

Visions of Science 2004

Dr Peter Keston, a neuroradiologist from the Centre for Interventional Neuroradiology of Edinburgh, was awarded first prize at the Visions of Science Awards Ceremony recently. He created his image for the Medicine & Life Award using Siemens Medical Solutions imaging equipment.

The image 'Hanging by a thread' was created to help patients understand their condition and treatment. The image shows a 'berry' aneurysm at the base of the brain. In order to block blood flow inside the aneurysm, we see the platinum wire coiled up inside the berry.

The brain arteries were imaged with Siemens AXIOM Artis bi-plane neuro-angiography equipment and the images were then manipulated with Inspace volume rendering

software on the Siemens Leonardo workstation. The wire was imaged by Fuji Finepix 4900 digital camera.

Visions of Science was set up by Novartis, in association with The Daily Telegraph and supported by the Science Photo Library. Novartis Pharmaceuticals produces sets of the winning images, which tour science and arts centres in the UK. See www.visions-of-science.co.uk for details.

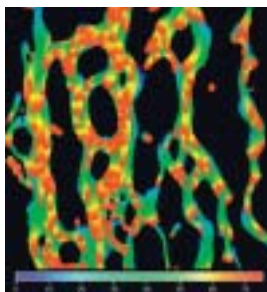
For more information about Siemens Medical Solutions, Tel: 01344 396317 or see www.siemens.co.uk/medical

Novartis/Daily Telegraph Visions of Science 2004 was awarded to Dr Peter Keston, a neuroradiologist from the Centre for Interventional Neuroradiology of Edinburgh, who used the AXIOM Artis BA imaging equipment from Siemens Medical Solutions.



World's Fastest Confocal Microscope

Carl Zeiss has launched a dedicated live cell imaging system capable of collecting up to 120 full frame images per second, said to be 20 times faster than any other confocal system. Called LSM 5 LIVE, the new instrument's combination of high speed, image quality and sensi-



Motion of erythroblasts during one heartbeat cycle in 8-day old mouse embryo. GFP expression, colour-coded projection over time, recorded at 88 frames per second. Specimen: Dr. Mary Dickinson, Biological Imaging Centre, Caltech Pasadena, USA.

tivity provides exclusive insights to the cell's highly transient and dynamic events. It is suited to studies at the forefront of live cell imaging, such as the movement of individual intracellular molecules or measuring the dynamics of the cytoskeleton during such processes as cell adhesion, cell motility and cell signalling. The LSM 5 LIVE captures events of the order of microseconds.

The speed, resolving power and

sensitivity are driven by a completely new optical concept specially tailored for studies on living specimens. The light beam is shaped into laser light of rectangular cross section and focused precisely on the colour-independent Achromatic beam splitter. According to Carl Zeiss this guarantees virtually 100% excitation

efficiency and emission yield at all wavelengths to deliver maximum performance even on thick or weakly fluorescent specimens. An ultra-fast CCD line detector picks up the shaped laser light to allow parallel imaging of 512 pixels with high quantum yield.

For further information contact Aubrey Lambert, Carl Zeiss UK, Tel: 01707 871233, Fax: 01707 871287, Email: a.lambert@zeiss.co.uk

Quick Magnification Switching and Slide Marking

Users of Nikon's Eclipse 50i and 55i microscopes can now switch between 10x and 40x magnifications during cytological screening at the flick of a switch. This follows the introduction of a compact and retrofittable cytodiagnostic unit with a motorised mechanism for changing between magnifications. The new "Ergo-View" one-touch nosepiece and objective changeover system also includes an easy-to-use slide marking function. This permits areas of interest to be marked while still observing the specimen, and removes the need to rotate the nosepiece, giving a further important boost to work efficiency.

With the Ergo-View fitted on the Eclipse 55i, users can perform observations at a constant brightness as the intensity of the LED illumination automatically adjusts with changes in magnification. This approach is ideal for bright field applications, overcom-



ing excessive heat and colour temperature changes that occur with halogen light sources when changing from high to low intensity. The digital LED illumination provides a bright, homogenous distribution across the whole field of view for optimal viewing and digital imaging.

For more information Email: discover@nikon.co.uk



Dysport® Now Licensed To Treat Focal Spasticity Of The Arm

Dysport® (Clostridium botulinum type A toxin-haemagglutinin complex), Manufactured by Ipsen Ltd, is now licensed for the treatment of arm symptoms associated with focal spasticity in conjunction with physiotherapy.

Muscle spasticity causes significant physical problems in some stroke patients. Stroke is the largest single cause of severe disability in England and Wales, and an estimated 20% of stroke patients with spasticity require specific treatment for their condition.

Dysport is a local muscle relaxant, which is

injected into the affected muscles significantly reducing spasticity, improving arm function and reducing disability and carer burden when used as part of a rehabilitation programme. Dysport is presented as a convenient treatment pack and is simple to administer by intramuscular injection. It should be used as part of a rehabilitation programme involving physical therapy and patients should experience a clinical improvement in their spasticity within two weeks of treatment.

For further product information contact Ipsen on Tel: 01753 627777.

New APO-go® Pre-Filled Syringe

Britannia Pharmaceuticals Limited has launched a new presentation in the APO-go range; the APO-go 5mg/ml Pre-filled Syringe (PFS).

The PFS has been designed for use with infusion devices, including the APO-go Pump. It is a product which eliminates the need for patients or carers to break open glass ampoules, removing the risk of cuts from broken ampoules and reducing sharp-stick injuries. It will dramatically reduce the time spent setting up infusion devices for APO-go users. The pre-dilution also minimises the risk of dilution error and spillage and contamination risks are reduced. The PFS will benefit patients and carers, and also has cost benefits for the NHS.

Britannia Pharmaceuticals believe the Pre-filled Syringe is the most convenient method for apomorphine infusion patients and its use conforms to best pharmaceutical practice.

For further information, please contact the APO-go Helpline 01737 781414.



Neurology - An Oxford Core Text

Second Edition, Michael Donaghy, ISBN 0-19-852636-9

Oxford University Press are publishing Neurology - An Oxford Core Text in January 2005. This 224 page paperback book with around 200 photographs and line illustrations, is highly recommended reading for medical undergraduates. It introduces the major neurological diseases; deals with weakness, visual symptoms, headaches, black-outs and stroke; covers the general principles of history-taking; gives practical advice on how to perform simple neurological examinations; has detailed instructions on examination in particular clinical circumstances; includes 24 detailed case histories and is highly illustrated with clinical photos and line diagrams.

For more information please visit www.oup.co.uk/best.textbooks/medicine/

If you teach neurology and would like to receive a free inspection copy of this book, Tel: 01536 741068, or Email: inspectioncopies.europe@oup.com

Alternatively, to purchase a copy (£19.95) Tel: 01536 741727.



New Titles From Psychology Press

Theories of Visual Perception 3rd Edition by Ian Gordon provides clear critical accounts of several of the major approaches to the challenge of explaining how we see the world. It explains why approaches to theories of visual perception differ so widely and places each theory into its historical and philosophical context. This fully revised and expanded edition contains new material on the Minimum Principle in perception, neural networks, and cognitive brain imaging.

Other recent titles from Psychology Press include: Dyslexia, Reading and the Brain and Theoretical Issues in Stuttering.

Please also visit the new Cognitive Psychology Arena: www.cognitivepsychologyarena.com

The Psychology Press New Titles in Cognitive Psychology catalogue will be available early 2005.

For more information please visit www.psypress.co.uk



Psychology Press
Taylor & Francis Group

Study Confirms Significance Of Early Treatment With High Dose, High Frequency Interferon Beta-1a

The double-blind, placebo-controlled PRISMS study began in 1994 and involved 560 patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis. After 2 years, patients who had been on placebo (n=187) were re-randomised to receive either Rebif® 22mcg or Rebif® 44 mcg sc tiw. A new analysis of this group (n=172), the PRISMS crossover study, was presented at the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS) recently. It showed that after 2 years of active treatment, the relapse rate in the group of patients formerly on placebo for 2 years had fallen by 54% (p<0.001). For patients treated with Rebif® 44 mcg sc tiw, the number of T2 active lesions had fallen by 67%.



The original PRISMS study demonstrated significant clinical and MRI benefit at two years interferon beta-1a treatment compared to placebo. Results from an extension study at years 3 and 4 and long-term follow up data (up to 8 years) was presented at ECTRIMS last year. This data showed a 23% reduction in relapse rates in patients who had been on Rebif® 44 mcg sc tiw from the start of the study (n=184) compared to patients who were on placebo for 2 years then switched to Rebif® 44 mcg sc tiw (n=187).

For more information contact Serono on Tel: 020 8818 7200.

A Better Quality Of Life At The Right Price

Many wheelchairs do not meet the needs of their users - the "Genie" has been designed to solve these needs and to give user and carer a better quality of life.

Good health demands that everyone should stand up regularly and that carers should not have injured backs.

Bob Hester developed the "Genie" in response to seeing people struggle with unnecessary problems for many years. Easycare Products invested heavily to develop a "Rolls Royce" item which is affordable. Easycare Products believe that good quality, design and service need not be outrageously priced when you are in the business to give the customer what they want.

The modular design of the "Genie" meets the needs of the user as their condition changes. When you are still partially on your feet, you can



start off with a low cost, manoeuvrable, robust base. You can then up-grade by adding an electronic seat with its range of posture options. It can even be controlled solely via Easycare's own unique head control system.

For more information contact Easycare Products on Tel: 01952 610300.