

# The Office of Tony Blair

## **Tony Blair attends launch of Transatlantic Healthcare Alliance between Yale University and University College London**

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Recognizing their shared aspirations for the advancement of biomedical research and healthcare for people around the world, Yale University, Yale-New Haven Hospital and UCL (University College London) and its associated hospitals will sign an agreement that makes them allies in a global effort to improve the human condition through translational medicine. The Yale-UCL alliance will provide opportunities for high-level scientific research, clinical and educational collaboration.

Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, who is teaching at Yale for the second year, will be present when the agreement is signed at 3:30 pm today in New Haven, Connecticut.

Speaking ahead of the launch event, Tony Blair said:

"I am enjoying the privilege of teaching a seminar on faith and globalization at Yale for a second semester. During the time I have spent on campus, I have witnessed firsthand Yale's increasing international reach, under President Richard Levin's visionary leadership.

"UCL, led by Malcolm Grant, is one of the U.K.'s most vital and progressive educational institutions, and like Yale, is a leader in scientific research. The alliance of these two distinguished global universities, along with their respective medical centers, is an innovative endeavor that has great potential to address some of the health challenges we presently face."

Signing the agreement will be:

- Richard C. Levin, President, Yale University
- Professor Malcolm Grant, President and Provost, UCL
- Marna P. Borgstrom, President and Chief Executive Officer, Yale-New Haven Hospital
- Professor David Fish, Managing Director, UCL Partners

Both Yale University and UCL are centers of biomedical research and rank in the top echelon of educational institutions in the world. UCL, founded in 1826 in central London, has just been ranked 4th in The Times Higher Education - QS World University Rankings of 2009, in which Yale ranked 3rd. While research exchanges among universities are commonplace, the new alliance is unusual in that both institutions are also in partnership with extensive hospital complexes. In the new alliance, two venerable institutions aim to advance biomedical research and the treatment of disease.

"The discoveries and enhanced patient care produced by our joint efforts will exceed what we would have accomplished separately," said Yale University President Richard C. Levin. "We look forward to a fruitful collaboration."

The hospitals of Yale-New Haven include the Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital and the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven. UCL Partners links UCL with four leading National Health Service (NHS) Trusts--University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust--to form an academic health science center focused on preventing or treating major diseases that affect populations in London, the UK and worldwide.

"This partnership represents a significant opportunity to advance patient care through novel clinical research and the exchange of best practices. Most significantly, it will enable us to bring the results of cutting-edge research to the bedside in an accelerated manner," said Marna P. Borgstrom, President and CEO of Yale-New Haven Hospital. "Ultimately this will provide real benefits to the patients we are all privileged to serve."

"UCL Partners welcomes the many opportunities this collaboration creates," said Professor David Fish, Managing Director of UCL Partners. "We can learn from each others' different experiences, optimize complementary resources, and help find ways that better address the healthcare challenges of the populations we serve."

"This is a remarkable partnership between two of the world's top universities," said Professor Malcolm Grant, UCL President and Provost. "We will be combining forces to tackle some of the world's major problems, working closely with our partner hospitals. Our initial focus will be on cardiovascular disease, cancer and neurosciences. This will be a very active partnership and we look forward to the advances, in biomedicine and beyond, which will be the consequence of this unique alliance."

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