

Siemens signs academic partnerships

Siemens is forging even closer partnerships with clinical research sites and academic institutions. For example, within the UK, neurological research will be carried out at the Functional Imaging Laboratory (FIL), London on a new MAGNETOM 3T Allegra and a 1.5T High Gradient MAGNETOM Sonata.

Siemens has also just announced they have formed a strategic alliance with the New York University Medical Centre. The contract features a seven-year agreement using the Iselin, NJ based vendor as the exclusive supplier of radiology equipment for the hospital's diagnostic and interventional radiology programmes.

The agreement covers 100 clinical imaging systems, as well as research units such as a 7-tesla MRI magnet, which will be housed at a new MR research facility located near NYU's mid-town Manhattan campus. NYU Medical Centre Manhattan, an affiliate Hospital for Joint Diseases, is also a party to the agreement.

For further information contact Mike Bell, Siemens Medical Solutions on Tel. 01344 396317.



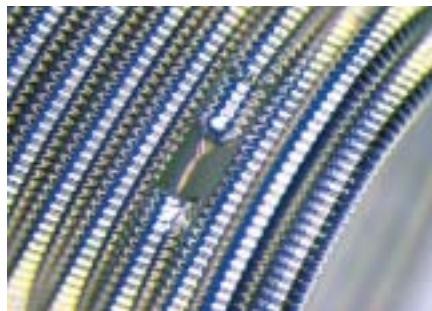
The Siemens MAGNETOM Sonata, Maestro class used for cardiac and neuro research.

VDS trial beats expectations

Dendron has announced that the trial of the variable detachment coil (VDS) is beating expectations. The product is unique in that it has three detachment points, therefore reducing the need to use extra coils in larger aneurysms and also providing a safe final coil – alleviating the risk of leaving part of the coil extending into the vessel.

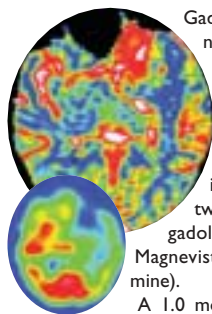
The trial has been extended to three further sites as well as Hamburg and Glasgow. These are Zurich, Beijing and Ancona. It is planned to publish the results of this trial at the Symposium neuroradiologicum in Paris this coming August. The product will be added to the EDC II range which are freely available now.

Please contact Guy Tuck at Neurotechnics Ltd to receive a CD Rom of the latest Embolisation coil technology from



Dendron. Tel. 01844 260777, Fax. 01844 260778, E-Mail. guy.tuck@neuro-technics.com

New MR contrast agent from Schering



Gadovist 1.0 (gadobutrol) is a new extracellular contrast agent developed by Schering for intravenous use in spinal and cranial MRI.

According to Schering, Gadovist is unique because its 1.0 molar concentration is twice that of routinely used gadolinium-based agents, like Magnevist (gadopentetate dimeglumine).

A 1.0 molar concentration not only offers the practical advantage of a smaller

injection volume, but also provides a sharper bolus of contrast agent and enhanced image quality. This is said to make Gadovist a promising candidate for high dose applications and techniques that depend more heavily on bolus geometry, ie dynamic imaging and first pass techniques such as brain perfusion.

Gadovist is expected to become an important tool for radiologists in tumour diagnosis, stroke assessment and multiple sclerosis imaging.

The new contrast agent will be available in the UK in vials from July and pre-filled syringes later in the year.

For further information contact Chris Matthews at Schering Healthcare on Tel. 01444 232323.

Clinical Neuroscience and Therapeutic Principles 3rd edition

Diseases of the Nervous System 2 Volume Set, Edited by Arthur Asbury et al Cambridge University Press have just published the third edition of a neurology classic.

This two-volume reference encompasses epidemiology, pathology, pathophysiology, and clinical features of the complete range of neurological disorders. The basic principles of neurological dysfunction are covered at cellular and molecular level by leading international experts in the field. Disease mechanisms are reviewed comprehensively, with particular relevance to the principles of therapy.

Current, comprehensive and authoritative, this is said by Cambridge University Press to be the

definitive reference for neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuropsychiatrists, and psychiatrists, indeed everyone with a professional or research interest in the neurosciences.

As a special introductory offer, readers of ACNR can order the 2 volume set at the introductory price of £250 (£295.00 after November 2002).

For further information contact Gurdeep Pannu at Cambridge University Press on Tel. 01223 312393.



Epilepsy Information Network

For many years the National Society for Epilepsy has recognised the importance of providing information and support to people with epilepsy within their own community. Following pilot schemes in Nottingham, it was decided to provide epilepsy information on a regional basis. This led to the creation of the Epilepsy Information Network just over a year ago, funded by the Community Fund (National Lottery) and UCB Pharma.

The Epilepsy Information Network provides information to people with epilepsy, their families, carers and others within the local community. It does this through Epilepsy Information Services in hospital-based neurology clinics around the country. The service offers people the opportunity to talk to trained volunteers in an informal setting. It is now available in 25 clinics throughout the country, with more than 75 trained volunteers.

In future, it is hoped that volunteers will be able to take information into other settings, such as schools, help to raise awareness of epilepsy and reduce the prejudice that is still experienced by many people.

For further information contact the National Society for Epilepsy on Tel. 01494 601391.



READER OFFER

FOCUS ON REHABILITATION

Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability

The Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability is a national charity providing treatment and care for people with complex disabilities resulting from disorders or injuries to the brain. The Hospital founded the UK's first brain damage unit that has both a national and international reputation for its treatment of patients in vegetative state.

As well as long term care and day services, specialist units include a Profound Brain Injury Unit, Neuro-rehabilitation and Disability Management, Neuro-behavioural Rehabilitation, Transitional Living Unit, Huntington's Disease Service and a new Ventilator Unit.

The Hospital also runs nationally and university accredited courses from IT training, to specialist rehabilitation techniques, and BSc (Hons) Neuro-disability Studies. The programme of multidisciplinary conferences includes one on 1st October at Kensington Town Hall, London, to examine issues relating to violence, particularly in the work environment.

Information on this and other courses and conferences are available on the website: www.rhn.org.uk or contact the Royal Hospital on 020 8780 4500, email conferences@rhn.org.uk.



A powerful movement in rehab



What can be more painful than seeing a patient's progress wane? Traditional rehabilitation can lead to frustration and become unbearable for many patients and their families. VIASYS healthcare, a leader in neurodiagnostics, has introduced what they believe to be a revolution in rehabilitation. MotoVate helps patients work for longer, gives direct feedback but most importantly, gets results.

MotoVate combines computer games with surface electromyography to give direct feedback to patients as they undergo therapy. Therapists place surface electrodes on targeted muscles; the patient can then be taught that contracting or relaxing muscles controls the game they have chosen. The system can be calibrated to work with the smallest of movements or made more difficult as treatment progresses. As the patients progress through the game, they see their clinical improvement in real time.

The compelling nature of computer games means that MotoVate can encourage patients to use almost any muscle. Such a valuable tool helps with many conditions including stroke, brain injury, cerebral palsy, orthopaedic injuries to name just a few and is ideal for use with children and the elderly alike.

For more information on MotoVate contact; Jane Glover, VIASYS Healthcare, Welton Road, Warwick. CV34 5XH. Tel 01926 838503, E-Mail. jglover@viasyshc.c.uk

Lightwriter Communication Aids now on EAT Contract



Toby Churchill Ltd were exhibiting their range of communication aids at the exhibition in Brighton. The company is the only communication-aid manufacturer run by someone who is himself physically and speech-disabled, the user of a communication aid, and also the designer of the products. The company believe that this unique combination gives them a deeper understanding of the particular needs of the speech disabled and helps them design better products.

Lightwriters are small portable text-to-speech communication aid specially designed to meet the particular needs of people with speech loss and to cater with progressive conditions. Lightwriters are widely used by people with acquired speech disorders following laryngectomy, head injury, stroke, or with progressive neurological diseases such as Motor Neurone Disease, Parkinson's Disease, and Multiple Sclerosis. Lightwriters are also used by people with congenital speech disorders with conditions such as Cerebral Palsy.

The Lightwriter range is now available on NHS Electronic Assistive Technology Contract.

For more information contact Toby Churchill Ltd: Tel. 01223 576117, Fax. 01223 576118, E-Mail. sales@toby-churchill.com

Essential guide to real-time motion capture

Codamotion, from Charnwood Dynamics, is a real-time motion capture and analysis system. The company has launched a comprehensive CD-ROM that guides the operator through the features and benefits of a system that is used in diverse scientific and clinical areas, sports technology, biomechanics, industrial processes and animation.

The CD contains more than 150 screens with a logical navigation sequence, illustrated with more than 25 video sequences and animations. The contents include a products section providing an overview of the system, the hardware and software, along with the interfacing capabilities to enable integration with existing systems.

The Applications section describes Codamotion's use in a number of areas including clinical applications, scientific research, sport, ani-

mation and industrial processes. Also included is a selection of case studies, covering areas such as clinical gait analysis, biomechanics, research into human movement, the measurement and analysis of sports performance, industrial and space technologies and animation.

The resources section covers functions such as setting up a movement laboratory, the mathematics of segmental gait analysis, a movement analysis software demonstration and a full system explanation with a PDF form of the Codamotion User Manual. Also featured is the Codamotion Software Development Kit (SDK), along with web-links, a glossary of terms and a history of motion analysis techniques.

For more information, or a free copy of the CD, E-Mail. davina@charndyn.com



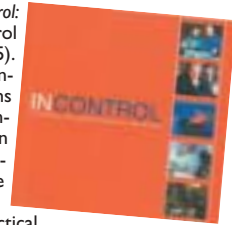
FREE RESOURCE

FREE RESOURCE

Need more information about environmental controls?



SRS technology are offering a free copy of *In Control: The Ultimate Guide to Environmental Control Systems for Independent Living* (normally £4.95). The book provides an overview of the environmental controls market, detail on how such systems operate and what they can be used for. Its non-technical, user-focused approach means the book is an excellent reference source for healthcare professionals who make recommendations and provide advice to clients about these systems.



Practical training: If you are looking for practical training, SRS also have the answer. A series of one day seminars throughout the UK will provide a comprehensive overview of the issues to be considered when assessing an individual's requirements for environmental controls. Dr Mohammed Sakel, a registrar based in Coventry, attended the first session. He says, "It was very instructive. Environmental Controls are an important part of our training, and this course provides a really good overview of all the products available and when they are most appropriate to prescribe. The information on alternative sources of funding was also useful. I would definitely recommend the course."

Alternative sources of funding: SRS can provide you with information about alternative sources of funding for environmental control systems. This is available at the one-day training sessions, or direct from SRS Technology.

For further information contact Rebecca Auterson on Tel. 01922 456882, or use the reader enquiry service included with this magazine.

Guillain-Barré Support Group



Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is not a specific illness but a clinical syndrome, an aggregate of symptoms. It is an illness of the peripheral nervous system, a peripheral neuropathy. There are many causes – symptoms of weakness and/or altered sensations are typical as motor and/or sensory nerves become affected.

GBS is an acute illness. There are around 1000-1500 new cases every year in the UK, and apart from in the elderly population, it is the most common form of acute paralysis.

The GBS support group was founded in 1985 by Glennys Sanders to provide a lifeline to sufferers of GBS and CIDP, and to their families and friends. The group provides information about the illnesses and can provide local contacts, usually recovered patients, who visit patients and their families at hospitals and at home. In addition, the group continuously strives to increase awareness of the syndrome among the medical professions and the public. Over the years, large sums of money have been raised to fund research into GBS and for other projects.

For more information E-Mail: admin@gbs.org.uk or Tel. 01529 304615.

Optimising outcomes in spasticity management

At the ECPRM Professor Majid Bakheit, well known for his work with botulinum toxin, chaired a symposium sponsored by Ipsen Ltd.

Dr. Peter Moore reviewed the evidence for botulinum toxin in the management of adult spasticity. Although there are consistent reports of spasticity being significantly reduced throughout the literature, demonstrations of this translating into functional patient benefit are sparse.

Professor Lynne Turner Stokes propounded the concept of active and passive function. In most clinical trials the outcomes measured are those of active function, but passive functional changes may have greater importance for the patient's QOL. She presented a case study, which illustrated a substantial cost saving following BoNT-A treatment, resulting in reduced carer burden.

Davina Richardson highlighted the value of individualised goal setting in rehabilitation and the need for all professionals involved in patient care to work together as a team.

These presentations were well received by an audience of some 170 and generated interesting discussion.

For more information contact Alex Obszanska-Homer, Ipsen Ltd on Tel. 01753 627777.

Optimising Outcomes in Spasticity Management

A Satellite Symposium, 29th May 2002, 18.00-20.00, Room Alpha 1, Level 1

18.00	Registration	
18.15	The challenge of measuring the antispasticity effect of Btx A	Chairman - Prof. Majid Bakheit, Plymouth
18.25	Btx A for spasticity – what is the evidence?	Dr. Peter Moore, Liverpool
18.50	Assessing outcomes with Btx A in spasticity	Professor Lynne Turner Stokes, London
19.15	Goal directed management of spasticity	Davina Richardson, London
19.40	Discussion and close	
20.00	Buffet reception	

Sponsored by **IPSEN**

British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine

The BSRM is the UK professional organisation for practitioners in Rehabilitation Medicine and is devoted to: Promoting the development and good practice of Rehabilitation Medicine as a medical specialty; Enhancing undergraduate and postgraduate education in rehabilitation and disability issues; Supporting rehabilitation research; Liaising with related medical, paramedical and voluntary organisations to further these aims.

Membership is open to registered medical practitioners with an interest in disability and its management.

Membership benefits include: Reduced subscription to Clinical Rehabilitation; Reduced registration fees at BSRM meetings/courses; Complimentary copies of BSRM publications and newsletters; Participation in

regional groups' events; Opportunities to contribute to national debates and influence decisions of statutory bodies on issues related to Rehabilitation Medicine; Membership of Special Interest Groups (Amputee Medicine & Electronic Assistive Technology).

Upcoming meetings:

10-13 September 2002 in Nottingham – '5th BSRM/University of Nottingham Advanced Rehabilitation Course'

25 November 2002 in London – 'Practical Approaches to Managing Fatigue Problems in Rehabilitation'

For more information contact British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine, C/o the Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LE. Tel. 01992 638865, or see www.bsrm.co.uk