

## Peter Rothwell wins Outstanding Achievement award

Solvay Healthcare recently sponsored the Outstanding Achievement in Evidence Based Healthcare Award at the inaugural BMJ Group awards. Those who have improved patient care through the use of evidence based medicine were recognised at the event.

The winning clinician was Peter Rothwell, Professor of Clinical Neurology at the University of Oxford, for his remarkable contributions in stroke treatment and prevention. The award was presented by Solvay's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Thomas Weidauer.

Professor Rothwell has pioneered developments in stroke prevention throughout his career. This award recognises his work in demonstrating the need for acute preventative treatment and how such treatment reduces the early risk of major strokes by 80%. The evidence based results from his team in Oxford have led to a national and international change in clinical practice, backed now by official guidelines from NICE.

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## UCLan Professor's Boost for Health and Social Care Research

Caroline Watkins, Professor of Stroke & Older People's Care, at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), has been appointed as NIHR Senior Investigator. She has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to

patient-focused research and research leadership, and has been commended for her strong interactions with patients and the public, as well as policy makers.

For more information about UCLan, please visit [www.uclan.ac.uk](http://www.uclan.ac.uk)



## New Chair of Headache UK

The Chief Executive of The Migraine Trust, Wendy Thomas, has been appointed Chair of Headache UK, an alliance of professional health organisations. Headache UK aims to raise awareness of chronic headaches as a major public health problem. It also promotes understanding of the significant impact headaches can have on people's lives and tries to ensure speedy diagnosis and better treatment for people who live with chronic headaches.

Wendy Thomas said, "Every day 190,000 people in the UK suffer a migraine attack and many more suffer from serious headaches. Migraine and headache are a major public health issue, which has been estimated to cost the UK £7 billion a year in absenteeism and reduced productivity. We need to do everything we can to push headache disorders up the health agenda." Headache UK supports the All Party Parliamentary Group on Primary Headache Disorders (APPGPHD), which carries out high-level briefings for parliamentarians on topics such as the economic cost of migraine and the role of specialist general practitioners in diagnosing headache.

Briefings from the APPGPHDs can be found at [www.headacheuk.org](http://www.headacheuk.org)

## Second round of NIHR Senior Investigators announced

Professor Nick Fox, Professor Andrew Lees and Professor David Miller have been appointed as NIHR Senior Investigators. The NIHR has appointed sixty-three new members of the NIHR College of Senior Investigators as the outcome of the second annual competition. Senior Investigators are recognised for their outstanding contribution to health and social care research.

The second set of appointments augment the existing 100 Senior Investigators who were appointed in April 2008.

For more information see: [www.ion.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.ion.ucl.ac.uk)



Andrew Lees



David Miller



Nick Fox

## MS Society wins AMRC award

The MS Society received recognition of its work at the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) Awards. The charity's research team won the award for Best Patient and Public Involvement for its Research Network - a group of around 300 people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS) closely involved in the Society's research programme. The volunteers lie at the heart of the programme and are involved every step of the way; shaping overall research strategy, influencing funding decisions, and overseeing research grants.

Judges on the panel unanimously praised the scheme for its integration, describing it as



'outstanding' and 'impressive' and demonstrating 'real involvement'. Jayne Spink, Director of Policy and Research, said, "This award is a real credit to the hard work of our volunteer Research Network members, and that of Public

Involvement Officer, Gabby Ansems, whose leadership has revitalised and evolved the programme to the success it is today." The Society was also runner up for Best Use of Design for the recently re-launched flagship research publication Research Matters.

For more information see [www.mssociety.org.uk](http://www.mssociety.org.uk)

## MND Association wins award for successful Research Foundation campaign Care Research

The Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association has received an award for its successful Research Foundation campaign which secured multi-million pound Government funding for MND research.

The MND Association Research Foundation campaign won in the campaigning and public affairs category of the 2009 Science Communication awards, organised by the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC). The MND Association set up the Research Foundation in 2006 with the aim of raising £15 million for MND research. They put together a business case and lobbied in Parliament for half of



this funding to be provided by the Government. They were delighted when, in 2007, this was secured through the setting up of a funding partnership with the Medical Research Council.

The awards are held every two years and are designed to celebrate AMRC members' excellence in communicating science and to recognise and reward best practice in science communication.

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