

# Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch Research Interest Group

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
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Newsletter December 2011 Issue No. 1

## Objectives

The Group held its inaugural meeting on 2 July, 2011. The Objectives of the Research Interest Group were agreed to be:

1. To provide opportunities for members with an interest in Parkinson's research to meet, communicate, work together and generally further the cause of research.
2. To encourage and develop all members' interest in research.

### In this issue:

Medication Workshop

Roger Barker Lecture

Research News

Web Site.

## Medication Workshop

A medication workshop is being planned for Wednesday 22 February, 2012, at the Eric Liddell Centre, 15 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DP.

Discussions will be 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 organisers are [Marian McIntyre](#), [Leo Hislop](#) and [Liz McBain](#), to whom enquiries should be directed. The flyer for the meeting is available at

[http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org/files/Seminar on Medication.pdf](http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org/files/Seminar_on_Medication.pdf)

## The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2012

We are pleased to announce that the eminent Cambridge neuroscientist, Dr Roger Barker, has accepted a joint invitation from the Edinburgh Branch and the Lothian Parkinson's Services Advisory Group to give an evening public lecture on Tuesday 8 May 2012 in Edinburgh on research breakthroughs in Parkinson's Disease and its treatment.

Tickets for the lecture will be available in the New Year, together with further details of the talk and schedule. The venue will be The Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Although this is an Edinburgh Branch initiative, participation and attendance by any Parkinson's UK member is welcomed. For further details, visit the Edinburgh Branch website at

<http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org>

## Research News:

“For the first time Parkinson's UK-funded scientists have grown new nerve cells from a person with one of the most rapidly progressing inherited forms of Parkinson's.”

### Stem Cell Breakthrough

For the first time Parkinson's UK-funded scientists have grown new nerve cells from a person with one of the most rapidly progressing inherited forms of Parkinson's. This research, led by the University of Edinburgh in collaboration with UCL (University College London), has been published in the journal *Nature Communications*: see

<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/journal/v2/n8/full/ncomms1453.html>

Lead researcher Dr Tilo Kunath works in the Institute for Stem Cell Research at the University of Edinburgh. You can hear him in discussion with Mary Warnock on a recent BBC World Service programme 'The Forum' at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00jnf02#p00k1ym1> or listen to an extract from the programme at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00k1ylz>

### Stem cells transformed into brain cells

New York researchers led by Dr Lorenz Studer have reported in the journal *Nature* 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 *Nature* article may be found by going to <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature10648.html>

### Anne Rowling Clinic, Edinburgh

Building work has begun on the new Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic. The clinic will be an addition to the front of Chancellor's Building at Little France and is due to be completed in mid 2012. The clinic will focus on patient-based studies to help find treatments that could slow the progression of Multiple Sclerosis and other progressive, incurable diseases such as Motor Neurone Disease, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease. It was established in 2010 following a £10M donation from JK Rowling and is named in memory of Ms Rowling's mother, who died from MS at the age of 45.

## 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.bowler@talk21.com](mailto:ken.bowler@talk21.com)

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).