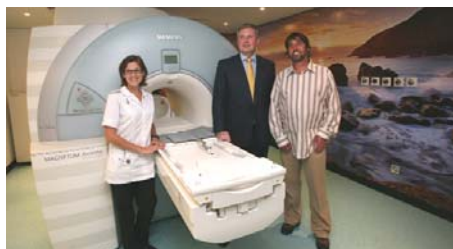


## Guernsey invests in onsite scanning facilities from Siemens

Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Guernsey, has installed the SOMATOM Sensation 64 and MAGNETOM Avanto 1.5 scanner from Siemens Medical Solutions in its newly built scanning department. The installations will add permanent MR and CT capabilities to its in-house services and enhance its imaging, clinical and diagnostic capabilities.

To date patients have had to travel to Jersey or Southampton for their scans; in 2006 approximately 882 people were referred to off-island hospitals. With demand increasing, Princess Elizabeth Hospital needed to provide on-site scanning, imaging, clinical and diagnostic capabilities. The new unit gives permanent access to state-of-the-art MRI and CT scanning equipment.

The combined products have the advantage of providing better imaging and staging processes. The high end MAGNETOM Avanto uses Total image matrix (TIM) technology, providing significant advantages in imaging, allowing a greater range in examinations. The scanner will be used to look at detailed images and the high resolution technology



Pictured beside the new MAGNETOM Avanto with the wall backdrop created by Karl Taylor are: (L to R) Laura Slimm, MRI Deputy Superintendent, Roy McGregor, CEO for Credit Suisse and Deputy Peter Roffey, Health Minister for Guernsey.

offers a new level of clarity. This allows early detection of abnormalities and decreases time to treatment.

It improves patient comfort and care, with the AudioComfort technology reducing noise encountered by patients by 97%. The high speed technology shortens the time to complete the scan and its innovative design gives the patient more room to relax.

For more information  
E. [medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com](mailto:medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com)

## New Ti series – a central resource for live cell imaging

Nikon launched the Ti Series recently. Available in three distinct models, the Ti range combines rapid system speed with a flexible design incorporating capabilities including: confocal, TIRF, fluorescence and Nikon's patented Perfect Focus System (PFS) into one powerful integrated unit set to expand and advance current live cell imaging research.

Offering faster acquisition times and unparalleled levels of accuracy, the Ti platform has been designed in close collaboration with the industry's leading cell biologists and presents the field with a versatile new tool. The Ti-E is now the first microscope system to incorporate optimised syn-



chronised switching improving total system performance. All component parts are integrated within a central hub and intelligently controlled through Nikon's NIS elements software. This enhances speed of operation, minimises component movement and improves experimental accuracy.

Complementing the range, the Ti-S and Ti-U derivatives are ideal for researchers requiring

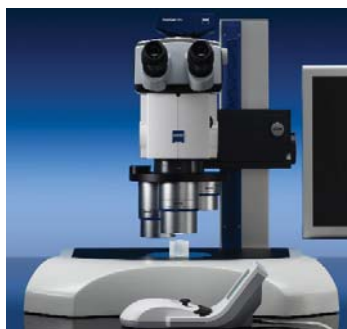
less advanced systems with a lower level of integration, and are specifically indicated for use in more routine laboratory work.

For more information see  
[www.nikoninstruments.eu](http://www.nikoninstruments.eu)

## Zeiss sets new standard for zoom, magnification and resolution in stereomicroscopy

Carl Zeiss has added a flagship stereomicroscope to its range with the launch of the SteREO Discovery.V20. The 20x zoom is the highest zoom factor and final magnification of any stereomicroscope available on the market. Thanks to the newly computed PlanApo S 2.3x objective, the SteREO Discovery.V20 also delivers the highest resolution in stereomicroscopy with 1000 LP/mm, with a maximum magnification of 345x (eyepieces 10x).

"The new microscope owes much of its exceptional optical performance to the CMO (common main objective) imaging system pioneered by Zeiss", says Aubrey Lambert, Marketing Manager at Carl Zeiss UK. "The 20x zoom range enables users to move seamlessly from a panoramic overview of an object to examining extremely small details without any time-consuming change of objectives. This is a significant benefit in automated workflow environments. Furthermore, the high



final magnification of the SteREO Discovery.V20 permits three-dimensional observation of objects that, until now, could only be examined two-dimensionally with a traditional light microscope."

The advanced design guarantees safe object manipulation, combining high magnification with generous working distances. Ergonomically, every microscope function can be controlled through SyCoP, which integrates the entire System Control Panel into a mouse-like controller. This allows intuitive control of the motorised zoom and focus, the illumination, and the real-time display of total magnification, object field, resolution, depth of field and Z position. A range of high-performance CMO lenses enables fine details to be visualised with outstanding contrast and in three dimensions.

For more information T. 01707 871 200, E. [micro@zeiss.co.uk](mailto:micro@zeiss.co.uk)

## Study shows Topamax® provides sustained reduction in monthly migraine days for up to one year

A new long-term study into migraine prevention published in *The Lancet Neurology* shows that patients who continued with Topamax® (topiramate) for migraine prophylaxis for up to a year experienced a sustained reduction in the number of migraine days per month, with significant associated benefits on quality of life measures.<sup>1</sup> The study also found that there was a significant increase in the number of monthly migraine days following discontinuation of topiramate, however, the number did not return to pre-treatment levels.<sup>1</sup>

The PROMPT (PROlonged Migraine Prevention with Topiramate) study was a 12-month, multicentre, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled study conducted to investigate the continued effectiveness of topiramate in reducing the number of migraine days beyond six months, compared with the impact of stopping treatment at six months. All patients received open-label Topamax for the first 6 months, and then were randomised to either continue Topamax or take placebo for the second 6 months in a double-blind design.

After 6 months of open-label topiramate treatment, the mean number of monthly migraine days fell significantly from 8.93 to 5.83, a reduction of 3<sup>1</sup> migraine days per month ( $p < 0.0001$ ). After 12 months, the reduction in the mean number of monthly migraine days seen during the first six months was maintained and remained almost unchanged in the group that continued on topiramate.

For more information T. 01494 567567.

### Reference

1 Diener HC, Agosti R, Allais G. et al. Cessation versus continuation of 6-month migraine preventive therapy with topiramate (PROMPT): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *The Lancet Neurology*, 2007;6:1054-62.

## SonoSite system excels in rheumatology and musculoskeletal imaging

Dr Philip Platt, Consultant Rheumatologist at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle, relies on a SonoSite MicroMaxx® hand-carried ultrasound system to help diagnose patients, to assess treatment efficacy and to improve the accuracy of local injection treatments in both his rheumatology and sports injuries clinics.

Dr Platt explained, "Ultrasound gives good diagnostic accuracy for musculoskeletal problems and I believe the patients get better care as a result. Being able to scan while moving a joint around is a unique advantage of ultrasound particularly useful for soft tissue and tendon injuries and gives a whole new aspect that other imaging modalities just don't provide." For rheumatology, Dr Platt described a very significant application of ultrasound in monitoring the effective but expensive anti-TNF drug. "This relatively new drug works for many rheumatoid arthritis patients but not all. It is very important to identify which patients do or don't benefit from treatment so they are not taking drugs inappropriately. One of the best ways to monitor the response is to use ultrasound to see



whether inflammation has reduced."

He added, "The great advantage of these hand-carried systems is the time they save. They are easy to carry to different wards and hospital sites, and are ready to use in under 15 seconds. In contrast, pushing heavy cart-based systems around the hospital, waiting for lifts, trying to find space beside a patient's bed, and then waiting for the machines to boot up is a real waste of time."

For more information T. 01462 444 800, E. [europa@sonosite.com](mailto:europa@sonosite.com), [www.sonosite.com](http://www.sonosite.com)

## New Website and Member Benefits Package for CRT Network

The Community Therapists Network, the new name for the Community Rehabilitation Team Network has a new home [www.communitytherapy.org.uk](http://www.communitytherapy.org.uk). To celebrate the new name and website the organisation are delighted to offer new member benefits including access to a range of free multimedia CD programmes and 20% discount on the forthcoming workshop on 13th March, Building your Business Case in Rehabilitation.

To find out more about the new benefits and how to join for as little as £10 per member, see [www.communitytherapy.org.uk](http://www.communitytherapy.org.uk)

For a full report on the CRT Network Conference held in September 2007 in Sheffield, see <http://www.acnr.co.uk/conferences.htm>

## Awards and Appointments



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](http://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."