

Association of British Neurologists Annual Meeting 2015 – Harrogate 20-22nd May



In the 17th and 18th centuries Harrogate was famous as a spa town providing visitors with waters and relaxation to boost their health. In the 21st century, well 2015 in particular, it provides the setting to allow you to reinvigorate your neurological knowledge and enjoy neurological camaraderie at the ABN Annual Meeting.

It always seems invidious to pick out highlights for these meetings when we have such a varied and interesting programme – even more so as often some of the most memorable moments come from the scientific papers or from the always thought provoking and informative case competition which are still in the process of being submitted.

This year the teaching and science sessions are not focused on specific disorders or symptoms but interlinked themes. We have a session on channelopathies which involve every level of the nervous system, with talks from Dimitri Kullmann, Belinda Lennox and Nicholas Davies, a 'Clinician's guide to emerging diagnostic investigations' with talks on biomarkers, genetics and imaging from Jonathan Rohrer, Simon Hammans and James Rowe. Neurology overlaps with other specialties, particularly Neurosurgery and Psychiatry, and we are running a session on 'Neurosurgery for Neurologists' with talks on tumours, cervical surgery and normal pressure hydrocephalus by Caroline Hayhurst, William Taylor and Richard

Edwards. 'The psychiatric borderlands of neurology' considers the acutely agitated patient, the autistic spectrum and psychosis with talks from Killian Welch, Jeremy Parr and Eileen Joyce. We are running the popular update session again, dealing with MS, CIDP and vasculitis and myasthenia this time round. We are introducing a new session on 'How I would approach a patient with...' where we will hear from Nick Fox on '...cognitive impairment below age 60' and Rob Hadden on '...generalised sensorimotor neuropathy'.

Last year we had case based sessions run by special interest groups. The feedback for these was positive so we have expanded the sessions dedicated to these groups, to allow attendees to sample more. One cannot but highlight our Plenary speakers whose talks are eagerly anticipated. We are delighted that the Gordon Holmes Lecture is being given by Tony Lang who has contributed so much to the scientific and clinical study of movement disorders. Jeremy Farrar, neurologist and the Director of the Wellcome Trust, has recently returned from Vietnam and will tell us about 'World Health and the Neurologist'. The movement disorder theme will be picked up again by the 2015 ABN Medallist, Andrew Lees. Phil Smith is taking over as President – I very much look forward to his Presidential Address.

On the day before the meeting we are running an 'Introduction to Neurology' session for

Foundation doctors who are interested in Neurology – are there any Foundation doctors who might be interested? If so please contact the office. The ABNT are running the traditionally very successful Trainee Meeting while Huw Morris has organised an interesting Research meeting on Tuesday evening that draws heavily on personal experience to highlight research advice. Alastair Compston will be talking about Translational neurology in action – CAMPATH, David Burn will be discussing how to run a multicentre study and Jon Rohrer will be telling us what he learnt from his PhD. Members who get to Harrogate on Tuesday evening are welcome to come to this session. In addition, there is a 'Need to Know Neurology' Session for GPs too. So, the Harrogate meeting provides much to look forward to – even if you disregard the dinner and after dinner entertainment (which I hope you won't) – and the opportunities to catch up with friends and colleagues. I look forward to seeing you there.

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Association of British Neurologists.
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Wednesday 20 May	
0800	ABNT Forum
0900	Opening and Welcome: President, President Elect
0915	Teaching/Science session 1 – Topic: Neurosurgery for neurologists Speaker(s): 1. Richard Edwards, Bristol Normal pressure hydrocephalus 2. Caroline Hayhurst, Cardiff Tumour management 3. William Taylor, Glasgow When I would operate on my own neck
1045	Coffee & Exhibition
1115	Parallel session 1: Topic: Audit /quality assurance
	Parallel session 2: Topic: Clinical Phenomenology
1230	Lunch & Exhibition
	Novartis Sponsored Symposium 3 years on: The real world experience with Gilenya, a disease modifying therapy for Multiple Sclerosis
	Medtronic Sponsored Symposium Advanced therapies at an earlier stage: The window of opportunity in Parkinson's disease
1400	Gordon Holmes Lecture supported by the Guarantors of Brain – Speaker: Anthony E Lang, Toronto, Canada
1445	Teaching/Science session 2 Topic: A clinician's guide to emerging diagnostic investigations Speaker(s): 1. Jonathan Rohrer, London Presymptomatic biomarkers in neurodegenerative disease 2. Simon Hammans, Southampton A genetic cause? What test should I request? 3. James Rowe, Cambridge Imaging in neurodegeneration: Here, now & in the future
1615	Coffee and Exhibition
1645	Jeremy Farrar, Director of the Wellcome Trust: World health and the neurologist
1745	Parallel session 3: Topic: Commissioning Neurology Services Chair: Ralph Gregory , ABN, Chair Services & Standards Committee Speakers: 1. David Bateman , NCD Adult Neurology Conditions 2. James Seward , PHE: The Neurology Intelligence Network. What can it do for you? 3. Zam Cader , SCN Lead Thames Valley: Headache: Developing new models of care 4. Chris Kipps , SCN Lead Wessex: A year in the life of Wessex SCN
	Parallel session 4: Topic: Disease Pathophysiology
1900	Drinks reception – ABNT Dinner

Thursday 21 May				
0715	SIG 1: Neuro-ophthalmology Chair: Gordon Plant Case-based discussion	SIG 2: Myology Chair: Mike Hanna Case-based discussion	SIG 3: British Neuro-Toxin Network Chair: Marie-Helen Marion Case-based discussion	SIG 4: Neuro Rehabilitation Chair: Richard Greenwood Case-based discussion
0830	Teaching/Science session 3 Topic: Channelopathies: An open and shut case? Speaker(s): 1. Dimitri Kullman, London Ion channels for the neurologist 2. Belinda Lennox, Oxford Psychiatric channelopathies 3. Nicholas Davies, Birmingham Neuromuscular channelopathies			
1000	Coffee & Exhibition			
1030	Parallel session 5: Scientific: Platform presentation Topic: Diagnostics		Parallel session 6: Scientific: Platform presentation Topic: Therapeutics	
1200	Lunch & Exhibition			
	Eisai Sponsored Symposium A new insight into diagnosis and management of generalised epilepsy		Biogen Idec Sponsored Symposium Debate 'Should all MS patients be treated in MS specialist care centres'	
1330	Poster session with discussants			
1430	ABN Medallist Lecture Speaker: Andrew Lees, London Citation: William Gibb			
1515	Coffee and Exhibition			
1545	AGM			
1700	SIG 6: Epilepsy Chair: Khalid Hamandi Video session	SIG 7: Peripheral Nerve Chair: Robert Hadden Case-based discussion	SIG 8: Cognition Chair: Chris Butler / Boyd Ghosh Case-based discussion	SIG 9: Neurological Infection Chair: Tom Solomon Case-based discussion
1800				
1900	Gala Dinner – Majestic Hotel			

Friday 22 May					
0730	SIG 10: Movement Disorders Chair: Paul Worth Case-based discussion	SIG 11: Myasthenia Gravis Chair: Marguerite Hill Case-based discussion	SIG 12: Autonomic Chair: Gordon Ingle Case-based discussion	SIG 13: TBI Chair: Colette Griffin Case-based discussion	SIG 14: Neurocritical Care Chair: Maxwell Damian Case-based discussion
0900	Case presentation competition				
1010	ABN President's Lecture Speaker: Phil Smith				
1055	Coffee and Exhibition				
1125	Teaching/Science session 4 Topic: The psychiatric borderlands of neurology Speaker(s): 1. Killian Welch, Edinburgh The acutely agitated patient 2. Jeremy Parr, Newcastle Autism spectrum disorder for the neurologist 3. Eileen Joyce, London Psychosis: what to know				
1250	Lunch and Exhibition				
	6 top posters		Genzyme Sponsored Symposium This house believes that the risk of MS outweighs the risk of treatment		
1415	How I would approach the patient with.... Speakers: 1. Nicholas Fox, London Cognitive impairment below age 60 2. Robert Hadden, London Generalised sensorimotor neuropathy				
1500	Teaching/Science session 5 Topic: Which drugs and in what order? Speaker(s): 1. Neil Scolding, Bristol MS disease modifying treatments 2. Michael Lunn, London Vasculitis / CIDP 3. Jon Sussman, Manchester Myasthenia Gravis				
1630	Prize Presentations and Close				