

## News Review

### Royal Hospital Celebrates 150th Anniversary

THIS year the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability celebrates 150 years of providing care. To mark the occasion an 'Exhibition of Celebration' will take place at the Air Gallery in London from 20-24th September. The featured artists are Ken Paine, the late Debra Manifold and Rosa Sepple (whose work appears on the front cover of this issue of ACNR) with photography by David Maxwell and sculpture by Unus Sefardiar and A Tobias Williams, (see picture of his sculpture 'Bulletor', right). Rosa Sepple is a self-taught artist whose compositions have a powerful visual strength and refreshing spontaneity. She also suffers from trigeminal neuralgia and says, 'If just a single dysfunctional nerve has such a terrible effect it gives me a little insight into the lives of patients who have suffered substantial damage to their brain and nervous system.'

The Royal Hospital is the UK's leading centre for rehabilitation and care of people with acquired brain injury and neurological illness.

For further details about the exhibition of celebration and the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability please see [www.rhn.org.uk](http://www.rhn.org.uk) or call 020 8780 4561.



### Advanced Medical Equipment Scan School

ADVANCED Medical Equipment are pleased to announce that they will be hosting a Scan School from 20-24 September at the Holiday Inn, Coram Street, Bloomsbury, London.

For more information Tel. 0207 923 6600, Fax. 0207 278 0989, [www.ichotelsgroup.com/hd/hil/en/hd/lonbl](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/hd/hil/en/hd/lonbl). See the location map at [www.go.vicinity.com](http://www.go.vicinity.com). Session I will focus on EEG/ERP Acquisition & Analysis, and Session II on Curry. Register for this event at: [www.neuro.com/school.sstg](http://www.neuro.com/school.sstg)

**Please also note that Advanced Medical Equipment have moved. Their new contact details are as follows: Advanced Medical Equipment, City Business Centre, Horsham Court, Unit 14, 6-8 Brighton Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5BA. Tel. 01403 260156, Fax. 01403 260175, Web: [www.advancedmedicalequipment.com](http://www.advancedmedicalequipment.com)**

### More Power to your Egg



THE new EP21 Current Amplifier has been introduced by Intracel. This accessory for the TSS20 Ovodyne electroporator widens the field of operation for the TSS20 ensuring that electroporation protocols hitherto impossible or difficult due to current limitation can now be effectively run. In addition to in ovo use, the amplifier will allow greater use of electroporation cuvettes for in vitro work.

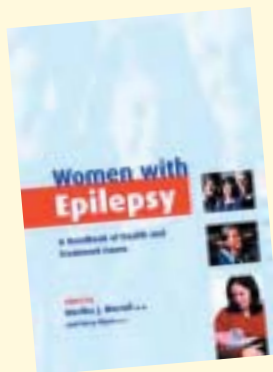
The EP21 connects to the TSS20 output and whilst maintaining the square wave form and voltage allows currents of up to 1 amp to be delivered.

For more information contact Tim Scott, Intracel, Unit 4, Station Road, Shepreth, Royston, Herts SG8 6PZ. Tel. 01763 262680, E-Mail. [Intracel@intracel.co.uk](mailto:Intracel@intracel.co.uk), [www.intracel.co.uk](http://www.intracel.co.uk)

### Women with Epilepsy: A Handbook of Health and Treatment Issues

EDITED by Martha J. Morrell and Kerry L. Flynn. In this handbook for sufferers, their clinicians, families and friends, a team of experts reviews the special problems faced by women with epilepsy. Hormone levels affect seizures and epilepsy treatments affect fertility, and can cause pregnancy complications and birth defects. Many health-care providers are not informed about the unique issues facing women with epilepsy. This book, published in association with the Epilepsy Foundation of America, fills that gap and provides women with epilepsy with the information they need to be effective self-advocates.

For more information contact Cambridge University Press on Tel. 01223 312393.



### NICE Epilepsy Guidance

THE National Institute of Clinical Excellence has issued guidance to the NHS in England and Wales on the use of newer drugs for the treatment of epilepsy in adults.

The guidance states that Topamax (topiramate) from Janssen-Cilag along with six other 'newer' antiepileptic drugs are recommended, within their licensed indications, for the management of epilepsy in people who have not benefited from treatment with the older AEDs, or for whom the older AEDs are unsuitable (for example because of contraindications, interactions with other drugs or where the person is a woman of childbearing potential).

The guidance further recommends that: Adults with epilepsy should be treated with just one antiepileptic drug

where possible. If the first drug doesn't prevent seizures, another can be tried; Adjunctive or combination therapy should only be considered when attempts at monotherapy have not resulted in seizure freedom; A careful assessment of the risks and benefits of treatment with individual AEDS should be undertaken, particularly in relation to women of childbearing potential; A person who has a seizure for the first time should see an epilepsy specialist as soon as possible, to find out what type of epilepsy he or she has, so that the best treatment can be started; Treatment should be reviewed at regular intervals.

For further information about Topamax contact Janssen-Cilag on Tel. 01494 567567. For information on NICE guidance, see [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

## Middlesex Hospital Speeds Patient Workflow

A NEW MR scanner installed at Middlesex Hospital will enable radiographers to increase patient workflow, as well as improving patient comfort. Acquired through the NHS Cancer Plan fund, the Siemens MAGNETOM Symphony scanner replaces a Siemens Open Via MR scanner previously used at the hospital. With traffic diverted for the day, the new system was successfully installed in the hospital's basement site using a massive crane to lift it into place over the main building.

The MAGNETOM Symphony scanner's compact ultra-short bore magnet system and scaleable performance covers routine to clinical research MRI. The Integrated Panoramic Array (IPA) coil technology optimises the entire patient exam process as the need to position or change coils is virtually eliminated. The system allows increased patient workflow up to 20 per cent per day compared to non-IPA systems.

"The hospital required a high field scanner that could be used for a range of cases and since receiving Siemens MAGNETOM Symphony scanner it has immediately proved popular with staff and patients alike," commented Fiona Henderson, Lead Superintendent Radiographer at Middlesex Hospital.

For more information contact Mike Bell on Tel. 01344 396317.



The magnet of the Siemens MAGNETOM Symphony scanner is being hoisted into the Middlesex Hospital by crane.

## New Applications For The Digitimer D185 Stimulator

THE Digitimer D185 is used for spinal cord monitoring in surgical procedures including scoliosis corrections, spinal tumour re-sections and repairs of aortic aneurysms. In each case, transcranial motor evoked potentials (TcMEPs) have helped protect patients from intra-operative spinal injury. The 1000V output and brief 50 microsecond pulse also make it suitable for stimulation of spinal roots, which are difficult to activate with lower output stimulators.

Using the D185, diagnostics are possible along the whole peripheral nerve, allowing neurophysiologists to identify extremely proximal sites of conduction block. Identification of such sites is important when differentiating between treatable conditions like multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN) and motor neuron disease (MND) which is untreatable and fatal. In some cases of MMN the site of conduction block is not identified by traditional nerve conduction tests and patients are misdiagnosed with MND when they actually have a treatable condition. Stimulation with the D185 can reveal such sites and facilitate the correct diagnosis (Arunachalam et al., 2003). R. Arunachalam, A. Osei-Lah & K.R. Mills (2003) J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry 74 1329-1331. For more information contact Digitimer on Tel. 01707 328347, E-Mail. sales@digitimer.com



## Trial Shows Increased Bleeding Risks

A NEW study has linked a combination of aspirin and the antiplatelet agent clopidogrel with life-threatening bleeds in high-risk stroke patients. The study also showed no additional clinical benefit with the aspirin/clopidogrel combination.

The major health threat to patients who have suffered an initial ischaemic stroke (IS) or transient ischaemic attack (TIA) is a second stroke. The risk of a recurrence is high — up to 14% annually. A stroke patient is up to five times more likely to suffer a second stroke than a myocardial infarction.

Aspirin has long been established to reduce the risk of second stroke and the combination of aspirin with dipyridamole MR (Asasantin Retard) doubles this protective effect (compared with placebo, relative risk of second stroke is reduced by 18% with aspirin and 37% with dipyridamole MR plus low dose aspirin).

However, results of the MATCH trial (Management of AtheroThrombosis with Clopidogrel in High risk patients) reported at the 13th European Stroke Conference in Mannheim, show that in high risk patients with recent IS or TIA, the combination of aspirin 75mg daily with clopidogrel 75mg daily shows no beneficial clinical effects and doubles the risk of a life-threatening bleed (which includes intracranial bleeding).

For further information please contact KWT Public Relations Ltd, Tel. 0208 541 5999, E-Mail. enquiries.kwt@blueyonder.co.uk

## Neurological Rehabilitation Of Parkinson's Disease

REHABILITATION comprises various forms of therapy: physical, speech and psychosocial therapy. Physical rehabilitation is used in conjunction with various antiparkinsonian agents as a non-pharmacological treatment for Parkinson's disease. The first book in the Queen Square Neurological Rehabilitation Series, Neurological Rehabilitation of Parkinson's Disease (1841842974 £26.50) edited by Diane Playford explores the approaches and processes required to ensure the comprehensive management of a patient with Parkinson's disease. This book examines what are the long-term and short-term benefits of physical therapy and the effectiveness of physical rehabilitation. The second in the series, Neurological Rehabilitation of Stroke (1841843229 £29.95) is now available. For further information contact Taylor & Francis on Tel. 0207 7583 9855.



## Licence Extension For Provigil

THE novel wakefulness-promoting agent Provigil (modafinil) has received a significant extension to its product licence in the UK. The new indication allows Provigil to be prescribed for the treatment of excessive sleepiness associated with chronic pathological conditions, including narcolepsy, obstructive sleep apnoea / hypopnoea syndrome (OSAHS) and moderate to severe chronic shift work sleep disorder (SWSD).

Additional data in Parkinson's disease, depression, myotonic dystrophy and multiple sclerosis were supportive of showing Provigil's efficacy as a treatment for excessive sleepiness in other conditions.

"Provigil is already a first-line treatment for excessive sleepiness in narcolepsy and a useful option for the management of excessive sleepiness in obstructive sleep apnoea / hypopnoea syndrome following CPAP treatment. These new data appear to indicate that Provigil improves wakefulness regardless of the pathological condition, without any effect on sleep when this is desired," said Dr Adrian Williams, Lane Fox Respiratory Unit and Sleep Disorders Centre, St Thomas' Hospital, London.

For more information contact Cephalon on Tel. 01483 454911.