symposium examined the mechanisms of neurodegeneration with stimulating presentations from Prof. Shaw, Lovestone, Perry and Brooks.

The evening symposium on Movement Disorders chaired by Prof. Quinn and Dr. K.R. Chaudhuri comprised an overview on restless legs syndrome, an update on dystonia crudely delivered by Prof. Bhatia and a series of video cases of unusual movement disorders. After an inspiring first day, delegates then repaired to the welcome reception for a restorative glass of wine and what seemed like an endless supply of canapés.

The following day the Epilepsy and Multiple Sclerosis scientific session told us of a functional MRI paradigm that may help predict the degree of memory loss after epilepsy surgery (Dr. Powell) and an update in the use of Campath 1-h (Dr. Hirist) and natulizin (Dr. Giovanni) in MS. We then moved into the 'Top Scoring Papers' session which comprised an outstanding series of presentations, including a discussion of the syndrome of transient epileptic amnesia (see also ACNR 2006;6(4):13-14), an update on the Scottish Neurological Symptoms Study (Dr. Stone) and an outline of the clinical features of dysferlinopathy. Prof. Wiles gave us data on the outcome of MiniCEX and DOPS assessments for trainees in neurology emphasising the importance of multiple assessments carried out by multiple assessors and highlighting the value of observation and feedback in improving the evaluation of a trainee’s performance.

Dr. Tengah provided feedback from the pilot Knowledge-Based Neurology Exam and revealed the uncomfortable news for consultants that they had not quite matched the 100% pass rate achieved by the year 5 SpRs. The value of protecting the integrity of consultants’ supporting portfolio was achieved by the year 5 SpRs. The value of protecting the integrity of consultants’ supporting professional activity sessions therefore seems proven!

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of the ABN medal to Professor Richard Hughes for his prolific work on peripheral neuropathy, including a citation by Dr. Michael O’Brien. Prof. Hughes gave a comprehensive and stimulating outline of our previous and current knowledge of diseases of peripheral nerves and a glimpse into the future about where we might be in 2037.

The meeting continued with a lecture from Prof. Wessely on Gulf War Syndrome and as always the clinicopathological conference was well attended and stimulating. The conference dinner at Middle Temple was outstanding but led us to the Nervous and Mental Health Association of which we are all so justly proud is crucial to the ongoing survival of the Association of which we are all so justly proud and we look forward to welcoming more of them to future meetings.

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