

COMMUNITY

A topping celebration

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ABOUT THE CRICK

The Francis Crick Institute (formerly UKCMRI), is a new medical research institute being built at Brill Place, Somers Town.

It's named after one of the UK's greatest scientists, who co-discovered the structure of DNA.

The institute is a partnership between the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust, UCL (University College London), Imperial College London and King's College London.

Discoveries made in the laboratories will speed up the development of treatments for major diseases such as cancer, heart disease and stroke.

The Francis Crick Institute will bring new jobs, community facilities and other benefits to Somers Town.



Above: Sir Paul Nurse, Director of the Crick, with Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon George Osborne, and other VIPs at the Crick topping out ceremony, 6 June 2013. © Wellcome Images.

It is always exciting to watch buildings being constructed but now it's time to celebrate.

On June 6, 2013 we held a topping out ceremony to mark the completion of the main structure of the Francis Crick Institute. The distinctive curved roof is still under construction but the four blocks that make up the bulk of the building are finished, meaning work can start on the inside.

Topping out is an age-old tradition often accompanied by planting a tree to symbolise bringing life to the building. It will be another two years before we see 1,200 scientists and 300 support staff busying themselves in our institute but the magnitude of our achievement so far deserves celebration.

More than 600 people attended the ceremony where local residents, representatives from community, scientific and academic organisations, and builders rubbed shoulders with special guests including the Chancellor George Osborne, Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts, and Earl Howe, Under

Secretary of State at the Department of Health. Members of the Crick family, including Francis' daughter Gabrielle, were also at the ceremony.

Paul Nurse, Director of the Francis Crick Institute said: "Today we are celebrating this major milestone – and reaching this stage of construction on time is no mean feat – but the building is really just the start. We are already looking forward to moving in and have been working on finding the best way to organise laboratories, state-of-the-art scientific equipment, and shared spaces to encourage collaboration between scientists in different disciplines that will really push the boundaries of science."

Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon George Osborne, said: "The Crick is a high priority for the country's economy.

"We absolutely understand our responsibility to sustain great science in this country and our obligation to invest for future generations."

Gabrielle Crick, the late Francis Crick's daughter said: "My father would have

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been so proud to see the completion of this part of the Crick institute building which is named after him. And I'm sure he would have been extremely excited about its collaborative ethos and ambitions for shaping the future of science."

It will take two years to fit out the laboratories and the Francis Crick Institute will be ready to open its doors in 2015.



Above: Sir Paul Nurse shovels the last load of concrete to top out the Crick building. © Wellcome Images.

Glittering prizes

For the second year running the Crick site has won a Gold Award from the Considerate Constructors scheme. These national awards are given to contractors who run their building site in a way that is respectful to people living and working nearby.

The Crick was noted for its excellent community engagement activities and the site was described as 'a shining example of considerate construction in action'.

Henry Robinson, Assistant Construction Director at the Crick, said: "This Award is a great compliment. Building works can sometimes cause inconvenience, but residents have worked really hard with our own team and Laing O'Rourke to keep this to a minimum. A big thank you goes to the members of our Construction Working Group whose practical ideas and suggestions have led to many good solutions to potentially disruptive situations."

Leah Young, who heads up community liaison at the site for Laing O'Rourke said: "Maintaining great communication has been so important to us and our reward has been a second gold – and we want to make it a third next year."

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

If you'd like to know more about what's happening at the Crick you can now sign up for our email bulletin, Crick News. Published every two months, the bulletin includes news and features on the construction of the Crick, our research plans, and our public engagement with science activities. To sign up, email info@crick.ac.uk.

Apprentice reaches heady heights



The Crick building is eight storeys high on the south side, but working at this height doesn't concern apprentice glazing fitter, Jack Cronin, 19, who said: "Of course I always wear a harness and the rest of the safety gear so it's fine."

Jack found out about jobs available on the Crick site when he attended a careers open evening. He started on the site last year working as an assistant to the engineers. Three months ago he began an apprenticeship as a glazing fitter installing the glass panelling to the building.

He said: "A while ago I worked with a friend's dad doing glazing for about a year but was laid off. I enjoyed it a lot and wanted to continue, so was really happy when this opportunity came up."

"The apprenticeship lasts about two years. With this one, I don't have to attend college; the assessor comes to the site to find out what I have been doing and to make sure the quality of my work is good. At the end of the apprenticeship I will have an NVQ so will be able to work on any building as a qualified glazing fitter, and being qualified will make it easier to get jobs in the future."

Jack gets on well with his colleagues and really likes working as part of a team. He feels the most difficult part of the job is learning new things: "It sometimes takes a while to get the hang of it, but it always works out OK."

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Laing O'Rourke is currently looking for young people to start apprenticeships in carpentry, joinery and tiling. Apprenticeships are paid, last two years and include on-the-job training, as well as day release study at college.

To apply for an apprenticeship, you should be aged 18-24, live in Camden, and want to work in the construction industry. To find out more call the King's Cross Construction Skills Centre (KXCSC) on 020 7974 5161.

Bringing future benefits to patients

To coincide with the launch of the Crick's strategy, we take a quick look at the institute's approach to tackling world health challenges and why Somers Town is such a great location for it.

The Crick is a landmark partnership between the UK's three largest funders of biomedical research: the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK and the Wellcome Trust, and three of its leading universities: UCL (University College London), Imperial College and King's College London. This represents an unprecedented joining of forces to tackle major scientific problems and generate solutions to the emerging health challenges of the 21st century.

State of world health

While life expectancy is increasing, cancer and circulatory disease still account for nearly two thirds of all deaths in the UK. Infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis continue to devastate many lives, particularly in poorer countries. Almost three million people die each year as a result of being overweight or obese, a problem shared by the developed and the developing world.

One direction

The Crick's strategy sets out what the institute will do and how it will work to become a world-leading science research institute. It describes the breadth of the Crick's research along with its approach to training scientists, applying science to health issues, engaging the public and advancing science and innovation in the UK.

Sir Paul Nurse, Director of the Francis Crick Institute, said: "It's all about combining the strengths of our founding partners. First class discovery science coupled with great relationships across disciplines is an extremely powerful mix. And close contact with those who will develop and use the ideas will be of enormous benefit in speeding up clinical translation and ultimately improving the lives of patients in the UK and internationally."

Discovery without boundaries

The Crick's research will initially be based on the high quality science currently being carried out at the parent institutes: the Medical Research Council's National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute (LRI). Over time, we will build substantially on this through scientific interactions between our research groups at the Crick, the three university founders, and our other collaborators across the UK.



Above: Sir Paul Nurse, Director and CEO, The Francis Crick Institute. ©BBC

The strategy emphasises the need for scientific discoveries that could impact on human health to be rapidly tested in a clinical environment. The Crick will not have facilities for patient-based research. Instead, it will use the three university founders' excellent links with the NHS and access to clinical and regulatory expertise through Academic Health Science Centres and Biomedical Research Centres.

The full strategy and a summary version are available to download from our website www.crick.ac.uk. For a printed copy email info@crick.ac.uk or call 0800 028 6731.

An ideal location

Being in Somers Town, scientists in the Crick will be able to work closely with clinical experts in nearby hospitals. The knowledge and facilities in these settings will help turn discoveries made in our laboratories into treatments and cures for disease as quickly as possible.

And with top universities just a few minutes walk away our biomedical researchers will have access to specialists in other disciplines such as engineering, chemistry and physics.

The Francis Crick Institute also has a role to play in promoting the health of local people by providing opportunities that perhaps the community wouldn't have if we weren't here.

Run in partnership with the community, the Crick's Living Centre (see page 5) will offer services to residents to encourage a healthy lifestyle. Local people and community groups are currently discussing what these services will be.

FOLLOW US ON 

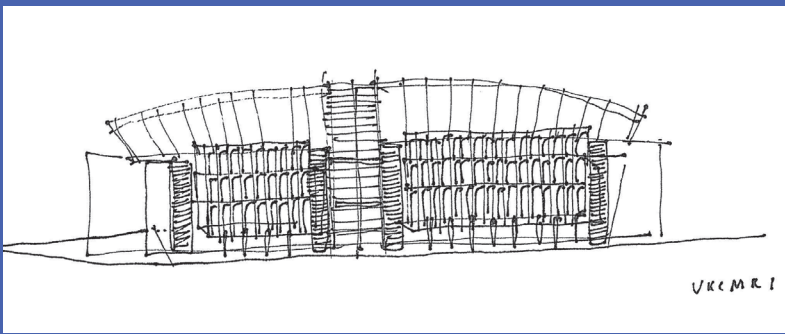
For news about the Francis Crick Institute follow @thecrick.

THE STORY OF THE CRICK, 2008 TO 2013

During the last five years we have been consulting, constructing and connecting – and it's all been worth it.



Above: A computer generated image of the building as viewed from St Pancras. © Justin Piperger Photography/Wadsworth3d.



Above: : Sketch of the proposed building for The Francis Crick Institute.
© PLP Architecture



Above: In June 2012, work on the basement and ground floors of the building was in progress.

The beginning

It all started five years ago in June 2008 when the 3.6 acre site behind the British Library was bought by the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI), a consortium set up by the Medical Research Council (MRC), Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust and UCL (University College London).

Imperial College London and King's College London joined the consortium in 2011. In the same year UKCMRI was renamed the Francis Crick Institute in honour of one of the UK's greatest scientists. The change of name coincided with the formal start of construction.

Before any building work started, we made the design proposals available to people living in the area and asked for their comments. We had an on-site exhibition where visitors could come and talk to us about the planned institute – the building, the science and how it could benefit the community.

John Cooper, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive of the Francis Crick Institute, said: "We made several changes to the design of the building based on feedback from local people. These included reducing the overall height of the building by putting one third of it underground; changing the roof to a curved form to reduce the effect on local views; and introducing a north-south atrium to give the building a more open feel."

Constructing the Crick

Contractor Laing O'Rourke started clearing the site and digging the basement in late spring 2011 and has made steady progress ever since.

We have been keeping residents informed of what's going on through a regular newsletter and our Construction Working Group. The group, made up of representatives from residents' associations and Camden Council, meets monthly and is a very important link with the community. Their input is vital in helping the works run smoothly. Group member Councillor Roger Robinson said: "We are told about forthcoming works that might, for example, be noisy. Meeting face-to-face with people from the Crick and Laing O'Rourke gave us a chance to put our points across and agree the best way to manage the inconvenience."

A range of trades – from groundworkers to glaziers – have been employed on the site clocking up around 1.7 million working hours so far. There are almost 800 workers on site now and this will rise to about 1,500 when we fit out the laboratories.



Above: The Living Centre is a two-floor, 450m² building attached to the Institute on Ossulston Street.

Connecting with the community

Being a good neighbour is important to us. We have already been working in partnership with local people and community groups and providing opportunities for our staff to work with the community – and this will continue after the institute is up and running.

At every stage of the Crick's development we have run projects that reflect the ambitions of the institute. Back in 2010 we ran a gardening project on the empty site. In 2011 we invited visitors to see what the archaeological dig had unearthed and involved children in decorating the site hoardings. Since then we have organised a number of science education sessions in schools and had our science buskers entertain the crowds at St Pancras International station during the 2012 Olympics.

Our Living Centre is at the heart of our community engagement strategy. Katie Matthews, the Crick's Head of Communications and Engagement said: "We believe that by working in partnership with the local community, through the Living Centre, the Crick will have a unique opportunity both to help improve local health outcomes and to engage the community with the institute's work."

The Living Centre Working Group comprising residents and representatives of local community organisations was set up in 2011. The group is positive about its role. Councillor Peter Brayshaw said: "We were involved right from the start – even in planning the layout. While the Living Centre is being built we are talking to people who live locally to find out the kind of services they would like the Living Centre to offer. The only stipulation from the Crick is that these must be related in some way to improving people's health and wellbeing. That gives us a lot of leeway and because lots of groups are involved we've had plenty of great ideas and lively discussions."

In 2012 the Crick set up a Community Engagement group to help develop and review its public/community engagement and education outreach work. The group, which will meet every three months, will be chaired by St Pancras and Somers Town ward councillor Cllr Samata Khatoon. She said: "I am really looking forward to being part of this group. It is an opportunity to be involved in new and exciting projects that have the potential to make a positive impact on the lives of people in our community."



Above: Professor Kairbaan Hodivala-Dilke delivering a lecture on Angiogenesis at the British Library.

Inspiring science education

When the Crick opens in 2015, it will have a dedicated lab space right at the front of the building. The prominent position of this facility shows the importance we place on science education.

Our education and outreach programme was developed in consultation with teachers, our partners' education staff and Camden Council. Local schools and colleges have already been benefiting from its wide range of activities.

Scientists have demonstrated the wonders of science to primary school children through fun and interactive sessions. Older children have visited working laboratories to find out what goes on and try out some research equipment.

Two of our most recent events were aimed at sixth formers interested in pursuing a career in science.

ASK A NOBEL SCIENTIST



Topping the bill at our second Ask a Nobel Scientist event was Sir Tim Hunt. Joining him on the panel of eminent scientists were Dr Julie Cooper and Professor Charles Swanton from Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute.

Sir Tim's relaxed manner and contagious enthusiasm for science helped put the audience of 140 sixth form students from Camden and Islington at ease asking challenging questions.

One student asked about how a baby girl in the US who was born with HIV had been cured. Sir Tim explained that HIV needs unique enzymes for its reproduction. By inhibiting these, the virus could be stopped in its tracks though it wouldn't necessarily make it go away. Early treatment (given within a few hours of birth) appears to have rid this baby of the virus.

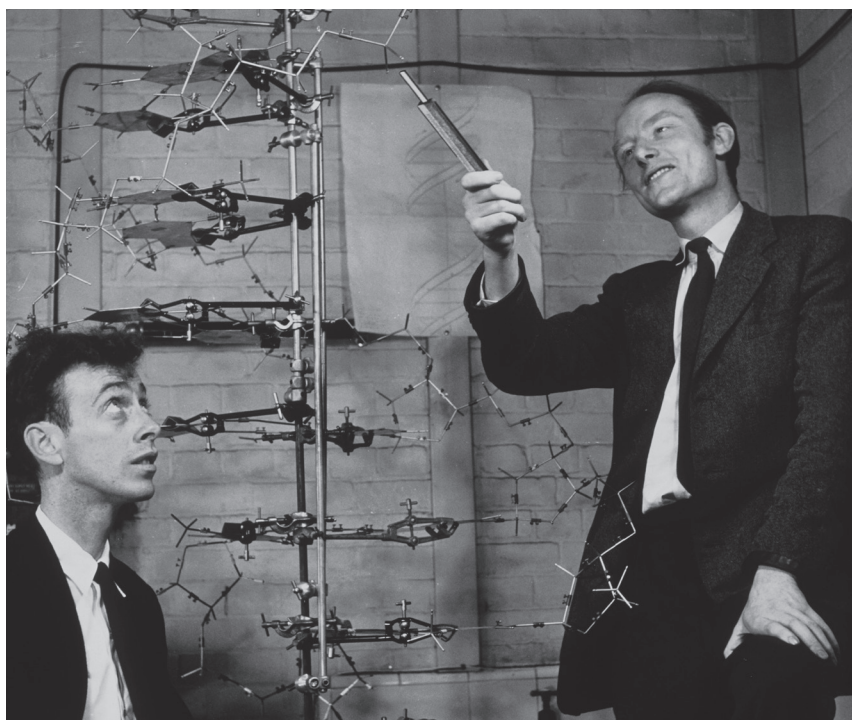
To watch the film of the Ask a Nobel Scientist event, go to www.crick.ac.uk/news/cricknews/issue-06/education-events/

SCIENCE AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

This series of lectures, covering themes as diverse as robotic engineering, climate change, and cancer biology, were designed to introduce students to university style lectures.

Professor Kairbaan Hodivala-Dilke from the Barts Cancer Institute introduced the fascinating field of Angiogenesis. Angiogenesis, the formation of new blood vessels from pre-existing ones, is essential for tumour growth and cancer spread. Varying the characteristics of angiogenesis is therefore a logical approach to cancer treatment.

Honouring 60 years of DNA



Above: Francis Crick and James Watson with their model of part of a DNA molecule in 1953. © A. Barrington Brown/Science Photo Library

In 1953, Nobel Prize winning scientists Francis Crick and James Watson identified the structure of DNA and published their findings in *Nature*, the international weekly journal of science. This year we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of their discovery.

To mark the occasion two of our scientists visited St Aloysius Infants School and Richard Cobden Primary School. The children learned how DNA is like a recipe for all living things, made DNA bead bracelets, cracked DNA codes, and then extracted their own DNA from their cheek cells.

Teachers Elaine Mitchell and Ugen Gounder agreed that the children thoroughly enjoyed the activities and would welcome the scientists back to do it again.

Also to coincide with the anniversary, Francis Crick's family decided to auction Crick memorabilia that had been in storage for many years. Among these was his Nobel medal which sold for more than US\$2m. The family is donating 20 per cent of the proceeds to the Francis Crick Institute.

Paul Nurse, Director and CEO of the Francis Crick Institute said: "We are extremely touched that the Crick family has made this incredibly generous gesture and we look forward to discussing with them how best to use their kind gift."

Blooming lovely

The Francis Crick Institute is sponsoring the 'Best Community Project' category in this year's Camden in Bloom competition.

So, if you're working with your friends and neighbours growing flowers or food, start getting ready for the competition now. Apply online between 1 and 31 July.

For more information go to www.camden.gov.uk



SCIENCE AND STORY

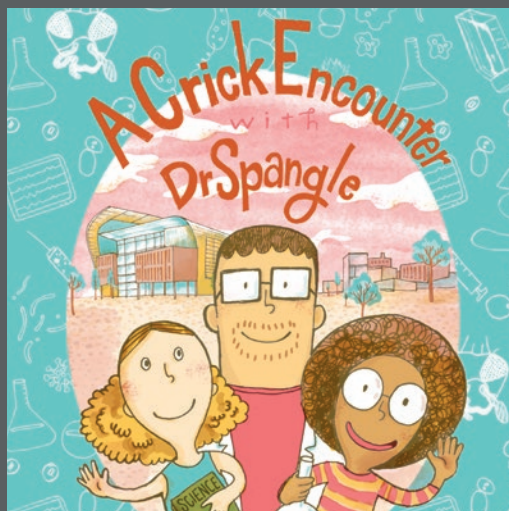
Children and families from the Somers Town areas have enjoyed producing illustrations for three books with a Crick theme. They all attended sessions with artists to learn about illustration, sculpture and screen printing techniques, as well as sessions with scientists and architects to find out more about the Crick.

Atif, 12, took part in the session at Walker House Youth Club. He said: "Me and my friends really loved that the scientists from the Crick came along with all sorts of science equipment like microscopes. We found out how malaria spreads and how cancer spreads and how other diseases get passed on."

The books were launched at our Topping Out ceremony and we will be sending copies to local schools. You can see a film about the project on our website.

If you would like a copy of the books, please email info@crick.ac.uk

Below: Children at One KX showing their paintings. Bottom: One of the book covers.



Residents and research shaping Living Centre services



Above: Rebekah and Vijya, Community Organisers.

Did you know that life expectancy for men in St Pancras and Somers Town is 70.3 years? That's 11 years lower than for men in nearby Hampstead.

We are working with an organisation called Well London to make sure our Living Centre's services help tackle this situation. Researchers have been finding out about the range of health and wellbeing services already available in the area and who uses them. And at the beginning of June a group of local volunteers started interviewing people on the street and at their front door to get a much more personal view.

Community Organisers Rebekah Duncan and Vijya Patel, who work alongside Well London, trained the volunteers in interviewing skills. Rebekah said: "Walking up to someone in the street to ask their opinion can be hard, but it's really important that this is done well. Relationships are a key part of the process – they help to build trust which leads to open conversations and ultimately a true representation of what the community really wants."

Well London has also been hosting events to gather wider views. Held in community centres, these gave residents an opportunity to drop in to talk about what they love about Somers Town and what could make it a better place to live.

In July, representatives from community groups and local organisations will attend a special workshop to discuss the findings.

Katie Matthews, Head of Communications and Engagement, said: "It is vital that local people have a say in the Living Centre's services. The research has given us a lot of information to work with and the workshop will produce a much clearer picture of what the community wants, what it needs and what is achievable in practical terms."

We will tell you more about the results of the research and the workshop in the autumn.

Walker House Youth Club

Funding from the Crick's Community Chest helped young people and their families have some fun, learn new things, and get to know their neighbours better.

The idea came from Rippon Khan, Treasurer of Walker House Residents' Association, and the twice-weekly club, attracted 20 young people aged 6 to 13 years. On Thursday evenings Youth Workers were on hand to help children with their homework. On Tuesdays the youngsters took part in supervised cookery lessons and creative activities such as designing a T-shirt.

Rippon said: "It was great to see the young people enjoying the activities while gaining new skills and confidence and making new friends. I wanted to do something that would benefit young people and help build a stronger community. It's quite hard finding the time to do this type of thing when you're working as well, but I would say it's definitely worth it."



The Crick's Community Chest provides small grants to local community organisations and groups for projects that help improve health and wellbeing in the local area. To be eligible for funding the project must take place within a one-mile radius of the Crick's site on Brill Place NW1 1HG.

For more information about the Community Chest, please call 0800 028 6731 or email info@crick.ac.uk.

Wonder Busking

The Crick's Science Buskers popped up again in April at 'Wonder' a public extravaganza running alongside the Festival of Neuroscience. Taking part in the Street Fair the buskers' optical illusions, tricks, and brain games wowed families and scientists alike. The Festival was held at the Barbican Centre in London and sponsored by the Wellcome Trust, one of the Crick's founders.

COMMUNITY EVENT

Residents are invited to come along to a special event to find out more about what we're doing around education, public and community engagement, and how the Crick is developing.

The event will be held at Somers Town Community Association on 15 July at 6.30pm.

To book a place email info@crick.ac.uk or call 0800 028 6731.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The concrete frames of all four blocks are finished and we held a topping out ceremony on 6 June to celebrate.

On the North West block, the curved roof-steel work is nearing completion allowing the installation of the roof. The terracotta cladding on the Ossulston Street side of this block is complete.

The roof-steel work on the South West block is underway and we have started installing the terracotta cladding.

On the South East block, the glass cladding on side of the building facing the British Library has been completed and we have started fitting the glass cladding to the Brill Place side of the North East block.

We currently have 800 people on site and internal works – such as fitting partition walls and installing pipework for mechanical and electrical services – are going well.



OUTLINE TIMETABLE

Early Summer 2011

Building work started.

Summer 2013

External work completed, internal fit-out starts.

Summer 2015

Internal works completed.

The building is ready for use and staff move in.

Construction questions? Call the construction hotline free on 0808 165 0180, or email projectinfo@laingorourke.com

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Email: info@crick.ac.uk

Web: www.crick.ac.uk

Phone: 0800 028 6731

Facebook: facebook.com/thefrancisrickinstitute

Twitter: @thecrick

Post: The Francis Crick Institute
Gibbs Building
215 Euston Road
London, NW1 2BE

Visit: The Crick Visitor Centre, Ossulston Street (opposite Hadstock House), NW1 1HG

Staff will be on hand to answer your questions and you will be able to see the latest designs and plans for the building.

OPENING TIMES

Thursdays: 14.00-18.30

We can also open the Visitor Centre for groups on request.

This newsletter tells you about the Francis Crick Institute and its plans to build a medical research centre on Brill Place, Somers Town. If you would like a copy in Bengali, please send your name and address to The Francis Crick Institute, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE or email info@crick.ac.uk.

এই সংবাদপত্রিকাটি আপনাদের দ্য ফ্রান্সিস ক্রিক ইনস্টিটিউট এবং ব্রিল প্লেস, সমারস টাউনে তাদের দ্বারা একটি মেডিক্যাল গবেষণা কেন্দ্র তৈরি করার পরিকল্পনার বিষয়ে আপনাকে জানায়। যদি আপনি বাংলায় একটি অনুলিপি চান, অনুগ্রহ করে The Francis Crick Institute, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE ঠিকানায় বা info@crick.ac.uk-তে ইমেইল করে আপনার নাম আর ঠিকানা পাঠান।