

News

Teaching depends on Carl Zeiss



Axiostar plus from Carl Zeiss.



Axiostar plus microscopes installed in the Department of Biological Sciences at Imperial College, London.

The department of Biological Sciences at Imperial College London now has 150 Zeiss Axiostar Plus microscopes installed and working in their teaching labs. In a massive exercise to replace the entire stock of 30 year old student microscopes, chief technician Ian Morris chose Zeiss microscopes after sampling units from every major manufacturer.

“Our new microscopes had to be light and easily transportable with excellent optics and upgrade options to cope with the rapid developments in modern microscopy. But they also had to be robust enough to withstand the demands of a generation of inexperienced users while staying within our budget. The Zeiss Axiostar fitted the requirement perfectly”, says Morris.

The entire order was delivered in one shipment in less than 12 weeks, with Zeiss personnel unpacking and installing every unit. “As well as keeping to the agreed delivery schedule, which is extraordinary with an order of this magnitude, each and every microscope worked right out of the box. I will not hesitate to come back to Zeiss for any future requirements”, adds Morris.

For further information, contact Carl Zeiss Ltd, Tel. 01707 871233.

Extreme performance comes to Cambridge

The MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit in Cambridge is set to have the first 3T MAGNETOM Trio with Tim technology in the UK. 3T with Tim is said to shorten scan times with unheard of acceleration (PAT) factors, leading to brilliant resolution of the most microscopic pathologies.

Functional Neuro imaging is being applied in many different areas of Cognitive Neuro-

science. In many cases, this research relies upon support from healthy volunteers although Neuro imaging studies are also being conducted in various clinical populations, including depression, anxiety, Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease.

A high-field 3T system is essential for cognitive research allied to psychology which the centre will carry out. Much of the research can be generalised as brain mapping to improve the Unit’s understanding of the function of particular areas of the brain, although this is pure research rather than clinical. Vast amounts of data are collected during the scanning process; in fact twenty patients’ data would take six months to process even with the most sophisticated current computer hardware. The centre has installed a Terabyte tape robot.

“We are looking forward to having our own system, not only because it will give us more scanning time but because it will provide our PHD students with the flexibility to be more experimental in their research. Previously, our students and researchers had to work up their whole project in advance to effectively prove their experiment would work and provide an achievable outcome,” said Dr Adrian M Owen, Senior Scientist at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit. “Now we will be able to allow students to work iteratively on a project, trying out novel ideas with the additional scan time available and developing their research ideas as they go along.

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



Project leader Dr Adrian M. Owen, Senior Scientist at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, (in the digger) holds a short ceremony to mark the turning of the first turf at Cambridge Brain Research Unit.

Digitimer DS5 Stimulator - Isolated computer controlled stimulation

Digitimer will soon be launching the DS5 Bipolar Constant Current Stimulator. The DS5 has been developed in collaboration with Prof. Hugh Bostock (Institute of Neurology, London), who uses QTRAC software with the DS5 to facilitate threshold tracking measurements. Although the DS5 has been primarily designed for studies of peripheral nerves, it is hoped that it will be popular with any researchers who want to safely apply computer-controlled constant current stimuli to a subject or patient.

The DS5 is not a traditional "pulse stimulator", as it produces an isolated



constant current stimulus proportional to an input voltage, with the shape of the input waveform describing the stimulus shape. When driven by a computer, the DS5 can generate a stimulus consisting of sine waves, ramps, square waves or arbitrary waveforms.

The DS5 stimulator has four input voltage ranges (making it widely compatible with other hardware) and three stimulus output ranges ($\pm 10\text{mA}$, $\pm 25\text{mA}$ and $\pm 50\text{mA}$).

For more information call Digitimer on Tel. 01707 328347 or Email. sales@digitimer.com

New scientific pack on The Lightman®

The Electrode Company specialises in non-invasive monitoring, optical sensors and high performance pulse oximetry. Recent surveys of SpO2 sensors in leading UK hospitals has shown that between 10% and 35% of those tested were outside acceptable limits, and represented a clinical risk to patients. The company's Lightman® microspectrometer can easily detect the accuracy of these sensors.

The company has just updated its scientific pack on the Lightman instrument and it contains comprehensive clinical references on the performance of the instrument in the testing of pulse oximeters' accuracy. It is not unusual to find pulse oximeters with sensors that may have light wavelength errors of sufficient magnitude to compromise patient safety.

The Lightman instrument is described as a miniature spectrometer that calibrates itself using an internal, highly stable emission source, prior to every sensor test. The portable Lightman tests circuit integrity and measures LED wavelength spectrum and light output, within the sensor wherever it is located in the hospital. The calculated sensor accuracy at



critical SpO2 levels appears on The Lightman screen, enabling inaccurate and/or faulty sensors to be rapidly identified and withdrawn from clinical use.

At the James Paget Hospital, Great Yarmouth, Simon Brook in the Medical Electronics Department is delighted with his UK manufactured Lightman, as his previous tester had to go to the US for calibration every year. He has found it useful for routine checks on new pulse oximeter probes, and for finding reported probe faults on existing equipment.

At the King George Hospital in Ilford, Clinical Engineering Manager Marino D'Aliessio has conducted probe surveys on existing Trust equipment, resulting in replacement of some pieces. Surveying of new purchases has found calibration problems, resulting in free replacement by the manufacturers. The Lightman is used as a normal checking procedure during the annual maintenance and overhaul process.

For more information on The Lightman, or for a copy of the Scientific Pack and/or latest newsletter, Tel. 01633 861772.

The Genie

Everyone should be able to stand from time to time for various health reasons and carers should not have to injure their backs. The Genie has been designed with these points in mind.

The Genie is a good indoor/outdoor wheelchair which has been successfully crash tested and is appropriate for all levels of dependency. With its pressure management seating it offers comfort, in a variety of positions. Sit, stand and snooze, you can even lie flat if you want to. The Genie is electronically controlled usually by a joystick or its own unique closed loop head control system, but other methods are available if required. Each Genie is 'Tailor made' to suit the customer's needs. It is very manoeuvrable and will turn within its own wheelbase, which makes it great around the house and in tight spaces. Normal doorways are no problem – so no building work. Starting at £5,400.00 – with most packages not exceeding £5,900.00 – the Genie is affordable and definitely worth considering.

For more information Tel. Easy Care Products on 01952 610300.



PD Connect meetings – Management strategies throughout Parkinson's disease

PD Connect is a series of 13 evening meetings sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, Alliance Pharmaceuticals and GE Healthcare. The content of the meetings has been developed in collaboration with nine leading PD specialists. The aim of a PD Connect meeting is to provide delegates with an overview of up to date management strategies in Parkinson's disease, from diagnosis through to the palliative stage of the disease.

Forthcoming meetings are as follows: Wednesday 2nd November, Lancaster House Hotel, Green Lane, Ellel, Lancaster; Tuesday 15th November, Southampton Hilton Hotel; Thursday 17th November, The Kohn Centre, The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton Terrace, London; Tuesday 22nd November, St Edmund Hall, Oxford, OX1 4AR; Wednesday 7th December, De Vere St. David's Park Hotel, Ewloe, Nr. Chester.

If you would like more information or to attend one of the meetings please Tel. Mark Lawson on 0207 331 5320, or Email. mark_lawson@uk.cohnwolfe.com

New Books in Old-Age Psychiatry and Neurology from Taylor & Francis

Taylor & Francis is the leading publisher in the field of Psychogeriatrics and here are some of their recent highlights: Psychiatric Issues in Parkinson's Disease: A Practical Guide by Matthew Menza and Laura Marsh; Psychosis in the Elderly by Anne Hassett, David Ames and Edmond Chiu; Trial Designs and Outcomes in Dementia Therapeutic

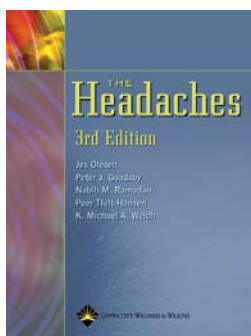
Research by Kenneth Rockwood and Serge Gauthier; Dementia with Lewy Bodies and Parkinson's Disease Dementia by John O'Brien, David Ames, Ian McKeith and Edmond Chiu; And coming out soon, Geriatric Medicine for Old-Age Psychiatrists by Alistair Burns et al. and Stroke Medicine by Martin Brown.

For more information and to order online visit the website at www.tandf.co.uk/medicine or to request a catalogue, send an email to info.medicine@tandf.co.uk, or Tel. 0207 017 6192.

Please visit www.tandf.co.uk/eupdates to receive email updates about journals, books and other news within your areas of interest.

The Headaches, 3rd edition

Lippincott Williams and Wilkins are pleased to announce the arrival of *The Headaches*, 3/e to complement their existing range of neurology titles. *The Headaches*, by Jes Olesen, Peer Tfelt-Hansen, K Michael A Welch, Peter J Goadsby, Nahib M Ramadan, has been established worldwide as the definitive, encyclopaedic reference on headaches. This edition has been thoroughly updated by leading international authorities who examine over 100 types of headache from first time migraines to thunderclap and



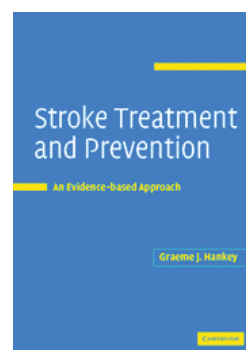
hypnic headaches. Evidence based treatment recommendations and tables of controlled clinical trials help medical professionals to confidently assess and treat many types of headaches in a variety of patients.

LWW offers a comprehensive line of health-science books and new media with thousands of well-known titles, from reference tools to comprehensive research and education information for medical specialists and students.

For more information visit www.Lww.co.uk

Coming soon - Stroke treatment and prevention - An evidence-based approach

This invaluable reference by Graeme Hankey of the Royal Perth Hospital, Australia, provides clinicians caring for stroke patients with evidence for best practice in stroke treatment and secondary prevention. It describes all available treatments, and, where available, the highest level of evidence for their safety and effectiveness. The evidence for each treatment is followed by the author's interpretations, and the implica-



tions of the evidence in the care of stroke patients. This is therefore an essential resource for clinicians, translating into practice advances that have been made in the treatment and prevention of stroke, and suggesting the most appropriate

interventions. For further details of this and other Cambridge University Press stroke books, go to www.cambridge.org/neurology or Tel. 01223 326016.

International Journal of Stroke

Blackwell Publishing is pleased to announce the launch of the International Journal of Stroke, a new journal in partnership with the International Stroke Society, edited by Geoffrey Donnan.

The first issue of the journal will cover: Prognosis and Management in the First Few Days After a TIA or Minor Ischaemic Stroke; Acupuncture for Stroke in China: Needing More High-Quality Evidence; Ultrasound Enhanced Thrombolysis for Stroke; Carotid Angioplasty and Stent Placement for Treatment of Carotid Stenosis: Past, Present, and Future; Intracerebral Hemorrhage:

Effective Therapy at Last?

If you would like to receive the first issue for free in November 2005, email kate.brothwell@oxon.blackwellpublishing.com or join the launch of the journal on Thursday 10th November at the Blackwell Publishing stand at the World Congress of Neurology.

Subscribe now - Members of the International Stroke Society will receive the journal as part of their membership. For more information, please visit www.internationalstroke.org



Carl Zeiss continues to dominate Microscopy Awards

For the fourth year in a row a Carl Zeiss Microscopy product is a winner of the coveted R&D 100 Award, which recognises the excellence and innovation of the 100 most important technical products launched worldwide. The award was presented to the Zeiss LSM 5 LIVE, the world's fastest confocal



imaging system that features a new optical design specially developed for real time examination of fast processes in living specimens.

The judges were impressed by the new instrument's unique combination of scanning speed, image quality and sensitivity. Collecting up to 1,010 confocal images per second, the LSM 5 LIVE allows scientists for the first time to capture dynamic processes in living specimens with a time resolution down to one millisecond. The precise optics, cre-

ative beam splitter design and innovative beam delivery opens a new time window in confocal fluorescence microscopy.

"This latest award confirms the innovation strategy that drives new product development and provides our customers with tools that enable them to perform their tasks more quickly, efficiently and successfully," says Aubrey Lambert, Carl Zeiss UK.

For more information Tel. 01707 871233.

Early treatment demonstrates impressive protection against disease progression in newly emerging MS

Individuals who have reported a first clinical attack suggestive of multiple sclerosis (MS) double their chances of not progressing to develop MS if they start early treatment with Betaferon® 250mcg (interferon beta-1b) rather than placebo, suggest results of the multinational BENEFIT* trial unveiled recently at the jointECTRIMS/ACTRIMS Congress.

Left untreated, about half of the people who experienced a first clinical attack suggestive of MS developed MS within the first six months, as defined by the McDonald criteria. Additionally 85% went on to be diagnosed with CDMS within two years.¹

"The BENEFIT results with Betaferon show a very pronounced and statistically robust effect on the development of MS for people who are at risk," said Ludwig Kappos, Professor of Neurology and Clinical Neuroimmunology at the University of Basel, Switzerland and lead investigator of the BENEFIT study. "The BENEFIT study was rigorously controlled and will support doctors making early treatment decisions with a high-dose, high-frequency therapy after a single clinical event. These data further support the opinion that the earlier you treat with an effective therapy, the better the outcome."

For more information Email nlim@schering.co.uk or Tel. 01444 465717.

* Betaferon®/Betaseron® in Newly Emerging MS For Initial Treatment Reference

1. L Kappos. *Betaferon® in Newly Emerging Multiple Sclerosis for Initial Treatment (BENEFIT): clinical results.* Presented atECTRIMS/ACTRIMS 2005.