ABN Trainees’ Preview of the Birmingham 2018 ABN Meeting

Ever since the Midlands enlightenment and subsequent Industrial revolution in the 18th century, Birmingham has been at the forefront of worldwide advances in science, technology, industry and economic development. Home of many inventions, including the steam engine and Xrays, Birmingham has become a large and diverse metropolis, earning the title of “the first manufacturing town in the world” as early as 1791. Inspired by the industrious past and present of the city, the ABN returns to Birmingham’s ICC, winner of the 2017 UK Best Conference Venue, for its 2018 ABN Annual Meeting with an innovative programme.

We start on the 8th of May with the ABN Trainees’ Day which has been established as a major teaching and meeting day for neurology trainees across the UK. This year, we will address the topics that neurology trainees described as most difficult, starting with Referrals and Triage; four small group sessions will teach us how to better respond to A&E, ward and ITU referrals. We continue with a review of Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension by local expert Dr Alex Sinclair and a masterclass on How to approach the unconscious patient by Dr Robin Howard, an expert in neurocritical care. The day will finish with the Clinical skills laboratory: Keeping out of trouble with the clinical and managerial confessions of Prof Adrian Williams, chair of the National Neurological Advisory Group.

In parallel with the SpR session, medical students, foundation doctors and core medical trainees interested in neurology will have the opportunity to attend an excellent series of talks and case studies chaired by Chinia Osman, regional ABN Trainee representative. There will be insight into what neurologists do and where we fit in the wider neuro family, case studies on acute neurology, stroke and from the outpatient clinic as well as plenty of advice on how to pursue a career in neurology - encourage your junior colleagues to come along!

The pre-meeting day will finish with an evening

Restaurant dinner at a local eatery and talk about Parkinson’s disease. The Parkinson’s Academy is working with Dr Frank Phelan, the 2017 MasterClass Project Award winner, to turn his video guide to diagnosis project into an interactive tool for clinicians. The MasterClass project is an integral part of the Parkinson’s MasterClass which attendees undertake on a subject of interest within their own work setting. Frank decided to use his MasterClass project as an opportunity to create a resource which gives a description of the core features of Parkinson’s disease and all of its mimics side by side, all supported by video clips demonstrating particular features. Not only is this an aid for the diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease, but also helps with the subtle differentiation between the other possible mimics such as multisystem atrophy, progressive supranuclear palsy, dementia with Lewy bodies, corticobasilar degeneration and essential tremor.

Putting together a library of video clips was no mean feat, and Frank found it quite a challenge to source videos with the necessary permissions (from both the publishers and patients). However, Dr Neil Archibald has kindly volunteered his own video material and now the plans to take Frank’s project to the next stage are going ahead. The Parkinson’s Academy team is working on developing the video guide to diagnosis into a user friendly interactive tool, which clinicians can easily explore.

Read more about Frank Phelan's video guide to diagnosis project at http://bit.ly/2DxWbLa
See http://parkinsonsacademy.co for more information about the Parkinson’s Academy.