

# Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch Research Interest Group

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
CHANGE ATTITUDES.  
FIND A CURE.  
JOIN US.

Newsletter November 2012 Issue No. 4

## View from the Chair

We hope to make the Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture an annual event, and in this issue we announce details of the 2013 lecture. The most recent ERIG meeting enjoyed a talk by physiotherapists Gill Baer and Jane Hislop of Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, on the subject of Parkinson's disease and exercise. They proposed student research projects involving Branch members and we hope that this will lead to an exciting joint programme of research.

<p><b>In this issue:</b></p> <p>Ray Chaudhuri Lecture</p> <p>Next meeting</p> <p>Research News</p>	<h3>The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2013</h3> <p>Following the success of the 2012 lecture, we are pleased to announce the 2013 lecture. Professor K Ray Chaudhuri of King's College Hospital, London has kindly agreed to give an evening public lecture on Thursday 25th April 2013 at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, entitled</p> <p><b>Non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's: Important yet often neglected. Why?</b></p> <p>Professor Chaudhuri is Clinical Director of the National Parkinson Foundation International Centre of Excellence, Kings College London, Director of Kings Neuroscience Research and Development and Director of DeNDroN, London South and Kent.</p> <h3>Next Meeting</h3> <p>Dr Miratul Muqit from the University of Dundee has kindly agreed to come to our next meeting on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 10:30-12:30, to give a talk entitled:</p> <p><i>Genetic Parkinson's: Studying the few to treat the many</i></p> <p>As usual, the venue is 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@edinburghparkinsons.org) in advance if you plan to attend.</p>
<p><b>Research News:</b></p>	<h3>A New Initiative for the Parkinson's Community</h3> <p>A new wiki has been started for all those interested in scientific research into Parkinson's. It is a 'Learning Project' within Wikiversity, a sister project to the highly regarded Wikipedia. A wiki is a website which allows its users to add and modify its content via a web browser. This new wiki is called <b>The Science Behind Parkinson's Disease</b> and everyone throughout the world, particularly those affected by Parkinson's, is invited to participate as a reader or a contributor.</p>

This wiki is an entirely volunteer-run initiative and is open to anyone to participate by editing and contributing material.

People affected by Parkinson's want to know what the prospects are for better treatments and a cure. There is an increasing amount of research going on but it is a difficult and time-consuming job to follow this and to understand the significance of the various developments. For the lay person, understanding the science is a big hurdle. But a lot of people around the world want to do this and many are trying to do this in their own individual ways. This wiki has been set up to share the results of often painstaking investigations and explain to others in straightforward terms what has been learnt. The idea is to build a framework to make sense of the concepts, ideas and discoveries about what Parkinson's is, how it affects the nervous system and how it might be confronted. Above all we can explain new discoveries and their significance in terms that are clear and understandable. Go to [http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Portal:The\\_Science\\_Behind\\_Parkinson%27s](http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Portal:The_Science_Behind_Parkinson%27s) to have a look at what has been produced so far.

## Researchers Closer to Early Detection

In collaboration with colleagues at Oxford, a team of researchers at Umeå University in Sweden has now further elaborated its discovery of a way to detect Parkinson's disease at an early stage, and applications in clinical care are not far away. With the newly developed method – this involves electrochemical analysis of 10 microlitres of blood in just a few minutes – it is possible not only to see a clear difference between individuals with incipient Parkinson's disease and healthy controls but also to measure and establish the advance of the disease with great precision.

**Reference:** T Bryan, X Luo, L Forsgren, L Morozova-Roche and JJ Davis. The robust electrochemical detection of a Parkinson's disease marker in whole blood sera  
Chemical Science, DOI: 10.1039/c2sc21221h

## Mechanism Underlying Parkinson's Identified

Researchers in the Taub Institute at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) have identified a mechanism that appears to underlie the common sporadic (non-familial) form of Parkinson's disease. The discovery highlights potential new therapeutic targets for Parkinson's and could lead to a blood test for the disease. The study, based mainly on analysis of human brain tissue, was published September 25th in the online edition of Nature Communications. See <http://www.nature.com/ncomms/journal/v3/n9/full/ncomms2032.html>

## 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](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](mailto: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).