

Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch Research Interest Group

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
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Newsletter December 2016 Issue No. 14

View from the Chair The past few months have seen a lot of activity, with the 2016 Edinburgh Parkinson's lecture in October, given by the amazing Bas Bloem from the Netherlands, and an in-house review by our Branch delegates of the 2016 World Parkinson Congress, which took place in Portland, Oregon at the end of September. There is a host of material relating to both events to be found on our website and I encourage you to take a look for yourself. Also please note the forthcoming talk by Dr Alison Green on a really exciting development in the diagnosis of PD.

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The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2016

The speaker at the 2016 Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture, given on **11th October, 2016**, was Professor Bastiaan Bloem, co-founder of ParkinsonNet, the innovative vehicle for delivery of integrated patient care in the Netherlands. It took place in the *Chancellor's Lecture Theatre at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary*. The lecture was entitled **The Future of Parkinson Care**. A summary is available on our web site and a DVD of the lecture may be obtained at Branch meetings or purchased by mail order *at the modest cost of £5.00* to cover postage, packing and distribution. If you wish to order by post, please send your address details together with a cheque for £5 per copy, made payable to "Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch" to Ken Bowler, 21 Dalkeith Street, Edinburgh EH15 2HP

Review of WPC 2016

Just over 60 people took part in a review by our Branch delegates, at Bellevue Chapel, Edinburgh, on Saturday 26th November, of WPC 2016 held in Portland, Oregon in September. In addition there was a contributed session from Dr Tilo Kunath of the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, on some of the more technical topics. You can find the speakers' slides and videos of all the sessions on our website.

ERIG Talk by Dr Alison Green

Dr Alison Green, Reader at the National Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease Research and Surveillance Unit in the University of Edinburgh, has kindly agreed to give a talk on her recent work on development of a biomarker for Parkinson's, entitled **A potential new diagnostic test for Parkinson's disease: real-time QuiC of alpha-synuclein**. A sandwich lunch will be provided after the talk for those attendees who so indicate when registering for the event.

Venue: Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine, 5 Little France Drive
Edinburgh EH16 4UU

Time and date: 10.30 – 13.30, Saturday 14 January 2017

Registration: through Eventbrite or contact Ken Bowler

	<p>ERIG talk by Dr Esther Sammler</p>
	<p>Dr Esther Sammler completed her PhD in Professor Dario Alessi’s laboratory at the MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit as a fellow of the Wellcome Trust Clinical PhD programme at the University of Dundee. She has recently been appointed to a SCREDS (Scottish Clinical Research Excellence Development Scheme) lectureship position, and will be our next speaker at ERIG. She also holds a clinical position in neurology in the Dundee School of Medicine.</p> <p>The date and title of her talk are still to be finalised – please keep your eye on our website for further details.</p>
<p>Research News</p> <div data-bbox="159 745 424 1066" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Diabetes drug slows experimental Parkinson’s disease progression, human trials to begin next year</p> </div>	<p>Diabetes drug in the frame for repurposing</p> <p>“A new investigational drug, MSDC-0160, originally developed for type 2 diabetes is being readied for human clinical trials in search of the world’s first treatment to impede the progression of Parkinson’s disease following publication of research findings in the journal <i>Science Translational Medicine</i>. Until now, Parkinson’s treatments have focused on symptom management. If successful in human trials, MSDC-0160 would be the world’s first therapy to treat the underlying disease and slow its progression — potentially improving quality of life and preventing the occurrence of falls and cognitive decline. It may also reduce or delay the need for medications that can have debilitating side effects”, says Professor Patrik Brundin.</p> <p>MSDC-0160 was developed by Kalamazoo, Michigan-based Metabolic Solutions Development Company (MSDC) to treat type 2 diabetes. In 2012, Brundin recognized it as an exciting drug candidate because of its mode of action, proven safety in people, local availability and the start-up company’s interest in collaborating on drug repurposing initiatives.</p> <p>Journal Reference:</p> <p>Anamitra Ghosh et al. <i>Mitochondrial pyruvate carrier regulates autophagy, inflammation, and neurodegeneration in experimental models of Parkinson’s disease</i>. Science Translational Medicine, December 2016 DOI: 10.1126/scitranslmed.aag2210</p>
<p>Web site</p> <p>The Edinburgh Branch web site is at www.edinburghparkinsons.org and the Research Interest Group page is www.edinburghparkinsons.org/research-interest-group/</p> <p>Any queries should be directed to the Editor and Chair of the Research Interest Group, Ken Bowler by email to ken@edinburghparkinsons.org</p> <div data-bbox="300 1850 1364 1946" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Parkinson’s UK is the operating name of the Parkinson’s Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A charity registered in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC037554).</p> </div>	