

## The young person's guide to MS

The MS Trust has worked with MS specialist nurse Kerry Mutch to produce a booklet for young people who have a parent with MS. It is primarily aimed at 10-15 year olds. The guide aims to answer some of the questions young people may have about MS, as well as enabling them to explore their feelings about how MS affects them.

The young person's guide to MS has been produced with the



help of lots of young people who know what it is like to have a parent with MS. They share their experiences, worries and emotions about living with MS in their family to ensure that other young people recognise they are not alone when facing the challenges posed by MS in the family.

To order a copy please send your name and postal address to: [info@mstrust.org.uk](mailto:info@mstrust.org.uk) or Tel: +44 (0)1462 476700.

## New Advanced Imaging Demonstration Suite

Researchers are now able to experience the latest advanced imaging equipment at Nikon UK's headquarters at Kingston upon Thames. The demonstration suite houses state-of-the-art Confocal, TIRF and digital imaging systems for live cell imaging applications, supported by a knowledgeable team of dedicated biological imaging specialists.

Robert Forster, the General Manager of Nikon UK Instruments, and Professor Trevor Powell from the Department of Physiology, University of Oxford declared the Imaging Suite officially open at a well-attended ceremony.

The fully equipped suite enables scientists to experiment with a variety of imaging systems away from the distractions of a busy laboratory. Nikon's team of experts are on hand to advise on and demonstrate the capabilities of the equipment.



General Manager, Robert Forster and Professor Trevor Powell from the Department of Physiology University of Oxford.

For further information contact the Kingston Imaging Centre:  
Tel: +44 (0)20 8247 17 17,  
Email: [discover@nikon-instruments.com](mailto:discover@nikon-instruments.com)  
Web: [www.nikon-instruments.com](http://www.nikon-instruments.com)

## Landmark BENEFIT trial results of Betaferon®

Schering UK announced today that results from the BENEFIT (Betaferon® in Newly Emerging Multiple Sclerosis for Initial Treatment) clinical trial were published in an expedited manner in this week's online issue of Neurology. The results show that Betaferon



250mcg reduces the risk of developing clinically definite multiple sclerosis (MS) in patients having a first clinical event suggestive of MS by 50% compared with placebo.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, patients in the Betaferon group were two times better protected<sup>2</sup> against developing MS, as defined by the McDonald diagnostic criteria.<sup>3</sup>

Left untreated in the placebo group, about half of the people who experienced a first clinical attack developed MS as defined by the McDonald criteria within the next six months. Eventually, 85% of people in the placebo arm

who experienced a first clinical event went on to be diagnosed with MS within two years according to the same criteria, underscoring the importance of early treatment.

Based on the findings of the BENEFIT study, Schering was granted marketing authorisation in the UK and Europe for the extension of its indication

to include the treatment of patients with a first clinical event suggestive of MS.

For further information  
Email: [customer.care@schering.co.uk](mailto:customer.care@schering.co.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)845 609 6767.

### References

- 50% risk reduction based on adjustment for a standard set of baseline covariates.
- At the end of the study period of two years.
- McDonald et al. *Recommended Diagnostic Criteria for MS*. *Ann Neurol* 2001;50:121-7.

## NSE information service

An innovative information service, which provides information for people with epilepsy in hospital and healthcare settings, has been given a 100% approval rating by neurologists from across the country. All of the neurologists and epilepsy specialists who responded to a recent survey stated that the National Society for Epilepsy's (NSE) Epilepsy Information Network (EIN) complemented the services they already offer.



The EIN is a network of epilepsy information services throughout the UK, manned by trained volunteers. This unique service offers information leaflets and support to people with epilepsy, their families, carers and others in the community.

NSE has a comprehensive range of information available about epilepsy. Log onto [www.epilepsynse.org.uk](http://www.epilepsynse.org.uk) or contact our helpline on 01494 601 400, Monday to Friday, 10-4, for details.

For more information contact Elaine Falkner on Tel: +44 (0)1494 601 391 or Email: [elaine.falkner@epilepsynse.org.uk](mailto:elaine.falkner@epilepsynse.org.uk)

## Neural Stem Cell Phenotyping by FACS

A constant challenge in neural stem cell (NSCs) cultures is to determine the percentage of cells of a given phenotype. Phenotypic characterisation of the entire cell population is of utmost importance when evaluating efficacy of culture conditions to differentiate cells.

It is our hope that by offering IntraCyte™ Intracellular FACS Kits, FACS analysis will be more accessible to, and used more often by, neuroscientists.

The Stem Cell Kit is a powerful analytic tool to analyse the neural and glial cells within your culture. While the use of intracellular detection by flow cytometry has been introduced and characterised recently by Naveil et al ([http://www.orionsolutions.com/downloads/FA\\_CS](http://www.orionsolutions.com/downloads/FA_CS)) this kit takes things to a new level....

Just fix the cells, wash and block, add primaries, wash, add secondary, wash, proceed to FACS analysis. Its that simple!

The IntraCyte kit technology and the precision and accuracy of flow cytometry, enables you to get statistically significant, multi-parameter data at the single-cell level on thousands of cells per sample in seconds! Users can now double and triple label with GFAP Markers that are also available through Stratech.

For further information please contact Stratech by Email: [info@stratech.co.uk](mailto:info@stratech.co.uk) or visit [www.stratech.co.uk](http://www.stratech.co.uk)



## New additions to Nikon's Digital Camera Systems

Three New Additions to Nikon's Fully Interchangeable Digital Camera Systems

Nikon has announced the addition of its DS-Fi1 digital camera head and DS-L2 and DS-U2 control units to its Digital Sight Series.

The DS-Fi1 camera head improves resolution, expands dynamic range, reduces noise and features an increased frame rate. The 5.0 million-pixel resolution produces high-quality brightfield, darkfield, phase contrast, DIC and fluorescence images, and the new IR filter improves red colour reproduction.

The two new control units give the user a choice of a simple-to-use stand-alone system, or a hub controller for connection to a PC.

The stand-alone DS-L2 controller can capture, observe and record live images without being connected to a PC. The built-in 8.4-inch monitor can be split to display a still alongside a live image, and the unit can be connected to any printer supporting the PictBridge standard.

The DS-U2 controller can perform every step from advanced image capture to image analysis through connection to a PC with



NIS-Elements software, and the USB 2.0 port enables faster transfer of image files.

For further information contact  
 Nikon Instruments Europe,  
 Tel: +31 2044 96222,  
 Email: [info@nikon-instruments.com](mailto:info@nikon-instruments.com)  
 Web: [www.nikon-instruments.com](http://www.nikon-instruments.com)

## White water rafting

Headway - the brain injury association - has a range of exciting fundraising opportunities for you and your colleagues to take part in, including exciting international treks and bike rides in exotic locations such as Peru, Vietnam and Cuba; skydiving with the Red Devils; parachuting; whitewater rafting; outward bound and survival weekends.

For further information please contact  
 Rachel Broughton at Headway on  
 +44 (0)115 924 0800.



To have your news item included contact Patricia McDonnell on email [Patriciamcdonnell@btinternet.com](mailto:Patriciamcdonnell@btinternet.com) or tel/fax: +44 (0)288 289 7023.

## Solutions for your every EEG and Sleep Lab needs...



### Compumedics Neuro

**The Long Term Monitoring EEG system**  
 Research capabilities with clinical practicality in a Long Term Monitoring EEG system. The Neuro LTM system is the next generation in Long Term Monitoring EEG solutions. Neuro leverages technological advances from Compumedics Neuroscan, the true world-leading developer of research systems in acquisition and analysis of EEG and Event Related Potentials (ERP). The result is a no-compromise, unlimited possibilities solution for LTM of EEG in the clinical world.

### Compumedics Siesta

**Revolutionary Diagnostics for a Wireless World**  
 Its revolutionary wireless data transmission will change the way you perform diagnostic testing. Its revolutionary size, flexibility and power make this universal data recorder a truly versatile system. Don't just imagine what you could do, it is ready with the Siesta system.

### Compumedics Profusion EEG 4

**Next Generation Clinical LTM Software**  
 Compumedics Profusion EEG-4 is a true next generation clinical LTM software package that offers unprecedented ease of use in the EEG lab, and in post-recording analysis and review. Developed from the beginning in close consultation with EEG clinicians and neurologists it is an attractive and easy to use GUI designed to streamline all aspects of EEG work.

### Compumedics nexis

**Laboratory Management System**  
 Profusion Nexis is designed to optimize the workflow of busy diagnostic and research laboratories. Profusion Nexis is our core infrastructure and operates as a common interface for all the Compumedics' sleep and neurology clinical assessment software packages. Profusion Nexis works to manage patients, data and decisions in the modern clinical diagnostic laboratory.

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 Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2BA, UK  
 Tel: +44 (0) 1422 250 125  
 Fax: +44 (0) 1422 250 125  
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