

## New titles from the Royal College of Physicians

### Palliative care services: meeting the needs of patients

This Working Party report focuses on the philosophy of palliative care; the issues facing palliative care; oncological experience and its application to other diseases; mental health problems in palliative care and the organisation of palliative care and workforce provision.

The report will be relevant to all doctors and allied healthcare professionals and is essential reading for healthcare planners and commissioners of palliative care services.

### Long-term neurological conditions Management at the interface between neurology, rehabilitation and palliative care

These guidelines build on the Quality Requirements in the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (LTNCs) to explore the interaction between specialist neurology, rehabilitation and palliative care services, and how they may best work together to provide long-term support for people with LTNCs and the family members who care for them. The guidelines



also provide practical advice for clinicians when caring for someone with an LTNC, as well as outlining indications for specialist referral.

For more information and to purchase copies, T. +44 (0)20 7935 1174 ext 358 or visit W. [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs)

## Spire Healthcare selects latest CT & MR imaging equipment for expansion of diagnostic services

Spire Healthcare, one of the leading independent hospital providers in the UK, has placed an order for six MRI and three CT scanners with Siemens as part of the drive to expand its range of diagnostic imaging services.

The order includes three SOMATOM Definition AS CT scanners, the first of which will be installed at Spire Norwich Hospital, a BUPA-accredited bowel cancer centre of excellence that also specialises in orthopaedic surgery. The CT scanner has a unique Adaptive Dose Shield that blocks unnecessary radiation ensuring the patient is only exposed to a clinically



relevant dose. It produces clear images whilst eliminating spiral artifacts, ensuring

high quality definition of bone and soft tissue. It can adapt to any patient or clinical need in routine diagnostic work and complex examinations in cardiology, neurology and oncology.

Six MAGNETOM Avanto 1.5T MRIs will also be delivered to Spire Healthcare sites. The systems will provide detailed image results to enable a flexible approach to examination procedures.

For more information contact: Siemens T. +44 (0)1276 696000, E. [medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com](mailto:medmarketing.med.gb@siemens.com) W. [www.siemens.co.uk/medical](http://www.siemens.co.uk/medical)

## Awards and Appointments

### New Director of the Institute of Neurology appointed

Professor Alan Thompson has been appointed to the position of Director of the Institute of Neurology. He took up his new role on 1st April 2008, taking over from Professor Lemon who directed the Institute of Neurology for almost six years. Professor Thompson received his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Trinity College Dublin, and is the Garfield Weston Professor of Clinical Neurology and Neurorehabilitation at the Institute of Neurology, where he is head of the Research Department of Brain Repair and Rehabilitation. His research interests include the investiga-

tion of mechanisms that underlie disability in neurological conditions, particularly multiple sclerosis, the development of outcome measures which assess the impact of such conditions and the improvement of symptomatic management and service delivery in MS.

Ed Byrne, Dean of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences and Head of the Medical School said, "We send our hearty congratulations to Professor Thompson and our warmest thanks to Professor Lemon for contributions past, present and future."



### Doctors awarded grant from Ataxia UK

Dr Andrea Nemeth and Dr Kevin Talbot have been awarded a grant from Ataxia UK to develop high throughput genetic testing for patients with ataxia and related disorders. Each of the many forms of inherited ataxia is individually rare and, in common with other neurogenetic disorders, screening of multiple individual genes is time-consuming, laborious and expensive. Therefore, most patients do not have a formal molecular diagnosis and this also hampers research efforts and clinical trials.

This grant will allow them to utilise some of the resources which are being developed as part of the Biomedical Research Centre for translational research to develop a high throughput approach to genetic testing. The aim is to work towards providing a national service in this area.

### MS Society Award Grants for project

Heidi Johansen-Berg, Margaret Esiri, Jackie Palace, Karla Miller and Steven Chance have been awarded a one-year grant for £136,000 from the MS Society. The project is entitled 'Feasibility study for MRI and neuropathological investigations of the role of anatomical connections in determining patterns of neurodegeneration in MS'. The project will

help set up collaborative post-mortem imaging and histological studies of MS and healthy human brains and will provide funds for a post-doctoral physicist, image analyst and neuroimaging/pathology researcher.



We'd love to hear your Award and Appointment news. Please send submissions to Anna Phelps  
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