

ENS and EFNS Agree to Merge the Two Societies

The first meeting between representatives of the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) and the ENS took place during the 13th Congress of the EFNS in Florence, Italy, September 12-15, 2009. Jacques De Reuck, President of the EFNS, and Richard Hughes, President-elect of the EFNS, met with ENS President José Ferro and ENS Secretary General Gustave Moonen, in order to discuss the basis for a cooperation in the future between these two major European neurological societies. A task force involving six representatives, plus members of the administrative secretariats, of the EFNS and the ENS was subsequently created in order to work out a concept of cooperation between the two societies. Progress has been rapid in the past two years, culminating in a historic moment which took

place during the 15th Congress of the EFNS in Budapest, Hungary, September 10-13, 2011.

Zohar Argov (ENS President) Richard Hughes (EFNS President) Gustave Moonen (Secretary General ENS) Detlef Kömpf (Secretary General EFNS) signed an Agreement during the opening session of the Budapest Congress of the EFNS to merge the two societies to form a unique organisation designated as the European Academy of Neurology (EAN). From 2015 onwards all activities of the ENS and EFNS shall be accomplished exclusively by the EAN. Until then the ENS and EFNS will appoint members to the Transition Task Force of the EAN.

For more information see www.ensinfo.org

New upright microscope for advanced clinical research

Nikon Instruments has launched the Eclipse Ni-U. Designed with core technology used in Nikon's renowned Eclipse Ti inverted research microscope concept, the manual Ni-U is designed to meet the needs of all advanced bioscience and clinical research. The flexibility provided by motorisation capability and multi-mode operation, combined with high optical quality as well as improved ergonomics, provide access to all the major imaging techniques and observation methods.

Nikon's proprietary stratum structure has now been incorporated in this upright microscope. The structure enables optical paths in two tiers, providing complete flexibility with efficient system configurations and custom combinations according to application. A choice of stackable turrets is available for epi-fluorescence: manual, intelligent and motorised. The Ni-U offers high intensity 100W illumination with built-in fly eye optics for even illumination and further superior optical performance is ensured through Nikon's CFI Plan Apochromat Lambda series objectives. Transmission and chromatic aberration correction have been improved throughout the wide range of visible to near IR wavelengths (950nm), allowing use of various fluorescent reagents. They provide bright, high-contrast, high S/N (signal-to-noise) ratio, multi-colour



fluorescence images with almost no focus shift when used with any wavelength. Four new nosepieces include an intelligent sextuple DIC nosepiece option.

The Eclipse Ni-U adds to the newly launched Eclipse Ci series to provide the complete clinical microscope range.

For further information contact Nikon Instruments Europe: Tel: +44 (0)208 247 1718 Email: info@nikoninstruments.eu, www.nikoninstruments.com/NiU

"Better than good" customer satisfaction at Fujifilm



Fujifilm is a pioneer in diagnostic imaging and information systems for healthcare, with a range of constantly evolving, clinically proven, products and technologies designed to assist medical professionals perform efficiently and effectively. To ensure customer satisfaction with their products and services, Fujifilm commissioned an independent agency to undertake a confidential market research survey to assess how the marketplace perceived the company's performance.

Responses from 100 participants were analysed, and Fujifilm are delighted to announce that the overall mean score of the combined quantitative data returned a mean average score of Better than Good. Key areas researched included the overall perception of Fujifilm as a company, satisfaction with image quality, system performance and value for money, as well as satisfaction with staff.

In addition, satisfaction levels of user support and the most important factors considered when purchasing products were also incorporated; along with key journals read and trade exhibitions attended.

A synopsis of the research results is available from Fujifilm. For a copy, or for more information, Tel. +44 (0)1234 326780.

Raising awareness of withdrawal from dopamine agonist treatment

Parkinson's UK is campaigning to raise awareness of dopamine agonist withdrawal syndrome (DAWS) amongst healthcare professionals, as part of its campaign on impulsive and compulsive behaviours.

DAWS happens when a person's dopamine agonist (DA) treatment is stopped or reduced. This could be when a person is experiencing impulsive or compulsive behaviours as a side effect and needs to stop or reduce the medication causing the behaviour. Impulsive behaviour is when a person can't resist the temptation to carry out activities that could lead them to harm themselves or others. Compulsive behaviour refers to an overwhelming urge to act in a certain way, often repetitively.

Impulsive or compulsive behaviours affect around 17% of those who take DAs. Those who are diagnosed with Parkinson's under the age of 50 or who have a history of gambling or addictive

behaviours are most at risk of developing impulsive or compulsive behaviours. Symptoms of DAWS can include anxiety, panic attacks, depression, insomnia, irritability and drug cravings. To avoid DAWS, people with Parkinson's need support from their Parkinson's specialist and withdrawal must be done gradually.

Parkinson's UK has an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of impulsive and compulsive behaviours and associated syndromes such as DAWS. The charity wants to make sure those being prescribed DAs are informed that impulsive and compulsive behaviours are a possible side effect, as well as the potential problems that can arise if they need to stop taking them.

Tracey Ward, Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist for Suffolk Community Healthcare, said: "Dopamine agonists can be extremely positive in managing the

symptoms of Parkinson's. However, if person experiences impulsive and compulsive behaviours as a side effect of their treatment then it may be necessary for them to be reduced or, in some cases, withdrawn totally. This is where the risk of DAWS occurs.

"Before taking dopamine agonists it is imperative the patient, and if possible their family or carer, are made aware of the potential for these behaviours and their possible side effects of reduction – DAWS. If patients and families know what to expect, they can often manage much better. The key to withdrawing the medication is support from a specialist throughout, with clear guidance and explanations."

For more information, call +44 (0)808 800 0303 or visit parkinsons.org.uk