



Professor Richard Langton-Hewer (right) and Professor Graham Venables.

ABN Medal 2007

The ABN Medal is awarded annually to recognise outstanding contributions by British neurologists to the science or practice of neurology, or for contributions to the Association of British Neurologists. The 2007 award was made to Professor Richard Langton-Hewer at the recent ABN meeting, by ABN President Professor Graham Venables.

In his citation, Derick Wade notes that Professor Langton-Hewer was ahead of his time, practicing through his clinical activities principles that were at the time unusual, but that are now becoming mainstream. He was patient-centred when much of medical practice

was still professionally driven and centred, and was ahead of his time in the collection and use of routine patient data. This was part of his insistence on generating and using evidence to support service development. He was concerned with the development and provision of clinical services. At the time this was not a popular view within the medical profession in general and within the ABN in particular. He was also ahead of his time in that he collaborated with other professions on an equal footing. He was truly committed to multi-disciplinary teams at a time when doctors still expected to lead and to be obeyed.

ABN Case Report winner

ACNR is delighted to sponsor the ABN Case Presentation Competition which is held at each ABN meeting. At the recent ABN in London, Dr John McHugh won the award for his Case Presentation "Startling new antibody in an old Irish jumper." Dr McHugh's



case report also won the 2007 Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland's Registrar's Prize in Neurology, which took place on Friday, November 23rd, at the Four Seasons Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin. See www.iicn.ie/education/rami_registrars_prize_in_neurology.501.html for an abstract of the case report.

£250,000 research grant awarded

The Oliver Zangwill Centre, based at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely, has just been awarded a major research grant of £250,000 by the NHS "Research for Patient Benefit" programme. This grant will help researchers at the Centre find out whether reminders delivered to patients with acquired brain injury via mobile phone text messaging can improve brain injured patients' achievements in their day-to-day lives.

Dr Fergus Gracey, lead applicant for the grant said "We want to find out whether an alert, delivered via mobile phone text messaging, can improve patients' with acquired brain injury achievements of tasks in their day-to-day lives. We also want to know whether such a service would help improve patients' and carers' emotional well being and stress. There is little research that tells us what helps

patients in their day-to-day lives. We have evaluated the provision of a timed electronic alert reminding someone of what they need to do at a specific time, for example, 'take medication' at 6.00 pm, sent to the patient via a pager and shown this to be effective. We now provide this 'Neuropage' service nationally. However, not everything we do can be timed in this way and patients and relatives tell us they like to have space for flexibility and spontaneity in their lives."

The findings from our research will be used to help develop our existing service and community rehabilitation provision in the region. As the intervention is delivered via mobile phone we have the potential to reach a large number of patients and carers more economically. We will share our findings with others to contribute to the development of clinical practice in rehabilitation."