

## Meiji Techno microscopes and accessories

Meiji Techno UK, one of the UK's leading suppliers of light microscopes and accessories, has announced the new line up of cost-effective microscopes. Excellent delivery backed with a limited lifetime warranty make Meiji a "must see" alternative for laboratories upgrading their microscope suites.

The all-new MT9900 Series Polarising Microscopes are perfect for the study of thin sections and other mounted samples. They come with a focusable Bertrand lens, a rotatable analyser in a sliding mount with 360° graduation and a 3-position slider with 1st order red, 1/4 wave plate and Brightfield imaging.

The EMZ-13VX has a coaxial vertical fibre optic illuminator which is excellent for observing flat, highly reflective specimens such as integrated circuits, semiconductors, wafers, polished metal specimens, solder balls, or magnetic recording heads.

The MT5000 Series biological microscopes feature larger F.N.22 eyepieces, top line U.Plan objectives, larger wider stage with low ergonomic controls and the choice of LED or 30W halogen illumination. They are available in Brightfield and Phase Contrast models. Darkfield and simple



polarised light accessories are available too.

The TC5000 Series Inverted Microscopes from Meiji Techno feature new improved infinity optics and computer aided design. Brightfield, phase contrast and epi-fluorescence models are available.

*To learn more about the products and services in light microscopy, visit Meiji's website at [www.meijitechno.co.uk](http://www.meijitechno.co.uk)*

## Sativex® for the treatment of spasticity due to Multiple Sclerosis

Sativex® (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD)), the first cannabinoid medicine derived from whole plant extracts from the cannabis sativa plant, was launched in the UK in June to treat spasticity associated with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) by Bayer Schering Pharma.

Available as a prescription only medicine and given as a mouth spray, the launch of Sativex® means that now, for people with MS experiencing the spasms and cramping associated with spasticity, there is another option to add to their standard treatment.

There are approximately 100,000 people with MS in the UK and spasticity is very common, affecting most people with the condition at some point.

Speaking about the availability of Sativex®, Pam Macfarlane, Chief Executive of the MS Trust said, 'We have been aware for a long time, based on comments from people with MS, that cannabis based medicines can significantly improve spasticity which is a common, complex symptom of MS. For this reason the MS Trust has campaigned for the availability of a licensed medicine that can be properly controlled and prescribed. We have also invested money and resources in developing the body of knowledge by funding clinical research into the effectiveness of cannabis based medicines. The launch of Sativex® is therefore a milestone for the NHS and the MS Trust, and we are delighted. It will now be down to specialist professionals to assess people and we hope that this can happen quickly'.

As with many medicines, Sativex® does not work for everyone. The clinical trials show that about half of all people who add it to their existing medication find that it can provide relief from the debilitating symptoms of spasticity associated with MS.

*For more information contact Bayer on T: +44 (0)1635 563000.*

## Natalizumab demonstrates improvement of disability statusx

Study data recently published online in the European Journal of Neurology have demonstrated that patients with highly active Multiple Sclerosis (MS) treated with natalizumab (Tysabri) showed a confirmed improvement in EDSS score during the 11 month observational follow-up. (n = 45)

- 62% of patients showed no clinical and no radiological signs of disease activity
- 29% showed a rapid and confirmed EDSS improvement over 44 weeks natalizumab therapy
- A clinically meaningful improvement in ambulation speed was observed in approximately 30% of patients.

*For more information contact Biogen on T: +44 (0)1628 501000.*

## Epilepsy nurses encouraged to take the right path

A new learning and development pathway programme has been produced for Nurses working at the National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy (NCYPE).

The national epilepsy charity has a world class medical centre – the Neville Childhood Epilepsy Centre – at Lingfield, Surrey. The centre provides a range of diagnostic, assessment and rehabilitation facilities to children and young people aged between 3 and 19.

The new pathway programme has been developed to ensure that nurses can continually develop their careers and advance their knowledge and skills during their time at the NCYPE. Secondments for nurses from the NHS

and other organisations are also available.

Head of Health Services at the NCYPE, Hayley Bath, said, "The new pathway programme is designed to help nurses at the NCYPE to get the best they can from their time with us. This in turn helps us to provide the young people coming into the Neville Childhood Epilepsy Centre with the best possible service."

"The experiential learning gained through supporting residential students on the NCYPE campus and the young people attending diagnostic, interdisciplinary and rehabilitation services is one of the more important elements of the programme."

"Ultimately, we want to improve and enhance

epilepsy services nationally to help meet the needs of the 60,000 young people with epilepsy in the UK."

The programme provides study days, master-classes and regular academic meetings for NCYPE nurses on campus. Nurses can also undertake the Professional diploma in Epilepsy Care through a distance learning package with Leeds Metropolitan University.

*More information can be found on the health pages of the NCYPE website: [www.ncype.org.uk/health](http://www.ncype.org.uk/health)*