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 telling us about ‘World Health and the Neurologist’. The movement disorder theme will be picked up again by the 2015 ABN Medalist, 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.

Geraint Fuller, President, Association of British Neurologists. Correspondence to E: info@theabn.org, T: 020 7405 4060.

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<td><strong>0800</strong> ABNT Forum Opening and Welcome: President, President Elect</td>
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| **0900** Teaching/Science session 1 – Topic: Neurosurgery for neurologists  
Speaker(s): 1. Richard Edwards, Bristol  
2. Caroline Hayhurst, Cardiff  
3. William Taylor, Glasgow  
When I would operate on my own neck | |
| **0915** 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  
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

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| 0715  | SIG 1: Neuro-ophthalmology  
Chair: Gordon Plant  
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 |
| 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 Medalist Lecture  
Speaker: Andrew Lees, London  
Citation: William Gibb |
| 1515  | Coffee and Exhibition |
| 1700  | SIG 6: Epilepsy  
Chair: Khalid Hamandi  
Video session |
| 1800  | Gala Dinner – Majestic Hotel |

### Friday 22 May

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| 0730  | SIG 10: Movement Disorders  
Chair: Paul Worth  
Case-based discussion |
| 0900  | Case presentation competition |
| 1010  | ABN President’s Lecture  
Speaker: Phil Smith |
| 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  
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  
Vasculitis / CIDP  
3. Jon Sussman, Manchester  
Myasthenia Gravis |
| 1630  | Prize Presentations and Close |