

David Marsden Award 2009

The David Marsden Award was presented for the first time in 2003 by the European Dystonia Federation (EDF). Professor David Marsden (1935-1998) was one of the leading neurologists in Europe and the Federation wishes to honour the enormous part he played in developing knowledge of and interest in dystonia.

Through the generous collaboration of the Movement Disorder Society (European Section) and the European Federation of Neurological Societies, the Award will be presented during the EFNS Congress, August 2009, in Florence. The Award winner will make a presentation of his/her findings at the Basal Ganglia Club meeting during the Congress, and at the Federation's own General Assembly in September 2009 – venue to be decided. All expenses will be paid by EDF.

General Rules

- The David Marsden Award will be presented every two years.
- The Award sum is € 2,500 for papers (i.e. manuscripts for original publication – no abstracts) on aetiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and therapies on dystonia or the psycho-social effects on people living with dystonia.
- Applicants should be under 40 years of age.
- Submitted papers may have been published within the last two years.
- Unsuccessful applicants may re-present their papers in the following year, if fundamental new scientific findings are involved.
- The applicant should be the first author.
- The research must have taken place within Europe.

- The deadline for submissions is 31st March 2009
- The Award winner will give a presentation of his/her project at the EFNS Congress and at the EDF's General Assembly in the same year.

Procedure

Papers should be submitted by email to the EDF Secretariat by the deadline of 31 March 2009, including a completed submission form (available at our website), a short Curriculum Vitae and a declaration that the paper has not been submitted for other scientific awards. Papers will be reviewed by the Federation's Medical Advisory Board.

This information and a submission form may also be obtained at www.dystonia-europe.org

Nurse receives ACE Award

Dee Ellera, a Specialist Epilepsy Nurse for Adults with Learning Difficulties, was presented with the ACE award in May 2008 for setting up an epilepsy training programme for student nurses at the University of East Anglia (UEA). This was in response to feedback from student nurses on placement who highlighted the lack of a consistent training programme for nurses, to help them understand this difficult neurological condition. Feeling that this needed to be addressed, she liaised with the University Lecturers and set up a rolling programme so that all student nurses received a three hour training session within the first six months of their training. Those specialising in learning difficulties also receive yearly training sessions in their 2nd and 3rd year.



Dee Ellera

This award is the 2nd ACE Award given to Dee. She was presented with her first ACE Award in November 2006 for setting up and developing an Epilepsy Link Nurse role across Norfolk.

For more information contact: www.esna-online.org.uk/

Fellows of the British Academy elected

Professor Jon Driver (UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience and Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging), and Professor Chris Frith (Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging) have been elected as Fellows of the British Academy. In a tribute to Professor Frith, Professor Malcolm Grant, UCL President & Provost said: "Professor Frith's election calls for special comment. He becomes one of the very few people to be elected Fellow both of the Academy and the Royal Society (Professor Sir Alan Wilson of the UCL Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis is another). Another such is his wife, Professor Uta Frith. Hence they become the first couple ever to my knowledge to have achieved this dual distinction: an extraordinary achievement."

For more information contact: www.ion.ucl.ac.uk

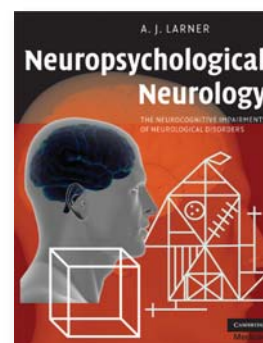


Professor Jon Driver



Professors Chris and Uta Frith

ACNR Book competition



In the May/June issue of ACNR, we carried a competition for two readers to win a copy of Dr Andrew Larner's book, *Neuropsychological Neurology*, published by Cambridge University Press.

The lucky winners were:

Dr KPS Nair, Consultant in Neurology, Spinal Injuries and Neurorehabilitation Centre and Dr Rhys Roberts, Neurology SpR, Welwyn Garden City.

Congratulations to both of you.

ENS 2009 Fellowships Announced

The European Neurological Society has announced its 2009 fellowships. Matteo Bologna from Rome, Italy will be carrying out his project 'Synaptic tagging in human motor cortex', at the UCL Institute of Neurology London, UK, chaired by Prof J Rothwell. Vincenzo Donadio from Bologna, Italy, will carry out his project at the Institute



of Neuroscience Göteborg, SE, chaired by Prof M Elamwill. His project will be, "A new methodology to study nociceptors and autonomic skin nerve fibre function: implications for pain and autonomic disorders".

Gina Necula from Brasov, Romania, will be carrying out her project "Diagnostic value of endoneurial edema, of Ig deposits and

of inflammatory cells in serial sections in prediabetic inflammatory neuropathy in sural nerve biopsies", at the University of Würzburg, DE. This will be chaired by Prof KV from Toyka.

The second deadline will be on 15th October 2008. Information about the application procedure can be found at www.ensinfo.org

Winner of 2008 Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award announced

Professor Eleanor Maguire, Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in the Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, has been awarded the prestigious Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award.

The award is funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) as part of its efforts to promote women in science, engineering and technology (SET). The award is made to an individual for an outstanding contribution to any area of SET.

Professor Maguire receives the award in recognition of her scientific achievements in cognitive neuroscience, her suitability as a role model and her exciting proposals to promote women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

For more information contact: www.ion.ucl.ac.uk



Professor Eleanor Maguire

Young Investigator Awards presented

Biniith Cheeran and Luke Massey were presented with Young Investigator Awards at the 12th MDS conference held in Chicago in June. They both work as research registrars in Queen Square, London. Biniith Cheeran presented his work that has used trans-cranial magnetic stimulation to evaluate the role of common polymorphisms such as BDNF on plasticity.

This original work may have important impacts on the differential development of movement disorders such as dystonia and L-dopa induced dyskinesias in PD. Luke Massey showed his unique images of the STN and substantia nigra on 9.4T MRI from which



Biniith Cheeran

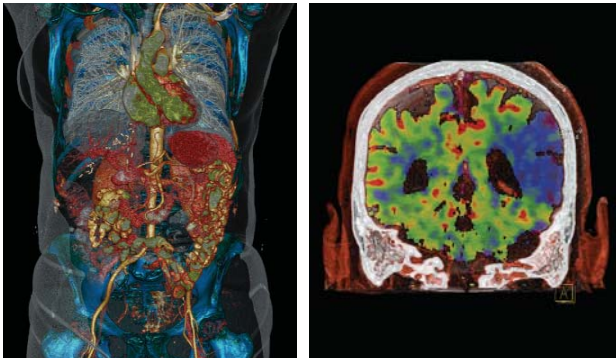
Luke Massey

he has been able to measure signal changes in PSP and PD that may have applications for future therapy and for our understanding of the cell biology of these diseases.

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News Review

UK's first 128-slice adaptive CT scanner



Vascular study, scanned with the SOMATOM Definition AS.

Whole brain perfusion study.

BMI, The London Independent Hospital has installed the UK's first SOMATOM Definition AS+ CT scanner from Siemens. The system is one of the world's first adaptive scanners that not only provides exceptional image quality but is suited to any patient, or any clinical need. The AS+ makes complex examinations routine including scans in cardiology, neurology and oncology.

The SOMATOM Definition AS+ obtains extremely fast coverage with 128 slices per rotation. Images are free from movement artefacts and show the finest anatomical details to assist with diagnosis and treatment planning. 'Adaptive 4D Spiral' capabilities provide functional information, giving whole organ coverage in 4D for stroke or tumour perfusion. This gives clinicians the complete picture instead of preselecting a narrow section to evaluate for perfusion defects. The system minimises radiation due to a unique 'Adaptive Dose Shield' that eliminates over-radiation on either side of the scan range.

The Definition AS+ is compact in design, with a footprint of just 18m². Yet, its large 78cm bore, patient table capacity of up to 230kg (36 stone) and fast acquisition speed make the scanner highly useful for traditionally difficult patients such as the obese, children or those suffering from claustrophobia.

For more information contact Siemens,
T: 01276 696317.

Microscope designed for electrophysiological experiments

With the introduction of the Axio Examiner Fixed Stage Microscope, Carl Zeiss makes electrophysiological experiments easier to set-up and perform. The Axio Examiner's specially-designed sloping turret maximises the working area on the large stage

and allows a working distance of more than 100 mm. The generous open space permits unimpeded access to the experimental area and a high degree of flexibility in configuring options, such as micro-manipulators, pipettes around large specimens.

The new system may be especially valuable in neuroscience research for patch clamp experiments on nerve cells, examination of brain sections, and the measurement of cellular electrical signals. Multiphoton imaging is available simply by combining the Axio Examiner fixed stage with the new Zeiss LSM 710 NLO microscope, and the new Zeiss AxioVision 4.7 software includes a special physiology module for the quantitative evaluation of many typical experimental procedures.

Freedom from mechanical and electrical interference is assured by the stable stand design and optional shielded stages. In all motorised versions, the motors are automatically deactivated after the target position has been reached and can be actively grounded.

The optical design developed for Axio Examiner also offers maximum optical quality for transmitted light techniques and for advanced fluorescence applications. With the W N-ACHROPLAN and W Plan-APOCHROMAT series, water immersion objectives specially developed to meet the requirements of neuroscience are available for visible light and infrared. Users may choose from transmitted light through to laser scanning with manual or motorised control.

For more information E. micro@zeiss.co.uk

