

## Another cause of train delays



The new DG2A train/delay generator is a compact, battery powered trigger source which can be used for producing repetitive stimulation or for studies of Effective Refractory Period (ERP) through the production of a delayed second pulse.

Various modes allow output pulses to be produced singularly, continuously or in a burst. In each mode (except free run), outputs can be initiated by a front panel button, a trigger/gating pulse or a suitable foot switch.

The unit has control of train duration, pulse repetition rate within that train and latency of the delayed pulse. It has two BNC outputs, one producing a pulse to trigger other equipment and the other producing either a delayed version of the same or by toggle switch selection, pairs of delayed and non-delayed. The DG2A is an ideal trigger source for Digitimer's DS2A and DS3 Isolated Stimulators.

For more information contact Digitimer Ltd, Tel: 01 707 328347, Fax: 01 707 373153, E-Mail: sales@digitimer.com

## VT-Eye confocal microscopy system

VisiTech International has just released the VT-Eye, a new confocal microscopy system capable of imaging even the briefest physiological events. The VT-Eye uses novel solid-state technology to acquire up to 400 confocal images per second, making it the ideal system for temporal and spatial resolution of cellular events.

The VT-Eye is available as a modular or turnkey system and offers a range of lasers, rapid focusing and wavelength selection devices to enable ultra-fast, multi-spectral confocal imaging in three dimensions and over time. It is configurable with up to four high sensitivity detectors for fluorescent, reflected and transmitted light confocal microscopy. The VT-Eye is compatible with research grade microscopes, enabling easy upgrade from wide-field to confocal microscopy. The system is driven by a flexible, comprehensive software package capable of fully supporting multi-dimensional experiments.

The VT-Eye complements VisiTech International's existing range of dynamic live cell imaging systems.

For further information contact Visitech on Tel: 0191 5166 255.



## Atypical antipsychotic for first episodes of schizophrenia

A new atypical antipsychotic with a unique pharmacological profile could become the "treatment of choice" for first episodes of schizophrenia, according to a leading psychiatrist.

Speaking at the 16th European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) in Prague recently, Dr Sophia Frangou, senior lecturer in psychiatry at London's Institute of Psychiatry, suggested that aripiprazole should be an ideal treatment for schizophrenia. She made her comments following presentation of an in vitro study showing that aripiprazole behaved as a partial agonist at cloned D2L receptors. Dr Frangou said, "This study is encouraging because it shows aripiprazole behaves consistently both in vitro and in clinical practice. A partial agonist should be an ideal treatment, especially for first episodes."

Results presented at last year's ECNP meeting showed that when 311 stable schizophrenia patients were switched from olanzapine, risperidone or haloperidol to aripiprazole, symptoms improved and extrapyramidal symptoms, prolactin levels and weight gain were reduced. Patients switched from olanzapine to aripiprazole showed a statistically significant weight loss of 2.0kg ( $p < 0.001$ ) and a significant reduction in prolactin levels of 5.8g/ML.

Aripiprazole, co-marketed by Bristol Myers-Squibb and Otsuka Pharmaceuticals, is due to be launched in the UK next year.

For more information contact Rhonda Siddall, E-Mail: RhondaSiddall@aol.com

## The Medelec® Synergy range of EMG/EP/IOM Instruments



Oxford Instruments Medical Ltd's Medelec® Synergy instruments are said to offer a complete solution to EMG needs from NCS through to intra-operative monitoring capability. According to Oxford Instruments, their long-standing tradition of offering user-friendly instruments has resulted in faster set-up, faster testing and faster data review. Couple these with Microsoft® Word reporting to allow you to customise your test reports and the ability to purchase as a 2, 5 or 10 channel laptop system for portability or as 2, 5 or 10 channel Tower-based PC for added data storage and the flexibility becomes obvious.

For further information contact Linda Shaw at Oxford Instruments Medical UK on 01483 748415 or Email sales.medical@oxinst.co.uk

## Crowd gets jumping in New York

Thanks to Siemens Medical Solutions sponsorship, UK band, 'You Jump First', recently played to an audience of 1,500 at the Organisation for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) conference, New York. They used the opportunity to raise funds for The Children's Cancer Charity at Barts Hospital, London. Siemens sponsored t-shirts sold at the gig to raise money.

The band members are more than just musicians. Front man Dr Adrian Owen is a Medical Research Council (MRC) Senior Scientist at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit (CBU) in Cambridge and Assistant Director for Activation Studies, Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre, University of Cambridge. Dr Tina Gutbrod, the other vocalist is also a Developmental Psychologist at University of Hertfordshire.

Dr Anja Dove the violinist is doing a Post-doctoral fellowship in neuroimaging at MRC CBU. Dr Fran Ebling, Guitarist is a Reader in Neuroendocrinology, University of Nottingham Medical School. Dr Mark Patterson, the bassist is currently one of the Editors of Public Library of Science and was formerly the Editor, Nature Reviews Genetics. Dr Philipp Gutbrod the Drummer is the sole non-scientist of the group, he is an Art Historian in Berlin, Germany. Jessica Grahn Cellist is a PhD Student in Brain Imaging, MRC CBU.

Siemens' sponsorship gave the band a chance to combine their two passions, as they were able to attend the conference as well as playing in front of the crowd. "The conference was excellent. The largest gathering of brain imagers in the world which gets better and better every year. The combination of methods and basic neuroscience is unbeatable and, of course, everyone is there." Adrian said.

For further information contact Siemens, Tel: 01344 396156.

