT2017. The growing body of research examining the neurobiology, psychology, physiology, genetics & epigenetics of affective touch is highlighting its social & cognitive importance. The aim of the IASAT is to provide a platform for fruitful scientific exchanges in this nascent field, and foster dialogue between scientists, & professionals in education, health & social care.

Find Out More @ [iasat.org](http://iasat.org)

## IASAT2017 Local Organising Committee

Francis McGlone

Susannah Walker

Adarsh Makdani



SomAffect

The Somatosensory & Affective  
Neuroscience Group, LJMU

## IASAT Officers

*Presidents:* **Håkan Olausson**, Linköping University  
**Francis McGlone**, LJMU

*Secretary:* **India Morrison**, Linköping University

*Treasurer:* **Katerina Fotopoulou**, UCL

## A message from our main sponsor:

**Johnson & Johnson CONSUMER INC.** Research & Development is pleased to co-sponsor the 2nd Annual IASAT Conference, bringing together global researchers to advance fundamental science, understanding and education in the multi-disciplinary field of affective touch.



# Agenda

IASAT2017

Day 1		
12.00	Registration & Poster Set-Up	
13.00	<b>Francis McGlone</b> Liverpool John Moores University	<b>Welcome</b> A brief history of the IASAT as it opens its 2nd International Congress here in Liverpool.
13.10	<b>Ellen Lumpkin</b> Columbia University	<b>Keynote: Illuminating the Molecular &amp; Cellular Mechanisms of Touch.</b> A rich variety of mechanosensitive cells and molecules mediate distinct skin sensations such as pressure, flutter, pain and fine touch.
<b>Session 1: The CT Afferent</b> (Chair: Håkan Olausson)		
13.50	<b>Johan Wessberg</b> University of Gothenburg	<b>The 1st Order Neuron</b> The rock on which IASAT is built is the c-tactile (CT) afferent, an unmyelinated mechanosensitive cutaneous neuron that responds optimally to gentle, affiliative, and nurturing touch.
14.20	<b>Vincenzo Donadio</b> University of Bologna	<b>The Molecular Neurobiology of Touch Neurons</b> Morphological characteristics of C-Mechanoreceptors, and identifying affective touch neurons.
14.50	Break	
15.10	<b>Roger Watkins</b> University of Gothenburg	<b>Identification of C-Tactile &amp; C-Nociceptive Afferents in Humans by Latency Slowing</b> The "signature" CT response to electrical stimulation.
15.35	<b>Francisco Taberner</b> Heidelberg University	<b>Bringing Light to the Spinal Cord Circuitry</b> How are C-tactile, pain, itch and other fibres are processed in the spinal cord before they reach the brain?
16.00	<b>Andrew Marshall</b> University of Manchester / LJMU	<b>The 2nd Order Neuron</b> CT central pathways that relay this information from skin to brain are not well understood. Insights from cordotomy patients will be presented.
16.25	<b>Laura Case</b> National Center for Complementary & Integrative Health - NIH	<b>Cortex and Affective Touch: The central representation of affective touch.</b> Processing of touch stimuli involving a distributed and interlinked cortical network.
16.50	<b>Wine Reception &amp; Poster Session</b>	Sponsored by:  <b>CONSUMER INC.</b>



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Day 2 - AM		
9.00	<b>Frances Champagne</b> <i>Columbia University</i>	<b>Keynote: 'LickStart' the Brain With Touch</b> Development is a dynamic process involving interplay between genes and the tactile environment.
<b>Session 2: CTs Across The Lifespan</b> (Chair: Ilona Croy)		
9.40	<b>Chris Murgatroyd</b> <i>Manchester Metropolitan University</i>	<b>Epigenetic Effects of Maternal Stroking On the Glucocorticoid Receptor Gene</b> The role of epigenetic mechanisms linking early life stress with long-term effects.
10.05	<b>Martine Van Puyvelde</b> <i>Vrije Universiteit Brussel</i>	<b>"Touch-stars": the physiological impact of maternal touch.</b> Cardiorespiratory co-regulation, and insights into the development of touch preferences.
10.30	<b>Francesco Cerritelli</b> <i>G. d'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara</i>	<b>Touch in a multidisciplinary NICU environment</b> "Pre-term" pleasure, physiological regulations and "long-term" insights in neonates
10.55	<b>Break</b>	
11.15	<b>Kevin Pelphey</b> <i>George Washington University</i>	<b>"See me, feel me, touch me..." Autistic Disruption of Brain Systems for the Perception of Social Intentions.</b> Development, Detection & Tailored Treatments.
11.45	<b>Rebecah Slater</b> <i>Oxford University</i>	<b>The impact of gentle touch on infant pain perception</b> Does gentle touch reduce noxious-evoked brain activity in the infant?
12.10	<b>Ilona Croy</b> <i>TU Dresden</i>	<b>Affective Touch Perception Across The Lifespan</b> Perception of C-tactile targeted touch in various age groups.
12.35	<b>Lunch &amp; Poster Session</b>	



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Day 2 - PM		
13.40	<b>Kerstin Uvnäs-Moberg</b> <i>Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences</i>	<b>Keynote: The Biological Role Of Oxytocin in Social Behaviour</b> The effects of oxytocin vs. skin-to-skin contact.
<b>Session 3: The Neurochemistry of Affective Touch</b> (Chair: Susannah Walker)		
14.20	<b>Siri Leknes</b> <i>University of Oslo</i>	<b>The Neurochemical Basis of Affective Touch Perception.</b> A review of current evidence.
14.45	<b>Paula Trotter</b> <i>Manchester Metropolitan University</i>	<b>CTs &amp; the Blues: The Role of 5-HT on Social Touch &amp; Depression.</b> Can affective touch promote resilience to depression? A population, systems & molecular approach.
15.10	<b>Break</b>	
<b>Session 4: Springer Data Blitz Session</b>		(Chair: Katerina Fotopoulou) 
15.30 to 17.00  5m Talk + 2m Q&A	<b>Johanna Bendas</b> <i>TU Dresden</i>	C-tactile mediated erotic touch perception relates to sexual desire & performance in a gender-specific way
	<b>Rebecca Böhme</b> <i>Linköping University</i>	Is it you or is it me? Differentiating between self- & other-touch
	<b>Connor Haggarty</b> <i>Liverpool John Moores University</i>	Early and Late Neural Responses to Affective Touch
	<b>Gijs Huisman</b> <i>University of Twente</i>	Effects of stroking velocity & touch stimulus on perceived pleasantness in observed affective touch
	<b>Louise Kirsch</b> <i>University College London (UCL)</i>	Embodied Emotional Egocentricity Bias: A new approach to the distinction between self & other affective states
	<b>Sarah McIntyre</b> <i>Linköping University</i>	Pleasantness of tactile motion does not vary with speed when C-Tactile activation is held constant
	<b>Elena Pangiotopoulou</b> <i>University College London (UCL)</i>	Pleasure to See you in Me: Affective Touch Enhances Self-Face Recognition
	<b>Ralph Pawling</b> <i>Liverpool John Moores University</i>	The relationship between autonomic regulation and sensitivity to CT touch
	<b>Laura Pirazzoli</b> <i>University College London (UCL)</i>	How does affective touch modulate arousal states? An investigation in early development
	<b>Federica Riva</b> <i>University of Vienna</i>	Age-related changes in the neural correlates of empathy for pleasant & unpleasant touch
	<b>Juulia Suvilehto</b> <i>Aalto University</i>	Cultural Universalism in Social Touch
	<b>Marian von Mohr</b> <i>University College London (UCL)</i>	Affective touch & attachment anxiety modulate pain in romantic couples: A laser-evoked potentials study
18.45	<b>Gala Dinner</b> Holiday Inn, Lime Street, Liverpool, L1 1NQ	
20.45	<b>Nina Jablonski</b> <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i> (After Dinner)	<b>Keynote: Social Touch in Primates</b> Social touch has played a central role in the evolutionary success of primates as a lineage, and served a key role in human evolution.

Day 3		
Session 5: Current Theories & Practice of CT Afferent Function (Chair: India Morrison)		
10.00	<b>India Morrison</b> <i>Linköping University</i>	<b>Is Affective Touch Even A Thing?</b> A summary of themes and implicit assumptions in affective touch research; considering mechanisms, functions and evolution.
10.25	<b>Susannah Walker</b> <i>Liverpool John Moores University</i>	<b>Testing the Social Touch Hypothesis</b> Physiological & behavioural studies of the implicit affective value of CT activating touch.
10.50	<b>Katerina Fotopoulou</b> <i>University College London (UCL)</i>	<b>Objectified by Vision but Socialised by Touch: The C Tactile System in Multisensory Integration.</b> Selfhood is fundamentally shaped by embodied interactions with other people in early infancy & beyond.
11.15	<b>Uta Sailer</b> <i>University of Oslo</i>	<b>CTs and Autonomic Nervous System Regulation</b> An overview of the relationship between touch, CTs, and the vital homeostatic mechanisms regulated by the ANS.
11.40	<b>Stuart Wilson</b> <i>University of Sheffield</i>	<b>A Model of Social Thermoregulation</b> Simulating the transition from neonate 'physiological huddling' based on heat to adult 'filial huddling' based on smell.
12.05	<b>Break</b>	
12.25	<b>Henrik Norholt</b> <i>Ergobaby Inc.</i>	<b>A Father's Role in Attachment &amp; Touch</b> Fathers' caregiving behavior is distinctly different to mothers' and has been found to contribute uniquely to child development.
12.50	<b>Luke Tanner</b>	<b>The Role of Touch in Dementia Care</b> Approaches to touch in professional care can secure or break the bonds of trust & affection crucial to caregiving. How can touch research contribute positively to person-centred care?
13.15	<b>Francis McGlone &amp; Susannah Walker</b> <i>Liverpool John Moores University</i>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <b>IASAT2017 Local Organising Committee</b>
13.20	<b>Anthony Jones</b> <i>University of Manchester</i>	<b>Keynote: The C-Musketeers</b> How do the C-Musketeers— C-fibres for Pain, Itch and Affective Touch—interact and integrate? The importance of the C-fibre systems, and their role in our well-being and survival.
14.00	<b>End</b>	

Please see the IASAT2017 Abstract Booklets for all Speakers' Abstracts & Poster Abstracts.



## Keynote Speakers

### Ellen Lumpkin

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Columbia University

*Associate Professor of Somatosensory Biology,  
Departments of Physiology & Cellular Biophysics and of  
Dermatology, Columbia University, USA*

*Co-director, Thompson Family Foundation Initiative in  
CIPN & Sensory Neuroscience, Columbia University  
Medical Center , USA*



Ellen A. Lumpkin (Columbia University) is a sensory neurobiologist whose research has yielded insights into fundamental mechanisms of fine touch discrimination. She performed her PhD training in sensory neuroscience at UT Southwestern Medical Center and The Rockefeller University under the mentorship of A. James Hudspeth, a pioneer in the field of auditory and vestibular physiology. She completed postdoctoral research in physiology and biophysics at University of Washington, where she turned her attention to the cellular and physiological basis of touch sensation. Prior to joining the faculty of Columbia University in 2010, she launched her independent research program at UC San Francisco Medical Center through the Sandler Fellows Program, and was an Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, Physiology & Molecular Biophysics, and Molecular & Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine.

### Frances Champagne

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Columbia University

*Professor, Department of Psychology, University of  
Texas at Austin, USA*

*Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Psychology,  
Columbia University, USA*



Frances A. Champagne is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at University of Texas, Austin and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Columbia University. She received a M.Sc in Psychiatry and Ph.D in Neuroscience from McGill University. Dr. Champagne is a world leader within the evolving field of behavioral epigenetics – the study of how life experiences lead to behavioral and neurobiological variation through epigenetic factors. Though mechanistic studies in this field are addressed primarily in animal models, Dr. Champagne has also established collaborations to explore epigenetics within humans to determine the contribution of these molecular marks to neurobiological outcomes.



## Keynote Speakers

### Kerstin Uvnäs-Moberg

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Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

*Professor, Dept of Animal Environment and Health,  
Swedish University of Agriculture*



Kerstin Uvnäs Moberg is a physician and professor of physiology with a research focus on the healing aspects of oxytocin. Her vision is to help creating healthier and happier women by expanding the knowledge about female physiology and by creating medical interventions based on oxytocin. Her discoveries have helped to stimulate the development of oxytocin to become a pharmaceutical drug, to be used to increase social competence in autistic individuals, to decrease anxiety, stress and depression and to increase wellbeing. She has written more than 450 scientific articles and several books on oxytocin, (which have been translated into 10 languages).

### Nina Jablonski

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Pennsylvania State University

*Evan Pugh University Professor of Anthropology,  
Department of Anthropology, The Pennsylvania State  
University, USA*



Nina G. Jablonski is Evan Pugh University Professor of Anthropology at The Pennsylvania State University. A biological anthropologist and palaeoanthropologist, Jablonski pursues basic research on the evolution of adaptations of primates, including humans, to their environment. Her research on the evolution of human skin and skin pigmentation has been the focus of numerous papers and two popular books, *Skin: A Natural History* (2006) and *Living Color: The Biological and Social Meaning of Skin Color* (2012), both published by University of California Press. Jablonski received her A.B. in Biology at Bryn Mawr College in 1975 and her Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Washington in 1981. She is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.





## Keynote Speakers

### Anthony Jones

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University of Manchester

*Professor of Neuro-Rheumatology, Division of Neuroscience & Experimental Psychology, University of Manchester, UK*



Anthony Jones is professor of Neuro-rheumatology at Manchester University and leads the Human Pain Research Group. Whilst at the Hammersmith Hospital he pioneered the development of techniques to image neurochemical and metabolic brain responses to pain using Positron Emission Tomography. Over the last twenty years he has used a number of functional brain imaging techniques to understand the normal and abnormal mechanisms of pain perception. There is now the exciting prospect of using some of the insights gained in these studies to develop new approaches to pharmacological and cognitive interventions for chronic pain.

His main current goals are to use the current understanding of pain perception to encourage more rational use of current therapies and to develop new therapies. As part of this process he has been putting a lot of energy in to public understanding of science activities including a recent North West tour of a show about pain called 'Pain, The Brain and a little bit of Magic'.

**Please see the IASAT2017 Abstract Booklets for all Speakers' Abstracts & Poster Abstracts.**

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**Taxis:** We recommend [Delta Taxis](#): +44(0)1519287373

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**IASAT2017 Conference Venue:** James Parson Building, Liverpool John Moores University, Byrom Street, Liverpool, L3 3AF

**IASAT2017 Dinner Venue:** Holiday Inn, Lime Street, Liverpool L1 1NQ

**Hard Days Night Hotel:** Central Buildings, North John Street, Liverpool, L2 6RR

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