



## Two clinical neurologists elected Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences

Professor Masud Husain (pictured left) (Institute of Neurology and The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery, London) and Professor Peter Rothwell (pictured right) (University of Oxford) are among forty newly elected Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences. Fellows are selected primarily for their exceptional contribution to the advancement of medical science either in the form of original discovery or of sustained contributions to scholarship, or for the application of exist-

ing scientific knowledge or understanding in an innovative way, so as to bring about advances in human health and welfare.

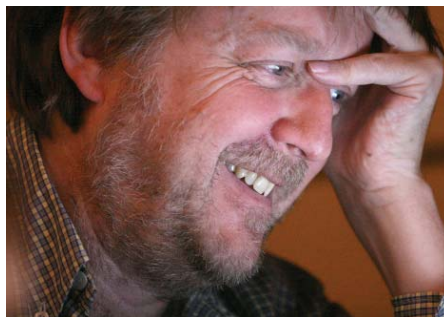
They attended an Admission Ceremony on the 24th of June which included talks from Professor Sir John Bell FRS PMedSci, Professor Stephen O'Rahilly FRS FMedSci and five new Fellows. The celebration was held at the Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London.

For more information contact: Web. [www.ion.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.ion.ucl.ac.uk)



## Two Michael J Fox awards for UCL Parkinson's research

Two teams at the UCL Institute of Neurology (Department of Molecular Neuroscience) have received grants from the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. The Foundation's Rapid Response Innovation Awards are given in support of high-risk, high-reward projects aimed at tackling some of the major obstacles to developing therapies for Parkinson's disease. Grants are made on a rolling basis, with decisions taken within six weeks of the submission of applications. Eighteen such awards, to institutions all over the world, have just been announced, including two at UCL.



Professor John Hardy

Drs Henry Houlden and Coro Paisan-Ruiz applied for funds for a study on 'The Glucosylceramide Pathway in Parkinson's Disease and Other Synucleinopathies: Genetic Defects, Neuropathological Characterisation and Cell Culture Models'. The application from Dr Patrick Alfryn Lewis and Professor John Hardy was entitled 'A Novel Cell Model for LRRK2 Parkinson's Disease'.

Parkinson's disease affects about 120,000 people (one in 500) in the UK. It is hoped that both UCL studies will yield results that will soon have an impact on the treatment of the condition.

For more information contact: Web. [www.ion.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.ion.ucl.ac.uk)

## Autism Centre honours pioneer

The National Autistic Society's Centre for Social and Communication Disorders was renamed The NAS Lorna Wing Centre for Autism on the 13th of May, in recognition of Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Lorna Wing's pioneering contribution to the study and understanding of autism.

Set up by Dr Lorna Wing in 1991, the centre was the first in the country to provide a complete diagnostic, assessment and advice service for children, adolescents and adults. The NAS Lorna Wing Centre for Autism now specialises in the diagnosis of individuals with complex needs and in training professionals



Jane Asher (left) and Dr Lorna Wing.

in methods of diagnosis. As the mother of a daughter with autism, Lorna Wing was a founder member of The National Autistic Society in 1962 and has published widely on all aspects of autism spectrum disorders both in the UK and worldwide.

Attendees at the ribbon cutting were Dr Lorna Wing and NAS president and actress Jane Asher (pictured left).

For further information contact: The National Autistic Society, Tel. 020 7903 3546, Email. [matthew.stocks@nas.org.uk](mailto:matthew.stocks@nas.org.uk) Web. [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

## SonoSite receives international design award

SonoSite, Inc., the world leader and specialist in point-of-care, hand-carried ultrasound, has received a prestigious International Forum (iF) design award for its new S-Nerve™ ultrasound tool, in the Health+Care category. An international jury evaluated 2,771 entries based on design, functionality, aesthetics, innovation, workmanship and choice of materials.

The S-Nerve tool, part of SonoSite's recently introduced S Series™ product line, has been custom-designed with breakthrough image quality, speed and simplicity to support the visualisation needs of regional anaesthetists. It was designed with input from leading practitioners who expressed a substantive need for a compact, high-performance tool, to function exclusively for guidance of regional nerve blocks and central line placement.



The S-Nerve device, like other products in SonoSite's S Series line, is a radically new concept in ultrasound and offers the option of a 'zero' footprint by being mounted on a wall, the ceiling or on a pole by the patient's bedside. Dr Ian Harper, Consultant in Anaesthesia at Wansbeck Hospital in Northumberland, UK, commented: "The vertical orientation and mounting of the machine is a logistical improvement. Whoever designed this product got it exactly right."

The S-Nerve ultrasound tool will be on display with other award-winning products at the International Congress Center in Hannover, Germany, until August 31, 2008.

For more information contact: Tel. +44 (0)1462 444 800, Fax. +44 (0)1462 444 801, Email. [europe@sonosite.com](mailto:europe@sonosite.com) [www.sonosite.com](http://www.sonosite.com)

## Young researchers recognised at Magstim TMS Summer School 2008

Magstim has announced the winners of both the Magstim Young Investigator Award 2008 and the Summer School Poster Session during the first day of the Magstim Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) Summer School 2008, held in London on 30th – 31st May. Both awards recognise the scientific research of those working with magnetic stimulation within the fields of Neuroscience and Neurology.

Dr Marco Davare, University College London (UCL), Institute of Neurology, Sobell Dept of Motor Neuroscience and Movement Disorders has been awarded the Magstim

Young Investigator Award 2008 for his work studying how the brain controls skilled hand movements.

PhD student Niamh Kennedy, Queen's University Belfast, School of Psychology was awarded the Poster Prize for her Poster on the effect of simultaneous contractions of ipsilateral muscles on changes in corticospinal excitability induced by paired associative stimulation (PAS).

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From left to right: Magstim Young Investigator Award winner Dr Marco Davare with Professor Vince Walsh, Dr Heidi Johansen-Berg, and Poster Prize winner Niamh Kennedy.

## News Review

### ReQuip XL® - a new once daily formulation for the treatment of Parkinson's disease

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) have launched a new treatment for Parkinson's disease (PD) in the UK. ReQuip XL® (ropinirole prolonged-release tablets) is the UK's first and only once-daily non-ergot oral dopamine agonist available for the treatment of PD, providing continuous delivery of ropinirole from a single daily dose.

Ropinirole prolonged-release is approved for the treatment of idiopathic Parkinson's disease (Monotherapy and Adjunct Therapy) in patients already taking ropinirole immediate release tablets and in whom adequate symptomatic control has been established.

Although a number of therapies are available for the treatment of PD, interim results from a recent pan-European survey of 1,026 people conducted by the European Parkinson's Disease Association (EPDA) suggest that there is still a significant unmet need for the treatment of PD.

The clinical trials programme has demonstrated that ropinirole prolonged-release tablets are an effective agent, generally well-tolerated in the treatment of both early- and advanced stage PD.

GSK has developed the ReQuip Patient



Support Service (RPSS) to offer patients free guidance and support should they decide with their healthcare professional to switch from ropinirole 3x-daily to ropinirole prolonged-release. The RPSS is designed to complement the care provided by their NHS health professionals. The service comprises proactive telephone calls over a three-month period from trained health professionals (including nurses) to patients starting ropinirole prolonged-release tablets, to help ensure a smooth transition from ropinirole 3x-daily to ropinirole prolonged-release.

For further information contact  
GlaxoSmithKline UK on  
Tel. 020 8990 2144.

### The new A1 series from Nikon

Even the most rapid biological processes can now be captured at ultra high resolution as a result of the launch of a new range of confocal laser scanner systems by Nikon Instruments. Two models are available; the fully automated A1 and the high specification A1R. The A1 utilises conventional paired galvanometers producing high resolution images (up to 4096 x 4096 pixels), whilst the A1R incorporates a unique hybrid scanner system (offering frame rates of 30fps, 512 x 512 pixels). This facilitates ultra-high-speed imaging with unsurpassed image quality. Furthermore, the hybrid scanner enables simultaneous photo-activation and imaging, critical for unveiling cell dynamics and interactions.



The new systems are a natural complement to the recently launched Ti inverted microscope, particularly when coupled with Nikon's patented Perfect Focus System, essential for eliminating focus drift. Together they set a new standard for advanced time-lapse studies of rapid cellular interactions to literally bring biological imaging to life.

For more information please contact  
Nikon Instruments Europe, Tel. 0208 247 1718,  
Email. info@nikoninstruments.eu  
Web. www.nikoninstruments.eu

### Best practice recommendations for young people with cerebral palsy in transition

The experience of young disabled people with cerebral palsy and other long-term neurological conditions, moving from children's to adult health services can often be traumatic, and in many health settings there is a gap in service provision. To address this 'gap', best practice recommendations entitled 'Young People with Cerebral Palsy in Transition from Paediatric to Adult Health Services: Best Practice Recommendations' have been launched this month aimed at all health professionals who are involved in the transition of care of the young person with cerebral palsy.



Mr Richard Parnell, Head of Research at the national disability organisation, Scope said: "Transfer of care and support from the paediatric service to the adult health service is a major step in these young people's lives and it needs to be holistic, taking into consideration all transition issues, not just health. Scope welcomes this document and hopes that health professionals will review transition service provision in their own hospitals".

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