



Conference on

**Population diversity, its biological consequences and
impact on disease risk**

Wellcome Trust Lecture Hall

The Royal Society

6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG
on

Wednesday 18th October, 2023

Admission is **FREE**, but strictly by ticket, available from:

www.eventbrite.co.uk

or the General Secretary

Adelphi Genetics Forum

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Speakers and Chairs

Gavin Band DPhil	Head of Statistical Genomics and Group Leader Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics, University of Oxford
Elena Bochukova DPhil	Lecturer in Genomics, Blizard Institute Queen Mary, University of London
Rosemary Ekong PhD	Honorary Senior Research Fellow, UCL
Hannah Elliott PhD	Lecturer in Molecular Epidemiology, University of Bristol
Stephanie Malia Fullerton DPhil	Professor and Interim Chair, Bioethics & Humanities, University of Washington, Seattle
Garrett Hellenthal PhD	Associate Professor and Group Leader, UCL Genetics Institute
Volker Lauschke PhD	Associate Professor and Group Leader, Karolinska Institute
Anneke Lucassen DPhil (Oxon) FRCP FRCGP(Hon)	Professor of Genomic Medicine & Director of the Centre for Personalised Medicine, University of Oxford; Professor of Clinical Genetics, University of Southampton
Mie Rizig MD PhD	Clinical Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Neurology, UCL
Dallas Swallow PhD	Emeritus Professor of Human Genetics, UCL
Veronica van Heyningen CBE FRS	Honorary Professor, University of Edinburgh and UCL
Ambroise Wonkam MD PhD	Professor of Medical Genetics, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore
Nicholas Wood PhD FRCP FMedSci	Professor of Clinical Neurogenetics, Institute of Neurology, UCL and President of Adelphi Genetics Forum

Conference organisers:

Dallas Swallow, Rosemary Ekong, Elena Bochukova and Veronica van Heyningen

Population diversity, its biological consequences and impact on disease risk

- 09 55 - 10 00** **Welcome: Nicholas Wood, President of Adelphi Genetics Forum**
- 10 00 - 10 40** **Chair and Introduction: Dallas Swallow
Garrett Hellenthal**
Pervasive genetic structure and signatures of recent intermixing among groups reflect historical interactions
- 10 40 - 11 10** **Coffee**
- 11 10 - 11 50** **Chair: Rosemary Ekong
Ambroise Wonkam**
Harnessing our common African genomes to improve health globally
- 11 50 - 12 30** **Gavin Band**
The genetics of susceptibility to malaria
- 12 30 - 13 30** **Lunch**
- 13 30 - 14 10** **Chair: Anneke Lucassen
Mie Rizig**
Ethnic variabilities in neurodegeneration: what do we know about the genetics of Parkinson's disease in African populations in comparison to other ancestry groups
- 14 10 - 14 50** **Hannah Elliott**
Characterising epigenetic variation - a key to understanding type 2 diabetes risk in diverse populations?
- 14 50 - 15 30** **Chair: Elena Bochukova
Volker Lauschke**
Ethnogeographic variability in pharmacogenes and its implications for clinical practice
- 15 30 -16 00** **Tea**
- 16 00 - 17 00** **Chair: Nicholas Wood
Adelphi Lecture
Stephanie Malia Fullerton**
Precision medicine in a diverse world: considering the complexities
- Presentation of the Adelphi Plate by Nicholas Wood**

Adelphi Genetics Forum – formerly the Galton Institute

You will have seen that the Galton Institute has undergone a name change becoming the Adelphi Genetics Forum. So why have we decided to do this?

The Galton Institute was named after Sir Francis Galton who, as you will know, was a hugely important scientist working in the 19th and early 20th centuries. He was one of the founding fathers of the science of genetics as well as making foundational contributions to other fields including statistics, meteorology and psychology.

However, some of his views and his work have darker implications. Along with many scholars of his time he held views about race and social class which might have been acceptable then but definitely are not now. Among these, he introduced and fostered the ideas of eugenics.

Galton described eugenics as the scientific study of factors which affect the what-he-called ‘inborn qualities of humans and future generations’ but developed this to the ‘breeding out’ of so called “undesirable” characteristics from the human population by excluding people judged to be inferior and promoting those judged to be superior. It was these ideas that sparked the formation of the Eugenics Education Society, which later became the Galton Institute.

To be clear, the new Forum completely rejects his and all other eugenic and racist ideas as morally unacceptable and scientifically flawed, and nothing the current Forum does in any way supports or furthers such ideas. Nor have we ever benefitted financially from Francis Galton. Thus, while we would still wish to honour Galton’s immense scientific achievement, it was decided it was time to discuss a possible name change.

Hence a working group of trustees was formed to discuss the issue, first whether or not it was felt a name-change was required, and then to consider what that new name might be. After discussion, it was decided that having his name attached to the Institute threatens to affect our ability to carry out our mission of furthering the scientific study of all aspects of human heredity within society. It was felt that keeping the Galton name suggests that, at best, we are insensitive to the connotations and perception of Galton from the viewpoint of modern society and, at worst, suggests that we support all his ideas.

Therefore, it was decided that a name change was necessary and, after many hours of deliberations, the name Adelphi Genetics Forum: Exploring Heredity and Society was chosen for the following reasons. It was felt that we cannot and should not cover up the origins of the Institute. Not least because part of our work is to show how flawed that thinking was and how far science has moved us from these ideas. And therefore the name references that the first offices of the Eugenics Education Society were in the Adelphi District of London, at 6 York Buildings.

The literal translation of the Greek Adelphi is brothers but as well as meaning brother or sibling, it means fraternity, with no gender implication, and friends with mutual respect. We therefore feel “Adelphi” is suitable as it gives a sense of family, community and support. Hence we are acknowledging where the Institute started but also more firmly gesturing toward the future and how the Forum can continue to help educate and inform about human heredity and society.