

Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch Research Interest Group

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
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Newsletter August 2012 Issue No. 3

View from the Chair

Welcome to the third issue in which we highlight on our most ambitious event to date – the Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture, given by Professor Roger Barker on 8th May at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and entitled “**How close are we to solving the problem of what goes wrong in Parkinson's?**” By comment consent, the evening was a runaway success. The audio files of the lecture can be downloaded from our website, together with the overheads from Professor Barker's presentation . http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org/branch_news.php

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The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2012



A collage of pictures of the event, taken by Dougie Barnett Photography

Next Meeting

The next meeting will have as its subject the planning of the programme for the Group for the coming year. There will also be a short talk by Gill Baer and Jane Hislop of Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, entitled:

Parkinson's Disease and Exercise – an Outline of proposed Queen Margaret University physiotherapy student research projects

on Saturday, 22 September 2012, 10:30-12:30, at the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, SCRUM Building, 5 Little France Drive, Edinburgh EH16 4UU. For more detailed information, see the ERIG website. As usual, please notify Ken Bowler (ken@edinburghparkinsons.org) in advance if you plan to attend.

Research News:

Volunteers are needed to contribute to a vast voice bank...

Can voice algorithms spot Parkinson's?

Mathematician Max Little has come up with a non-invasive, cheap test which he hopes will offer a quick new way to identify Parkinson's. Now he is looking for volunteers to contribute to a vast voice bank to help the database to learn even more. He is aiming to record up to 10,000 voices and has set up local numbers in 10 countries around the world. In the UK the number is 01865 521168. **Anyone can call** and they need to state whether or not they have been diagnosed with Parkinson's.

There is also a website <http://www.parkinsonsvoice.org/> where people can find out more about the project.

Single drug to treat range of brain diseases?

On May 6th, the BBC reported on the tantalising prospect of treating a range of brain diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, all with the same drug. This prospect has been raised by researchers at Leicester University. In a study, published in Nature, they prevented brain cells dying in mice with prion disease. For more details and background go to the Parkinson's UK site web

http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/about_us/news/news_items/all_news/breakthrough_towards_new_drugs.aspx or to the journal Nature at <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v485/n7399/full/nature11058.html>

Antihistamine drug shows promise

New research suggests that latrepirdine, a drug used in Russia as an antihistamine, may have exciting potential for treating [Parkinson's](#). These early findings need further investigation but could ultimately lead to trials of latrepirdine in people with Parkinson's.

The study, published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry last week, was carried out by a team at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. The study suggests that latrepirdine can reduce levels of alpha-synuclein – a protein thought to be involved in nerve cell death in Parkinson's. See <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22869031> for details.

Web site

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

Any queries should be directed to the Editor and Chair of the Research Interest Group, [Ken Bowler](#) by email to ken@edinburghparkinsons.org

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).