

Fujifilm introduces their first ultrasound system in the UK

FAZONE CB is a portable, lightweight ultrasound system offering high image quality on its large 12" screen, making it ideal for hospital wards and outpatient departments, as well as examination rooms or vehicles. It is ergonomically designed to provide user-friendly operation, with easy-to-use large buttons, which are grouped according to examination mode. FAZONE CB is equipped with a 'sound speed correction' function for faster, clearer examinations. This is based on ZONE Sonography™ technology, which transmits a broader ultrasound beam to collect extensive echo data immediately by using large zones.

The system has USB, HDMI and network ports, so data can be exported easily in DICOM as well as JPG format. In addition, workflow can be further optimised with the use of Fujifilm's FCR View workstation. The FCR View enables transfer of ultrasound images, and their integration with patient information, to facilitate centralised



management. It also features a one-hour rechargeable battery pack for ultimate ultrasound on the go.

For further information Tel. 01234 326 780, www.fujimed.co.uk

Nikon launches next generation confocal microscope

Nikon Instruments has launched the next generation Confocal Laser Point Scanning Microscope for entry and mid-level confocal imaging. The new modular C2 confocal laser microscope provides increased accuracy and speed. The C2 incorporates the latest version 3.2 release of NIS-Elements C software, providing one, easy-to-use and versatile imaging software platform for complete control with unrivalled imaging options – whether it be confocal or widefield. Offering excellent hardware and software stability, coupled with first class optics, the C2 confocal laser microscope has three dedicated PMTs for multi-channel imaging. The flexible, modular design offers an easy upgrade to the dedicated 32 channel PMT array for spectral detection. The new system can capture and unmix data acquired at any channel resolution across the entire detector bandwidth, while an



increased number of optically ideal pinholes (from four to six) and electronics improvements increase scanning accuracy and speed; up to a maximum 24fps (512x32) and 4 fps (512x512, bidirectional) have been achieved. An optional four laser module is also available.

For more information contact Nikon Instruments Europe, Tel. +44 (0)208 2471718, E. info@nikoninstruments.eu, www.nikoninstruments.eu/C2

GSK drops price of Parkinson's drug ReQuip XL by 60%

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) UK has reduced the price of ReQuip XL (ropinirole prolonged release) by 60%. ReQuip XL will now cost less than other dopamine agonists, which could deliver a cost-saving to the NHS of up to £15 million in 2011 and allow more people with Parkinson's to access this medicine.

Under the current Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) agreement between the government and the pharmaceutical industry, GSK has committed to reduce the total cost of GSK products to the NHS. In order to deliver on this commitment, GSK has decided to reduce the price of ropinirole prolonged release.

Dr Mark Toms, Medical Director, Neurology, Immunology & Hepatitis, GSK UK Pharmaceuticals commented, "We believe that people with Parkinson's deserve access to once-daily dopamine agonists, but recognise that increasing cost pressures may restrict access to these medicines. We believe that a price reduction will benefit the NHS in delivery of care to patients."

Medical Rehabilitation in 2011 and Beyond

The Royal College of Physicians with support from the British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine have recently published a working party report entitled Medical rehabilitation in 2011 and beyond.

The report examines the current state of rehabilitation medicine, and considers how it is likely to develop over the coming years.

To download the document for FREE, please visit: <http://bookshop.rcplondon.ac.uk/details.aspx?e=320>

Merck committed to Cladribine Tablets

Merck KGaA has received a complete response letter from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the new drug application for Cladribine Tablets, Merck's proprietary investigational oral formulation of cladribine, as a therapy for relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS).

A complete response letter is issued by the FDA when their review is complete and the application cannot be approved in its present form. The FDA concluded that substantial evidence of Cladribine Tablets' effectiveness was provided by the CLARITY study. However, they have requested that Merck provide an improved understanding of safety risks and the overall benefit-risk profile either through additional analyses or by additional studies. Merck will identify whether data from completed and ongoing clinical studies can address the Agency's questions.

Merck remains committed to the ongoing clinical trials with Cladribine Tablets. These fully-enrolled trials will provide additional information on the efficacy and safety of Cladribine Tablets in MS.

Cladribine Tablets are approved and available under the trade name Movectro® in Australia and Russia as a treatment of relapsing-remitting MS and are under regulatory review in other countries.

MHRA approve new Bipolar Disorder License for Episenta

Beacon Pharmaceuticals has announced that its once daily Episenta (prolonged release sodium valproate) now has a licence extension for acute mania and continuation of treatment when lithium is not suitable. The simple once daily dose makes Episenta a logical choice when choosing valproate.

For several years NICE have recommended valproate as first line for the treatment and long term management of bipolar disorder. Until now valproate was only licensed for acute treatment - which meant off licence usage for continuation treatment. Now Episenta can offer a fully licensed indication to treat both acute and maintenance treatment in line with NICE recommendations.

NICE also recommend that patient preferences should be taken into account with particular reference to future



prophylactic use. Previous studies in bipolar disorder have found that adherence can be an issue. In one review of 44,637 patients, 46% were either not complying or partially complying with their medication. Results suggested that the effectiveness of bipolar medication treatments is likely to be reduced by high rates of non adherence to treatment, especially when regimens are complicated, resulting in an unnecessary increase in manic or depressive episodes.

Episenta is a once daily treatment that can be taken at bedtime, helping to increase adherence and thus increasing effectiveness and patient satisfaction.