

Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch Research Interest Group

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
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Newsletter March 2016 Issue No. 13



View from the Chair

You may have seen some of the extensive news coverage recently of *"the woman who can smell Parkinson's"*, reporting on research which involved Edinburgh Branch members as subjects in a project run by our local hero Dr Tilo Kunath. If not, go to [BBC News](#). The good news is that Parkinson's UK are funding a follow-on project led by an expert on mass spectrometry, Professor Perdita Barran of Manchester University, and involving Tilo and researchers from London. Watch this space!

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The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2016

The speaker at the 2016 Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture, to be given on **11th October, 2016**, will be Professor Bastiaan Bloem, co-founder of ParkinsonNet, the innovative vehicle for delivery of integrated patient care in the Netherlands. Our usual venue, the Royal College of Physicians, is undergoing extensive refurbishment and will not be available, and so the lecture will take place in the **Chancellor's Lecture Theatre at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary**. Further details in due course.

WPC Scientific Update 2015

We held a meeting of ERIG on **Wednesday 21st October 2015**, at **Bellevue Chapel** to screen extracts from the 2015 WPC Update and discuss the implications. Our focus was on **Sessions 3 and 4** of the Update. We saw presentations from Tom Foltynie, Ray Chaudhuri, Giselle Petzinger and Gammon Earhart, all of which were patient-oriented. You can find a summary on our web page.

Talks by Dr Maria Doitsidou & Ratko Radakovic

On **Saturday, 7th November 2015**, Dr Maria Doitsidou, Chancellor's Fellow in the Centre for Integrative Physiology at the University of Edinburgh, gave an excellent talk entitled

*A **C. elegans** model of dopaminergic neuron development and degeneration: What can a tiny nematode teach us about human disease?* at the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine (**SCRM**).

On **Saturday 13th February 2016** at the same venue, Ratko Radakovic, also from the University of Edinburgh, gave a talk on his work on Apathy. His presentation was entitled:

Apathy and persons living with Parkinson's disease: a multidimensional conceptualisation and approach

Both presentations are available via our web page.

<p>Date and Time</p> <p>7th May 2016</p> <p>10.00-16.00</p> <p>(Registration from 9.30)</p> <p>Location</p> <p>The Gillis Centre</p> <p>100 Strathearn Road</p> <p>Edinburgh</p> <p>EH9 1BB</p>	<p>Parkinson's: Let's Get Moving</p> <p>This one-day event is aimed at everyone affected by and involved with Parkinson's. It includes presentations by Professor Lynn Rochester, Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University and Julie Jones, Senior Lecturer in Physiotherapy, Robert Gordon University, to help us understand the research background underpinning the benefits of exercise. These will be followed by professionally-led taster sessions for people with Parkinson's (at various levels of disease progression) to experience a range of physical activities designed to help with mobility, muscle strengthening, general fitness, voice health and feelings of well-being. The day will also be relevant to the medical and fitness professions with an interest in improving facilities available to the Parkinson's community. You can download a provisional version of the programme from our website. Tickets for the event go on sale on Eventbrite on 16th March at a cost of £7.50 each, which covers admission and light refreshments. You are strongly encouraged to use this on-line method to buy your tickets. Alternatively you can complete the application form on the event flyer, also available through our website, and return it to:</p> <p>PLGM c/o Ken Bowler, 21 Dalkeith Street, Edinburgh EH15 2HP</p> <p>together with a cheque for £7.50 per ticket, made payable to Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch.</p>
<p>Research News</p> <p>.... dyskinesia arises when striatonigral neurons become less responsive to GABA, an inhibitory neurotransmitter.</p>	<p>Most studies into the cause of dyskinesia in Parkinson's have focused on the dopamine receptors that remain in the brain, which over time become over-reactive to L-DOPA therapy. Using a new method for manipulating neurons in a mouse model of Parkinson's, a Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) research team found that dyskinesia arises when striatonigral neurons become less responsive to GABA, an inhibitory neurotransmitter. This suggests that it may be possible to modulate the activity of these neurons to prevent or delay this disabling side effect. The paper was published recently in the online edition of <i>Neuron</i>.</p> <p>Journal Reference: Anders Borgkvist, Elizabeth M. Avegno, Minerva Y. Wong, Mazen A. Kheirbek, Mark S. Sonders, Rene Hen, David Sulzer. <i>Loss of Striatonigral GABAergic Presynaptic Inhibition Enables Motor Sensitization in Parkinsonian Mice</i>. Neuron, 2015; 87 (5): 976 DOI: 10.1016/j.neuron.2015.08.022</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 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>	