

Editorial board and contributors



Roger Barker is co-editor of ACNR, and is Honorary Consultant in Neurology at The Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair. His main area of research is into neurodegenerative and movement disorders, in particular parkinson's and Huntington's disease. He is also the university lecturer in Neurology at Cambridge where he continues to develop his clinical research into these diseases along with his basic research into brain repair using neural transplants.



Alasdair Coles is co-editor of ACNR. He is a University Lecturer in Neuroimmunology at Cambridge University. He works on experimental immunological therapies in multiple sclerosis.



Mike Zandi is co-editor of ACNR. He is an Honorary Specialist Registrar in Neurology at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and a Research Fellow at Cambridge University. His research interests are in neuroimmunology, biomarkers and therapeutics in particular.



Stephen Kirker is the editor of the Rehabilitation Section of ACNR and Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine in Addenbrooke's NHS Trust, Cambridge. He trained in neurology in Dublin, London and Edinburgh before moving to rehabilitation in Cambridge and Norwich. His main research has been into postural responses after stroke. His particular interests are in prosthetics, orthotics, gait training and neurorehabilitation.



David J Burn is the editor of our Conference News Section and is Professor in Movement Disorder Neurology & Honorary Consultant, Newcastle General Hospital. He runs Movement Disorders clinics in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Research interests include progressive supranuclear palsy and dementia with Lewy bodies. He is also involved in several drug studies for Parkinson's Disease.



Andrew Lerner is the editor of our Book Review Section. He is a Consultant Neurologist at the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Liverpool, with a particular interest in dementia and cognitive disorders. He is also an Honorary Apothecaries' Lecturer in the History of Medicine at the University of Liverpool.



Alastair Wilkins is our Case Report Co-ordinator. He is Senior Lecturer in Neurology and Consultant Neurologist, University of Bristol. He trained in Neurology in Cambridge, Norwich and London. His research interests are the basic science of axon degeneration and developing treatments for progressive multiple sclerosis.



Nicki Cohen is ACNR's Neuropathology Editor. She is a Specialist Registrar in Neuropathology at Southampton and has a DPhil in Neuroscience. Her research interests lie in CNS stem cell biology, and the brain's response to injury.



Peter Whitfield is ACNR's Neurosurgery Editor. He is a Consultant Neurosurgeon at the South West Neurosurgery Centre, Plymouth. His clinical interests are wide including neurovascular conditions, head injury, stereotactic radiosurgery, image guided tumour surgery and lumbar microsdisectomy. He is an examiner for the MRCS and is a member of the SAC in neurosurgery.



Heather Angus-Leppan is ACNR's ABN representative on the Editorial Board. She is Head of the Neurology Department at Barnet Hospital and Consultant Neurologist, Honorary Senior Lecturer and Epilepsy Lead at the Royal Free Hospital, London, UK. She is the Honorary Assistant Secretary of the Association of British Neurologists, Honorary Secretary of the Neurosciences Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and current Chair of the Map of Medicine Epilepsy Group, UK.

International editorial liaison committee

Professor Riccardo Soffietti, Italy: Chairman of the Neuro-Oncology Service, Dept of Neuroscience and Oncology, University and S. Giovanni Battista Hospital.

Professor Klaus Berek, Austria: Head of the Neurological Department of the KH Kufstein.

Professor Hermann Stefan, Germany: Professor of Neurology /Epileptology in the Department of Neurology, University Erlangen-Nürnberg.

Professor Nils Erik Gilhus, Norway: Professor of Neurology at the University of Bergen and Haukeland University Hospital.

Professor Ray Dolan Elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society

The Fellowship of the Royal Society is composed of the most distinguished scientists from the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries and the Republic of Ireland. Professor Dolan, Wellcome Department of Imaging Neuroscience, joins eight other Fellows at Queen Square, London, UK, with a total of 26 Fellows now in UCL Neuroscience.

Elections to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences

Professors Nick Fox (IoN Department of Neurodegenerative Disease, London, UK), David Miller (IoN Department of Neuroinflammation, London, UK) and Geraint Rees (UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, London, UK) have joined the ranks of the UK's most distinguished medical scientists. Fellowship of the Academy is awarded to doctors and medical researchers in recognition of the excellence of their science, their contribution to medicine and society and the range of their achievements.

Funding for Research into MS

Merck Serono and Fast Forward, LLC, a not-for-profit organisation established by the US-based National Multiple Sclerosis Society to accelerate the development of discoveries into new or improved therapies, have announced the first four recipients of funding designed to speed research advances in mutually selected high potential areas of multiple sclerosis (MS) research.

From its Accelerating Development fund:

Innate Therapeutics Limited, Auckland, New Zealand (Project Director – Simon Wilkinson) will receive \$550,000 over 15 months to conduct a phase IIa clinical trial in patients with progressive forms of MS using MIS416, a naturally occurring agent derived from bacteria.

Cognosci Inc., Research Triangle Park, NC (Project Director – Feng Qiao Li, PhD) will receive \$330,000 over 12 months for the efficacy testing of COG112, a molecule that mimics actions of the cholesterol transporting protein Apolipoprotein E (ApoE). In the funded studies, the company will evaluate the ability of COG112 to promote myelin repair in the central nervous system (CNS) in laboratory models of MS.

From the Accelerating Innovation Fund:

CentRion Therapeutics Limited, Greenwich, UK, (Project Director – Michael Leach, PhD) will receive \$275,000 over 12 months for studies with compounds, related to lamotrigine, an approved epilepsy therapy, which some studies suggest also can protect nerve cells from damage. CentRion will conduct research to determine the safety and efficacy of its original neuroprotective compounds in laboratory models of MS.

Oregon Health Science University, Portland, OR, (Project Director – Lawrence Sherman, PhD) will receive \$275,000 for the screening and efficacy of small molecule inhibitors of hyaluronidase, an enzyme that dissolves hyaluronic acid – a complex sugar molecule that accumulates in MS lesions. Dr. Sherman's group has found that by-products resulting from breakdown of hyaluronic acid prevent myelin repair. This project will assess whether myelin repair blockade can be overcome by inhibiting the activity of hyaluronidase.

The RFP process for 2010 is currently underway with a goal of approving the next round of recipients expected in December. For more information see www.nationalmssociety.org/fastforward/index.aspx

Academic Research Awards

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust's neurorehabilitation services are set to benefit from a £100,000 research grant. Andrew Bateman, Neurorehabilitation Clinical/Business Manager, The Oliver Zangwill Centre, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust, said, "We are delighted to have been awarded funds from the NHS East of England's Clinical Academic Research Awards. These awards will fund important research that will lead to real benefits for patients. Funded research activity needs to be undertaken in addition to - and under-pinning - all the wonderful clinical work our teams do. We cannot wait for others to do the research for us: it needs to be led by our own staff because this will ensure that the work is directly applicable to the needs of our own community."

Awards were presented to:

- Jackie Mercer, Occupational Therapist in the Cambridge Community Stroke Team
- Clare Keohane, Speech and Language Therapist at the Oliver Zangwill Centre
- Jackie and Clare were awarded funds to support Masters training. Jackie is aiming to do a research project on 'vision after stroke', and Clare is interested in 'hypersensitivity to sound' after brain injury.
- Charlie Dorer, Physiotherapist in the Therapy and Rehabilitation Service based at Papworth to undertake a PhD on 'rehabilitation of upper limb paralysis after stroke'.
- Andrew Bateman, Neurorehabilitation Clinical/Business Manager, The Oliver Zangwill Centre. Andrew received the NHS East of England Clinical Academic Post Doctoral Fellow to part fund research on 'outcome measurements in neurorehabilitation'.