

Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch Research Interest Group

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
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Newsletter March 2012 Issue No. 2

View from the Chair

Welcome to the second issue. The last three months have seen two successful meetings of the Group - a discussion on *Nutrition*, held in December, led by Sheila Edward, and a *Medication Workshop* led by Alison Stewart, Senior Parkinson's Nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital, and Alison Thomson, Senior Clinical Pharmacist in the Department of Neurosciences at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. The latter attracted over 80 participants and was ably organised by Marian McIntyre, Leo Hislop and Liz McBain, to whom go our sincere thanks. It clearly struck a chord with members' needs and provided ideas for future events.

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The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2012

The eminent Cambridge neuroscientist, Professor Roger Barker, will give an evening public lecture on Tuesday 8 May 2012 in Edinburgh entitled

How close are we to solving the problem of what goes wrong in Parkinson's Disease?

Tickets for the lecture are available through the ERIG web page, where further details of the talk and schedule may be found. The venue will be The Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh. Although this is an Edinburgh Branch initiative, participation and attendance by anyone with an interest is welcomed.

http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org/branch_news.php

Talk by Dr Anton Gartner

Dr Anton Gartner from the Wellcome Trust Centre for Gene Regulation and Expression at the University of Dundee will give a talk entitled

Exploiting and Exploring simple non-vertebrate animal models for Parkinson's research, what do we learn?

on Saturday, 24 March 2012, 10:30-12:30, at the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, SCRM Building, 5 Little France Drive, Edinburgh EH16 4UU

For more detailed information, see the ERIG website. As usual, please notify Ken Bowler (ken.bowler@talk21.com) in advance if you plan to attend.

<p>Research News:</p> <p>"This is the first time that human dopamine neurons have ever been generated from Parkinson's disease patients with parkin mutations".</p>	<p>Genetic Parkinson's brain cells made in lab</p>
	<p>Scientists in the US have successfully made human brain cells in the lab that are an exact replica of genetically caused Parkinson's disease. A news item dated 8 February 2012 on the BBC website quotes Dr Jian Feng who led the investigations: "This is the first time that human dopamine neurons have ever been generated from Parkinson's disease patients with parkin mutations". Further information may be obtained by consulting the journal Nature Communications, volume 3, article 668.</p>
	<p>Stem cells transformed into brain cells</p>
	<p>New York researchers led by Dr Lorenz Studer have reported in the journal <i>Nature</i> on recent work on transforming stem cells into brain cells in an animal model. To read a report in the Guardian dated 6th November, 2011 go to http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2011/nov/06/stem-cells-brain-parkinsons-disease?newsfeed=true For those interested in more technical details, the abstract of the <i>Nature</i> article may be found by going to http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature10648.html</p>
	<p>Parkinson's disease stopped in animal model</p>
	<p>UCLA professor of neurology Jeff Bronstein and UCLA associate professor of neurology Gal Bitan, along with their colleagues, report the development of a novel compound known as a "molecular tweezer," which in a living animal model blocked α-synuclein aggregates from forming, stopped the aggregates' toxicity and, further, reversed aggregates in the brain that had already formed. And the tweezers accomplished this without interfering with normal brain function. The research appears in the current online edition of the journal <i>Neurotherapeutics</i> at http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/parkinson-s-disease-stopped-in-229436.aspx</p>
<p>Branch funds researcher Dr Tilo Kunath</p>	
<p>At the Branch AGM on 14th March, 2012, the Chairman, Patrick Mark, announced that the Branch had recently made a gift of £110,000 to support the work of Dr Tilo Kunath at the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine in Edinburgh. The money will contribute towards a Parkinson's UK Research Grant that Dr Kunath holds for his renowned work on stem cells.</p>	
<p>Web site</p> <p>The Edinburgh Branch web site is at http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org and the Research Interest Group page is http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org/branch_news.php</p> <p>Any queries should be directed to the Editor and Chair of the Research Interest Group, Ken Bowler by email to ken.bowler@talk21.com</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <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>	