

Modular Upright Research Microscopes for Bioscience and Medical Research

The Eclipse Ni series offers multi-mode system expandability to meet the imaging needs of bioscience and medical research on one platform. The new Ni range also provides superior optical performance with new CFI Plan Apochromat Lambda series objectives, and the flexibility of assisted observation by motorisation. The range comprises the fully motorised Eclipse Ni-E flagship model with focusing nosepiece or focusing stage options, and the manual Eclipse Ni-U with motorisation upgrade capability.

Nikon's proprietary stratum structure in the Ni series opens up a vast range of imaging possibilities that can be upgraded at any time. Both models support research into the reactions and changes of stimulated cells with a newly developed photoactivation unit, a first for upright microscopes. The Eclipse Ni-E is also configurable for multiphoton imaging, as well as offering the option of fixed-stage configurations to meet the demands of experiments such as in vivo imaging for neuroscience research applications.

The new Eclipse Ni microscopes use the latest version 4.0 release of NIS-Elements software enabling microscope, camera and confocal control,



thereby removing the need for a laboratory to rely on separate software. Image acquisition and analysis is improved with over 100 new functions.

A comprehensive range of high speed, motorised accessories, specifically configured according to application, augment the improved features to meet all research requirements.

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Winner of Global Design Competition for Multiple Sclerosis Community

Merck Serono has announced that Brian Light of Toronto, Canada is the overall winner of the "Real MS: Your Innovation" campaign, a global design competition that challenged the multiple sclerosis (MS) community to submit unique and innovative ideas to help people overcome the daily challenges of life with MS.

Brian's winning idea, "The Sports Walker," is a six legged, eight wheeled walker and harness system that gives someone with poor balance or weakness in their legs the support to stand and manoeuvre, while keeping their hands free to play sports. The Sports Walker was selected through online voting by the international MS community on the campaign's website.

A volleyball fanatic for more than 30 years, Light's ability to play became difficult as his MS symptoms began to limit his ability to walk and maintain balance. "It was clear I couldn't play volleyball the same way I was accustomed to and I remember a friend coming up to me on the court and suggesting I would probably have to stop playing altogether," said Brian. "I wasn't ready to let that happen, so I created the Sports Walker."

Brian will travel to the design studios of IDEO, a global design and innovation firm, where he will work directly with IDEO designers to evolve and refine his idea, which will be shared with the global MS community in 2012.

Data About Early Use and Long-term Benefit of Tysabri Presented at ECTRIMS/ACTRIMS

There were 28 company-supported Tysabri® (natalizumab) presentations at the 5th Joint Triennial Congress of the European and Americas Committees for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS and ACTRIMS).

Key data indicated patients on Tysabri experienced reduced annualised relapse rates (ARR), particularly in those treated with Tysabri early in the course of their disease. Data also indicated a long-term benefit for patients who had achieved freedom from disease activity early in their treatment course. Data from a separate study showed Tysabri-treated patients experienced improved incontinence-related quality of life (QOL). Additional data sets were presented further supporting Biogen Idec's and Elan's efforts to stratify the risk of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) in Tysabri-treated patients.

"Further study of anti-JCV antibody status continues to support its utility for risk stratification, enabling a personalised discussion of benefit/risk for each individual patient," said Ted Yednock, PhD, Executive Vice President, Head of Global Research at Elan. "Our five years in-market experience, along with information resulting from our ongoing study of the efficacy and safety of Tysabri in MS, enables physicians and patients to make decisions on therapeutic approaches for treating this debilitating disease."

For further information about Tysabri please visit www.tysabri.com, www.biogenidec.com

eBrain Launch

eBrain was successfully launched at the Royal College of Surgeons in London at the end of 2011. eBrain is a world first, and represents the largest, most comprehensive web-based training multimedia facility in clinical neurosciences to support both training and Continuous Professional Development. All UK professional societies who are members of the Joint Neurosciences Council www.jointneurosciences.org, are providing free access to this resource for their individual members, as are the European Neurological Society and European Federation of Neurological Societies.

eBrain currently consists of over 550 eLearning sessions that cover the whole of the clinical neurosciences, including neurorehabilitation. Each session is designed to take 20 minutes to



Simon Thomson, Simon Shorvon and Hannah Cock, Clinical leads eBrain.

complete. Users can self-select which modules to do, or make use of learning pathways being designed to reflect the needs of specific learning groups. Once a session has been completed a certificate can be printed.

eBrain has been developed by over 400 authors, 32 module editors and 4 clinical leads mostly from the UK but with some support from Europe. All these clinicians have given their time free of charge.

eBrain can be found at www.ebrainjnc.com. Members of JNC organisations, ENS or EFNS should have received a login and password via their society, or should contact their member society in the first instance. If you are having problems logging in then use the technical checker on the website first. In particular please make sure that popups are not blocked!