

1st Oxford Integrated Neurology Course

Conference details: 30 June-2 July, 2010; Oxford, UK. *Reviewed by:* Dr Michal Rolinski, FY2, Oxford, UK.

The British summer was in full bloom as 27 consultants, 21 trainees (at least half ST3 and above) and 2 GPs descended on Oxford for the inaugural Oxford Integrated Neurology Course; a three-day course aiming to cover numerous neurological topics in a mixture of scientific and clinical perspectives (and with 15 CPD points on offer). Set in St Anne's College, across the road from the historic Radcliffe Infirmary, the course provided an intimate setting for the audience to interact with the expert faculty, sparking interesting questions and insightful discussion.

After words of welcome from Head of Department Professor Christopher Kennard, the course began with Professor Sarah Tabrizi from the Institute of Neurology giving a fascinating introduction into the crucial role of protein misfolding in neurodegenerative diseases. As well as discussing the recent discoveries in the fields of motor neuron disease (MND), Huntington's and prion diseases, preclinical developments in cognitive impairment were also featured, a topic then developed further by Prof Gordon Wilcock, sharing with us his years of experience diagnosing dementia. The afternoon continued with Dr Allyson Parry discussing the interaction between neurology and oncology, highlighting three cases where, not only the neoplastic process, but also the treatment led to severe, and challenging neurological presentations. The same could be said for the cases presented by Professor Tom Solomon from the University of Liverpool, who gave a comprehensive and entertaining account of the controversies surrounding the entity known as chronic lyme disease, which certainly got the discussion flowing.

After a brief account of the rich history of Medicine and Neuroscience at Oxford from Professor Alastair Buchan, (Head of the Medical Sciences Division at Oxford University), the first day ended with the audience treated to a guest lecture by Professor Marcus du Sautoy, the Oxford University Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science. With his back-



ground in mathematics, he showed us the journey involved in the making of a BBC Horizon programme attempting to explore the nature of consciousness.

Day two had a clear aim to try to crack some of the big chestnuts in neurology, namely MND, stroke and multiple sclerosis (MS). Dr Kevin Talbot gave us an invaluable guide to approaching a patient with possible MND challenging us not to be afraid to rely mainly on clinical judgement, before Professor Chris Shaw divulged the recent exciting developments in the genetics of this disease. Controversy was once again in the air when course co-organiser Dr Ursula Schulz attempted (successfully, in my opinion!) to dismiss the common myth of vertebrobasilar insufficiency, a topic that certainly struck a chord with special guest Professor Louis Caplan ahead of his fascinating seminar on under-recognised stroke types. With audience participation strongly encouraged, there was no place to hide from committing to a diagnosis after each case history! Any Oxford and Cambridge rivalry seemed put aside as Dr Andrew Weir gave a

very wise talk on the evidence-based practicalities of managing people with clinically isolated syndromes, followed by Dr Alasdair Coles' on novel disease modifying therapies in MS. Dr Weir was once again in action as he presented one of the three Oxford Grand Round Archive cases chosen by course co-organiser Dr Martin Turner to surprise, inspire and, as was demonstrated by the entirely unexpected case of 'surfer's myelopathy', completely perplex the audience. Just before retiring for a glass of fizz on the lawn at Trinity College, followed by the course dinner at the historic hall, Professor Michael Swash gave us a fascinating and insightful run-through of the key pioneers that still influence neurology today.

The final day centred on epilepsy and movement disorders. The sessions began with Dr Michael Johnson describing some of the evidence-poor challenges related to use of add-on antiepileptic medications. When the drugs don't work, Professor Mark Richardson then demonstrated the role that could be played by current and novel neurosurgical intervention. Deep brain stimulation was a theme then also discussed by Dr Ralph Gregory, who addressed the problem of what is available when the L-dopa 'honeymoon' is over. Dr Michele Hu, addressing the often-feared topic of movement disorder semiology through videos, rounded off the course. After re-fuelling for the last time at the St Anne's lunch hall, the event was brought to a close with a rare opportunity to discover some of the historical places and artefacts mentioned by Professors Buchan and Swash first hand, on a medical tour of Oxford led by the two of the University's historians.

The course set out to interweave basic science and clinical practice, and this aim that was well met. The organisers successfully set out to find speakers that would not only be able to update the delegates on the latest research but also bring it to life through their clinical practice. There was something inspiring for everyone, whether an experienced consultant or like me, at the start of my neurological career. ♦

14th EFNS Congress

Conference details: 28-25 September, 2010; Geneva, Switzerland.

PREVIEW

1924 abstracts submitted to 14th EFNS Congress, Geneva, Switzerland

The call for abstracts to be submitted for presentation at the 14th EFNS Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, September 25-28, 2010, was answered with a strong response of more than 1900 contributions. This number again demonstrates the high scientific quality of the topics dealt with at the EFNS congresses.

Don't miss the...

- EFNS Lecture on Clinical Neurology
Thomas Brandt, Munich, Germany
"Out of Balance"

Tuesday, September 28, 2010, 12.00 – 13.00

- Uschi Tschabitscher Prize – Tournament for Young Neurologists

The 2010 participants and winners of a travel grant to Florence and a free congress registration are:

Tournament 1 – Clinical neurology

Sunday, 26 September 2010, 11:00-12:30h

- Bartosz Karaszewski, Gdansk, Poland
- Dacia Dalla Libera, Milano, Italy
- Maja Kojovic, London, UK
- Marcel Heers, Erlangen, Germany
- Pasquale Striano, Genova, Italy
- Jordi Díaz-Manera, Barcelona, Spain

Tournament 2 – Basic neurology

Monday, 27 September 2010, 11:00-12:30h

- Juan Carlos Sanchez-Mansó, London, UK
- Lucas Schirmer, Göttingen, Germany
- Yana Motuzova, Minsk, Belarus
- Marte Bjørk, Trondheim, Norway
- Renuka Natarajan, Tampere, Finland
- Cathryn Poulton, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Please register **NOW** for the teaching courses at €15 per course. Only a limited number of tickets are available!
www.efns.org/efns2010

World Parkinson Congress welcome letter from Steve Ford

Conference details: 28 September-1 October, 2010; Glasgow, UK. Reviewed by: Steve Ford, Chief Executive, Parkinson's UK

PREVIEW

The UK is a world leader in the field of Parkinson's research and clinical practice. The World Parkinson Congress (WPC) will take place this September in Glasgow. As a member of the Steering Committee, I am delighted to extend this invitation to you to attend.

It will be the first time that the World Parkinson Congress has come to the UK. As you read this you may be thinking "not another research conference about Parkinson's", and it's true that conferences which highlight Parkinson's research take place with some frequency.

What makes the World Parkinson Congress stand out is that it unites the international Parkinson's research community, and is aimed not just at scientists and researchers, but at everyone involved with Parkinson's, including those living with the condition, their carers, clinicians and health care professionals.

The WPC will have a truly international flavour, with over 3,000 delegates from around fifty countries representing all areas of Parkinson's, joining together with a common purpose. There will be something for everyone, from experienced researchers and those starting out in their careers, to health care professionals with a special interest in Parkinson's.

What's in the programme?

A wide range of topics will be covered over four days. Sessions and workshops will cover the best in scientific research that is helping to advance our understanding of the development of the condition itself, as well as translational and clinical science that will help slow

the progression of the condition and ease its impact on those with Parkinson's.

The Congress will also focus on all aspects of life with Parkinson's, including treatments, alternatives to drugs, clinical trials, neuroprotection, non-motor symptoms, gene therapy, deep brain stimulation, speech and movement therapies and the role of exercise.

For anybody with a passionate interest in advancing their understanding of Parkinson's, this is the conference for you.

Who will be speaking?

International speakers will host sessions, and a number of researchers who have received funding from Parkinson's UK will be showcasing their work.

Our Director of Research, Dr Kieran Breen, will be co-chairing sessions on biomarkers and brainbanking, and gene and cellular therapies with Deniz Kirik from Sweden. Deniz will also be a keynote speaker at Parkinson's UK's own research conference in York this November.

There will be plenty of opportunities to network at the fringe sessions. The World Parkinson Congress also gives the opportunity for people with Parkinson's to meet and hear first hand from the scientists and clinicians who have chosen to work in the neurosciences.

For those looking to relax, an optional tour includes a visit to sample the delights of Glengoyne Distillery.

On behalf of everyone involved in putting together the World Parkinson Congress, we look forward to meeting you in Glasgow. ♦



The World Parkinson Congress will run from September 28–October 1, 2010 at the Scottish Exhibition & Conference Centre, Glasgow. Find out more at www.worldpdcongress.org.

Parkinson's UK Research Conference, 1-2 November 2010, Royal York Hotel, York. For more information visit parkinsons.org.uk

Acquired Brain Injury Behind Closed Doors

– unspoken issues and possible solutions

Conference details: 11 November 2010, 2010; London, UK.

PREVIEW

The UKABIF Annual Conference 2010 is shaping up to offer another unmissably informative day. The conference, which has become the key event in the brain injury calendar, attracts a wide range of clinicians, personal injury lawyers, case managers and social care workers from a variety of settings and locations. Last year saw over two hundred delegates packing the halls of The Russell Hotel in London and this year's event is already selling fast.

The programme includes such eminent speakers as Dr Igo Krebs, who will be joining us from Massachusetts in the United States. He will deliver the keynote speech and talk about the revolutionary uses of robots in rehabilitation.

Penny Weekes, an occupational therapist specialising in acquired brain injury (ABI) in children, young people and their families will discuss the issues surrounding fatigue in teenagers post ABI. This will be complemented by a talk from Edinburgh based psychologist, David Johnson on the many areas specific to children with ABI.

Mr Antonio Bell of Southampton General Hospital will give an overview of hypopituitarism and other hormonal imbalances which will be followed by Joanna Lane's personal account of her son's hypopituitarism.

Dr Barbara Chandler will approach Sex and Relationship problems in more detail - an area which is enormously problematic for many



people with acquired brain injury but not one which is often explored and discussed.

Dr Howard Jackson will look at alcohol and substance abuse following ABI and finally Dr Huw Williams will talk about the work carried out by his team at The University of Exeter researching the links between crime and ABI.

Prof Mike Barnes, Chair of UKABIF said, "This conference aims to highlight the complexity of acquired brain injury and offer the delegates

some practical solutions to the issues that they face either in their own situation or that of their clients, patients or family members.'

UKABIF will also take the opportunity to present the UKABIF Awards for Innovation – new this year – in the following categories:

- Innovation by a law firm in the field of ABI
- Innovation by a clinician in the field of ABI
- Innovation by a care provider in the field of ABI
- Innovation by a social care worker in the field of ABI
- Innovation by a voluntary sector provider or registered charity in the field of ABI

The Russell Hotel offers a fabulous venue for events of this kind with a spacious exhibition hall adjoining the large conference room. An exhibition will run alongside the conference and there will be ample time for networking during the day.

UKABIF would like to thank the sponsors: Pannone, The Oakleaf Group, Hunters Moor, The Portland Hospital, The Huntercombe Group and Voyage. ♦

The conference has CPD accreditation. For details about the programme and to book places please see the loose insert with this publication or book directly through our website:
<http://www.ukabif.org.uk/acquired-brain-injury-behind-closed-doors>.