

## Symphony at BUPA Bushey

BUPA Hospital in Bushey, Hertfordshire recently held a celebration to mark the official opening of their new MRI Centre.

Neil Cox and Nigel Gibbs of Watford Football Club cut the ribbon to officially open the centre. Also present at the opening were Richard Jones, the Director of Operations for BUPA Hospitals and Andrew Gore, the hospital's General Manager.

The MRI centre is equipped with a Siemens MAGNETOM Symphony with Quantum Gradients and will perform a wide range of examinations including sports medicine, orthopaedics, neurology, vascular and abdominal imaging.

The opening in Bushey coincided with the BUPA Hospital in Manchester commencing its first clinical scanning. This installation in Manchester was the fourth Siemens MR scanner to be installed in a BUPA hospital.

For more information contact Mike Bell on Tel. 01344 396317, or see [www.siemensmedical.com](http://www.siemensmedical.com).



Pictured at the recent opening of the MRI Centre at BUPA Hospital Bushey are, (L to R) Richard Jones, Operations Director, BUPA Hospitals, Helen Gingell, MRI Manager, BUPA Bushey, Jonathon Gifford, Corporate Accounts Manager, Siemens Medical Solutions, Neil Cox and Nigel Gibbs of Watford FC and Andrew Gore, General Manager, BUPA Bushey.

## Survey shows MS treatment still delayed

A survey of over 300 neurologists in 7 EC countries has revealed that, on average, disease-modifying beta interferon treatment for multiple sclerosis is not initiated until a patient has experienced between 4 and 5 documented MS relapses, despite current knowledge supporting earlier treatment. However, experts at the European Neurological Society (ENS) meeting predicted that this situation would change in the light of the recent extension of indication of Avonex® (Interferon beta-1a) for high risk MS patients.

Presenting the findings, Professor Hans-Peter



Hartung from Germany said, "There is clearly a trend towards earlier treatment, but there continue to be barriers for prescribers to contend with." He expressed the hope, however, that this situation should change significantly as a consequence of the extension of indication for

Avonex to include patients who have experienced only one attack or demyelinating event, who are judged to be at high risk of progressing to clinically definite MS.

For further information contact Biogen on Tel. 01628 501000, Fax. 01628 501010.

## The Handbook of Neurological Rehabilitation, 2nd Ed.

Editors: Richard Greenwood (The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London), Michael P. Barnes (Huntersmoor Regional Rehabilitation Centre, Newcastle), Thomas M. McMillan (Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Glasgow), Christopher D. Ward (University of Nottingham).

This book is said by the publishers to be "An essential resource for anyone involved in the management of chronic neurological disease." This new edition comprises three thoroughly updated and expanded sections:

- Principles of Practice explores the clinical and biological principles underpinning rehabilitation practice in the context of neurological disablement.
- Assessment and Treatment of Functional Deficits describes the assessment, treatment, and manage-

ment of the major physical, cognitive and behavioural impairments and resulting functional deficits that accompany neurological disease.

- Specific Disorders explores in detail problems and their management in the more common specific disorders of the nervous system.

For more details, visit [www.psyppress.co.uk](http://www.psyppress.co.uk), Published January 2003. To pre-order, please Tel. 01264 343071.

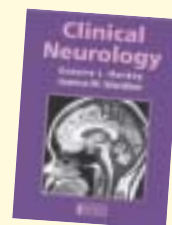


## Forthcoming prizes & awards

**The Gordon Holmes Prize:** Trainees in neurology, neurosurgery, neurophysiology, neuropathology or neuroradiology are invited by the RSM to submit summaries of their research in application for The Gordon Holmes Prize (value £100). The winners will be invited to give a 15 minute presentation (including 5 minute discussion) at a meeting of the Clinical Neurosciences Section on 6th February 2003. For submissions, please write to Fleur Raggatt, RSM, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1G 0AE by Friday 8th November.

**European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine, Prize 2002:** The annual prize of the European Academy, up to 10,000 Swiss Francs, will be awarded to an original work about rehabilitation, or to a project of research concerning a present study. The text or protocol typewritten, in French or English (including a summary in both languages) should be sent by 31st December 2002 to: Professeur Alex Chantraine, 3, rue Emile Yung, 1205 Geneve, Switzerland.

## Clinical Neurology



Clinical Neurology is a concise yet comprehensive new reference guide combining the key elements of a textbook and colour atlas. The authors, Dr Graeme Hankey (Royal Perth Hospital, Australia) a neurologist, and Professor Joanna Wardlaw (Western General Hospital, Edinburgh) a neuroradiologist, provide practical and patient-oriented text integrating presentation, pathology, radiology, diagnosis and treatment options. The book contains over 800 quality illustrations, ranging from anatomical drawings to clinical photographs and pathology specimens, plus imaging using the latest techniques.

While emphasizing the more common conditions, the book is said by the publisher to be a major source for trainees in neurology, and a valuable reference for neurologists, radiologists and general physicians.

Doody's Medical Reviews described the book as "An amazing tour-de-force of clinical neurology."

For more information, visit [www.manson-publishing.co.uk](http://www.manson-publishing.co.uk) or contact Manson Publishing Ltd on 020 8905 5150. See also our review on page 36.

## FOCUS ON NEUROSCIENCE

### The British Neuroscience Association

The British Neuroscience Association (formerly known as the Brain Research Association) is a professional organisation designed to represent the interests of neuroscientists in research, education, publishing, medicine and industry. It now has approaching 2000 members and is the fastest growing learned society, increasing its membership by 40% since its relaunch as the BNA in 1997. Members are primarily based in the UK but, increasingly, from further afield as well. The primary aims and objectives of the BNA are: to promote a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the structure and function of the nervous system; to assist in the dissemination of research findings by means of lectures, discussions and meetings; to enhance the public understanding and awareness of progress in brain research; to support the education and training of young neuroscientists in schools, colleges, universities and in industry.

The BNA would welcome more members with a clinical background to foster a closer liaison with basic neuroscience researchers for mutual gain. For this reason, ACNR is now being circulated to all BNA members free of charge and clinicians are cordially invited to join the BNA.

In addition to discounted journals and books and other occasional 'special offers', benefits of membership now include the following: Reduced (50%) registration fees to the National Meeting and free admis-

sion to One-Day Symposia held throughout the year, including the popular Christmas Symposium; Regular newsletter and other relevant mailings; Regular 'BNA News Email Alert' service; Student prizes, and bursaries for attendance at BNA and FENS meetings; free on-line access to European Journal of Neuroscience; Concessionary (SFN membership rate) registration fees and sponsored abstract forms for Society for Neuroscience meetings; free advertising in 'BNA News Email Alert', the BNA Newsletter and on the BNA Website; free inclusive membership of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) and the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO).

For further information E-Mail [membership@bna.org.uk](mailto:membership@bna.org.uk), or visit [www.bna.org.uk](http://www.bna.org.uk). Annual membership fees start from as little as £15 for student members, £45 for full members. Membership applications can be made online, or forms can be obtained from The BNA Conference Office, Sherrington Buildings, Ashton Street, Liverpool, L69 3GE. Tel: 0151 794 4943 Fax: 0151 794 5516.



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- The TE2000-E the most advanced microscope in the series boasts five output ports, with built-in motorised focus for applications such as 3D image capture.

With the TE2000 it is easy to incorporate additional techniques, for example; micromanipulation, time-lapse imaging, total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy and confocal imaging. The TE2000 employs a Noise Terminator, unique to Nikon, that diverts any stray fluorescent light. This ensures high contrast images and an unchallenged signal to noise.

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FREE RESOURCE

### R U UP 2 IT?



Texters (=those whose send and receive text messages) reduce words to character strings which are intelligible to the reader. Within cells, many proteins are subject to post-translational modifications and, once modified, become able to transduce messages. Ubiquitin (U) and ubiquitin-like proteins are known to direct redundant, mutant or misfolded proteins into a large multicatalytic complex, the proteasome (P) where they are enzymatically degraded. However, there is increasing evidence to suggest that U and U-like proteins do not necessarily only target proteins for destruction, but that the manner in which proteins are tagged may regulate many intracellular events other than degradation. There is currently intense research interest in the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway amongst neuroscientists and neurologists.

A full range of antibodies and biochemicals for UP and neuroscience research, backed up by comprehensive technical support, is available from AFFINITI Research Products Ltd.

For more details visit [www.proteasome.com](http://www.proteasome.com) or call 01626 891010 and ask for the most recent Newsletter.

### Affinity BioReagents' neurobiology range



Affinity BioReagents (ABR) is a leading global supplier of high quality monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies for neurobiological research. The full ABR catalogue, containing almost 150 antibodies and kits for use in neurobiological research is available in the UK and Ireland from Cambridge BioScience.

These antibodies are ideal for use in Western blot, immunocytochemistry and immunoprecipitation applications. The range includes immunoglobulins for the detection of: opioid receptor subtypes ( $\kappa$ ,  $\delta$ , and  $\mu$ ); cannabinoid receptors 1 and 2; a variety of nitric oxide synthases (neuronal, endothelial cell and inducible isoform) and muscarinic acetylcholine receptor.

The Cambridge BioScience website features a fully searchable database that covers over 16,000 products for life science research. This facility enables researchers to browse the extensive selection of neurobiology reagents on offer, not only from ABR but also from a variety of other suppliers, and order these products online.

For more information contact Rick Bhatt, Business Development Manager, Cambridge BioScience, 24-25 Signet Court, Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8LA, Tel. 01223 316855, Fax. 01223 360732, E-Mail. [tech@cbio.co.uk](mailto:tech@cbio.co.uk), [www.bioscience.co.uk](http://www.bioscience.co.uk)

## Stimulator lowers risk of paralysis acquired during surgery



Surgery to the spine, spinal cord, or blood vessels supplying the spinal cord is accompanied by significant risk to the patient. Of greatest concern is that nerve fibres within the spinal cord with normal function prior to surgery might be damaged as a consequence of the surgical procedures themselves.

This damage might occur through a variety of mechanisms, including: direct trauma, as could occur during resection of a tumour from within or lying adjacent to the spinal cord; stretch-induced damage during correction of a spinal curvature (eg scoliosis); or loss of blood flow (ischemia) due to occlusion of an arterial supply (eg Aortic Aneurysm repair).

The Digitimer D185 Multipulse Stimulator is now being used around the world to lower this risk by monitoring the Motor Evoked Potentials (MEPs) transmitted by the spinal cord.

For further information contact Digitimer on Tel. 01707 328347; E-Mail. D185@digitimer.com

## Objective dramatically enhances living cell observations

According to Olympus, their new optical development will change the nature of live cell observation – particularly for the most sensitive applications including patch-clamping, gene injection into thick samples, and membrane potential dye imaging.

The new high resolution 20x objective has super high N.A. of 0.95. It allows specimen observation to be carried out at different magnifications without changing the objective.

The adjustment of the microscope, and in particular the change of objectives to observe the specimen at different magnifications, remains one of the greatest causes of vibration. With the new objective, magnification can be changed from 7x to 80x, without loss of resolution by using the new dual port magnification changer. There is no need to move the objective. The new objective greatly exceeds the light collection performance of existing lenses and can be used to observe deep within a specimen. The objective is available with two new fixed stage upright microscopes, the Olympus BX51WI and BX61WI.

For more information contact Olympus Optical Co. (UK) Ltd on Tel. 020 7250 4697, E-Mail. microscope@olympus.co.uk



## Dedicated pulse generator for in ovo work



A new square wave pulse generator specifically designed for in ovo electroporation has been introduced by Intracel, specialist suppliers of products for electrophysiology and transgenesis.

The TSS20 Ovodyne is an up-to-the-minute electronic design offering simplicity of operation and low cost. It is based on experience and customer feedback from Intracel's TSS10 pulse generator, a mainstay of this application for a number of years, despite having been designed as a more general purpose instrument.

All the features normally required for in ovo electroporation are incorporated in the TSS20 Ovodyne, including multi-pulse programming, with adjustable voltage to a resolution of 0.1 v and adjustable space between pulses.

Operating parameters, which are shown on the matrix display, also include resistance measurement and a re-settable pulse indicator that confirms the number of pulses delivered. Remote hand and foot switches are optional.

For further information contact Tim Scot, Intracel Ltd, Tel. 01763 262680, Fax. 01763 262676, E-Mail. intracel@intracel.co.uk, www.intracel.co.uk

## DS8000 Multichannel Stimulator

"The DS8000 represents a quantum leap in the performance of the research stimulator", say World Precision Instruments. Using a powerful single board computer, DS8000 is said to be the most advanced stimulator on the market. With a built-in computer, all of the waveform is generated digitally with precision timing. WPI believe that it can generate more complex stimulating wave patterns than any other instrument on the market. The LCD touch screen display/input makes a vast improvement and ease of operation for the user interface. A built in digital oscilloscope will allow the user to check the waveform instantly on the screen. The instrument can be



rack mounted with all of the frequently used connectors on the front panel. An Ethernet connection allows the user to transfer custom waveforms and upgrade the software using TCP/IP protocol via remote Ethernet access.

The DS8000 has 8 analog outputs, 8 TTL outputs and 8 combined analog or TTL outputs. The output waveforms offered include unipolar pulse, bipolar pulse, rectangular pulse, step, sine and ramp. In addition, researchers can design their own waveforms.

For more information contact World Precision Instruments on Tel. 01438 880025, Fax. 01438 880026, www.wpi-europe.com/stimulators/DS8000.htm

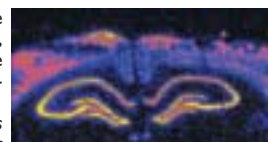
## Digital autoradiography systems for basic neuroscience research

LabLogic Systems Ltd are UK distributors for the Micro Imager and Beta Imager. These two new systems reduce autoradiography imaging times to only a few hours, even when using low energy beta emitters. A spatial resolution of 15mm is achieved making the systems ideally suited to applications such as radio-ligand binding studies and in-situ hybridisation. Both instruments use direct beta counting to provide precise quantitation and the capability of imaging dual-labelled samples.

LabLogic are also distributors for the Beta Microprobe, a low cost probe system for implantation in a blood vessel, organ or brain locus. The probe

system allows researchers to measure kinetics of a beta-labelled molecule, making it ideal for measurement of the input function in Micro-PET experiments.

For further information or to discuss applications in more detail contact LabLogic Ltd on Tel. 0114 2500419, Fax. 0114 2500291, E-Mail. hlyon@lablogic.com, www.lablogic.com



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