

Editorial board and contributors



Roger Barker is co-editor of ACNR, and is Honorary Consultant in Neurology at The Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair. His main area of research is into neurodegenerative and movement disorders, in particular parkinson's and Huntington's disease. He is also the university lecturer in Neurology at Cambridge where he continues to develop his clinical research into these diseases along with his basic research into brain repair using neural transplants.



Alasdair Coles is co-editor of ACNR. He is a University Lecturer in Neuroimmunology at Cambridge University. He works on experimental immunological therapies in multiple sclerosis.



Mike Zandi is co-editor of ACNR. He is an Honorary Specialist Registrar at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. His research interests are in neuroimmunology, biomarkers and therapeutics in particular.



Stephen Kirker is the editor of the Rehabilitation Section of ACNR and Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine in Addenbrooke's NHS Trust, Cambridge. He trained in neurology in Dublin, London and Edinburgh before moving to rehabilitation in Cambridge and Norwich. His main research has been into postural responses after stroke. His particular interests are in prosthetics, orthotics, gait training and neurorehabilitation.



Boyd Ghosh is the Editor of our Conference News section. He is currently a Specialist Registrar in Southampton having completed a PhD in Cambridge in cognitive neuroscience. His special interests are cognition and movement disorders, with a particular interest in progressive supranuclear palsy. He is currently secretary for the ABN trainees committee.



Rhys Davies is the editor of our Book Review Section. He is a consultant neurologist at the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Liverpool and at Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor, North Wales. He has a clinical and research interest in cognitive neurology.



Alastair Wilkins is our Case Report Co-ordinator. He is Senior Lecturer in Neurology and Consultant Neurologist, University of Bristol. He trained in Neurology in Cambridge, Norwich and London. His research interests are the basic science of axon degeneration and developing treatments for progressive multiple sclerosis.



Peter Whitfield is ACNR's Neurosurgery Editor. He is a Consultant Neurosurgeon at the South West Neurosurgery Centre, Plymouth. His clinical interests are wide including neurovascular conditions, head injury, stereotactic radiosurgery, image guided tumour surgery and lumbar microdiscectomy. He is an examiner for the MRCS and is a member of the SAC in neurosurgery.



Heather Angus-Leppan is ACNR's ABN representative on the Editorial Board. She is Head of the Neurology Department at Barnet Hospital and Consultant Neurologist, Honorary Senior Lecturer and Epilepsy Lead at the Royal Free Hospital, London, UK. She is the Honorary Assistant Secretary of the Association of British Neurologists, Honorary Secretary of the Neurosciences Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and current Chair of the Map of Medicine Epilepsy Group, UK.

International editorial liaison committee

Professor Riccardo Soffietti, Italy: Chairman of the Neuro-Oncology Service, Dept of Neuroscience and Oncology, University and S. Giovanni Battista Hospital.

Professor Klaus Berek, Austria: Head of the Neurological Department of the KH Kufstein.

Professor Hermann Stefan, Germany: Professor of Neurology /Epileptology in the Department of Neurology, University Erlangen-Nürnberg.

Professor Nils Erik Gilhus, Norway: Professor of Neurology at the University of Bergen and Haukeland University Hospital.

ABN Winners Announced

Congratulations to Dr Kathryn Peall, Dr Nils Muhlert and Dr Sean Slaght for winning awards at the ABN conference in Newcastle.

Dr Kathryn Peall was awarded the Charles Symonds prize for best platform presentation. Dr Peall has been investigating Myoclonus Dystonia Syndrome in Cardiff, for the past two years. With the enormous support of both adult and paediatric collaborators she travelled throughout the UK and Ireland visiting patients. Her principal interests have been determining the prevalence of SGCE mutations and assessing the presence of any psychiatric co-morbidity within this group. This work has now established a sizeable cohort of patients with a variety of SGCE mutations, along with supporting the notion that psychiatric symptomatology does indeed form part of the disorder's phenotype, in particular obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

Dr Nils Muhlert is a research associate in the NMR Research Unit at the Institute of Neurology, UCL. He received the Charles Symonds prize for best poster presentation for his work involving the quantification of glutamate in the cortex, hippocampus, and thalamus and its relationship to cognitive performance in MS.

In this work with Dr Olga Ciccarelli and colleagues he quantified levels of glutamate in brain grey matter of people with MS and healthy controls. Using single voxel spectroscopy on MRI, they found reduced glutamate neurotransmission in MS, which correlated with cognitive impairment. In particular, memory problems were associated with reduced glutamate in the hippocampus. These findings were surprising as previous work reports increased glutamate in the white matter of people with MS compared to controls. However, the results fitted with post-mortem work, which shows fewer glutamate receptors and excitatory amino acid transporters in demyelinated MS hippocampi. In future work, they hope to clarify the relationship between glutamate in the grey matter and demyelinating lesions, and to assess whether glutamate levels could provide an early marker of cognitive impairment in MS.

Dr Sean Slaght won the ACNR Case Report Prize – his winning case report will be published on our website and in the next issue of ACNR.



Dr Nils Muhlert

New Years Honours

Professor Clare Fowler, UCL Professor of Uro-Neurology at the Institute of Neurology and Honorary Consultant Uro-Neurologist at the NHNN, UCLH Trust, has been awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours List 'for services to Uro-Neurology'.

Professor Fowler established a specialist unit in 1987 for patients with urological problems and sexual dysfunction as a consequence of neurological disease.

In 1985, a syndrome was named after her – Fowler's Syndrome – after she discovered why people suffer from urinary retention.

She said: "I will be accepting the award on behalf of all the nurses and doctors who have helped me care for patients and build up the department of uro-neurology."



Prof Clare Fowler

Professor Ray Dolan elected Fellow of the APS

Congratulations to Professor Ray Dolan who has been elected a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) for 'sustained outstanding contributions to the science of psychology'.



Prof Ray Dolan