

QUEEN SQUARE NEWS

ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Martin Brown has been appointed to the newly established Chair of Stroke Medicine. Professor Brown and colleagues from the National Hospital have been elaborating an ambitious project to establish an Acute Brain Injury Unit that will carry out important clinical research into the effects of head injury and cerebrovascular disease. The twin themes of this research programme will be the acute salvage of threatened or damaged nervous tissue and the restoration of neurological function. This programme has been led from UCLH Trust and constitutes an excellent example of the reinforced relationship between academia and the NHS on the Queen Square site.

The epilepsy service has been strengthened by a number of new appointments including **Professor Ley Sander** to the new National Society of Epilepsy Chair of Epilepsy and **Dr. Mathias Koepp** and **Dr. Sanjay Sisodiya**, to clinical Senior Lectureships in Epilepsy.

The Institute has launched new initiatives in medical neuro-oncology with the appointment of **Dr. Jeremy Rees**, in headache with the appointment of **Dr. Holger Kaube** and in neuro-immunology with the appointment of **Dr. Gavin Giovannoni** to Clinical Senior Lectureships. **Dr. Diane Playford** and **Mr. Lawrence Watkins** have been appointed respectively to Clinical Senior Lectureships in Neurology and Neurorehabilitation and in Neurosurgery. **Dr. Janice Holton** has taken up a new part-time post as Clinical Senior Lecturer in Neuropathology.

Two new basic scientists have been appointed to the Institute staff: **Dr. David Baker** funded as a Senior Fellow with a Programme Grant from the Multiple Sclerosis Society for studies of neuro-immunology in relation to that disease, and **Dr. Linda Smith** as the new Graham Watts Senior Fellow for research into Motor Neurone Disease.

During the year the following received academic preferment from University College Hospital:

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| Dr. David Fish | Professor of Clinical Neurology and Epilepsy. He has also fulfilled the functions of Clinical Director of the Hospital with great enthusiasm and sensitivity. |
| Dr. Andrew Lees | Professor of Clinical Neurology in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study of movement disorders |
| Dr. Daniel Wolpert | Reader in Motor Neuroscience |
| Dr. Nick Wood | Reader in Clinical Neurology and Neurogenetics. |

The research activity of the Institute continues to grow. Annual research grant income increased by 93% in the 1994-99 quinquennium. The overall turnover for the 1998-1999 year was £17 million, representing an increase of just over 8% on the previous year.

MSc COURSE IN CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCE

The Institute's clinical Neuroscience M.Sc. programme has proved a considerable success in its first year. **Dr. Olaniya Osuntokum** won the Haymon Gorlov Prize for distinction in the final M.Sc examination. All nine students of the first course completed the course successfully. This year we have received a new intake of 13 students from seven different countries worldwide as well as the United Kingdom. The most notable event of the year at Queen Square has been the opening of the new Rehabilitation Unit. There are great expectations both from the service and the clinical research side for this unit which has been extensively refurbished by funds provided from the National Hospital Development Foundation. Bringing neuro-rehabilitation and restorative neurology into the neurological mainstream has long been overdue and the Institute is pleased to be making a significant contribution to this effort.

We are also pleased to report two new UCL neuroscience groupings on the Queen Square site. The Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, headed by **Professor Tim Shallice** is now housed in Alexandra House at 17 Queen Square, and the Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit, headed by **Professor Geoffrey Hinton FRS** is also sited there.

OTHER NEWS

DAVID MARSDEN MEMORIAL FUND

Professor Stanley Fahn of the Neurological Institute, Columbia University, New York, has accepted an invitation to visit Queen Square to give the First David Marsden Memorial Lecture.

VIDEO LINK TO CASUALTY:

A video link is being established to bring instant expert opinion from Neurosurgeons at the National to the casualty department at University College Hospital.

SPINAL UNIT

For the first time in this country, patients with severe and unusual spinal problems will benefit from a clinic where neurosurgeons and orthopaedic surgeons work together to see patients and discuss the most suitable course of treatment.

Mr. Adrian Casey, Consultant neurosurgeon, runs the clinic at Queen Square with visiting neurosurgeons and orthopaedic surgeons from the Middlesex Hospital, University College Hospital, St. Thomas's, Charing Cross, and a paediatric orthopaedic surgeon from Great Ormond Street Hospital.

CHAPEL HIDDEN BEHIND WALLS:

A chapel has been discovered behind walls in a room at 33 Queen Square that has been used for many years as a uniform laundry room.

Builders uncovered a stained glass window, wooden panelling, the original chapel ceiling and floor during renovation work. It has been decided to restore it as a chapel.

Historical records show that St.Katherine's Convent was founded in 1870 at No . 32 Queen Square as a branch of the East Grinstead Anglican Sisterhood, but there was evidence that the house had been the home many years before of some Irish nuns. The first chapel of the convent was in 32, but the house next door at 33 was also bought to become part of the convent, and a chapel was built in the grounds behind the house.

LONDON MARATHON

Neurosurgeon, **Neil Kitchen**, led the Hospital's sponsorship charge at the 1999 London Marathon, raising £25.300.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY MEETING TORONTO APRIL 1999

A successful Alumnus Reception was held at this meeting organised by Dr. Michael Finkel.

This year the AAN meeting is in San Diego, and an Alumni Reception will be held in the Connaught Room at the Hyatt Hotel on Monday May 1st between 7.00 p.m. and 8.0 p.m. Drop in if you can at any stage.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

We hope to update the Register soon, and should therefore be grateful to receive notification of any changes.

RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

In the last Newsletter we suggested that those of you who have a P.C. and would be happy to receive the Newsletter by E-mail instead of receiving a hand copy by mail, should indicate this by E-mail to Professor Quinn ([@ion.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ion.ucl.ac.uk)) or to Pat Harris (P.Harris@ion.ucl.ac.uk). A number of members have already replied in the affirmative and this is just a reminder to others who would be happy with this arrangement to let us know.

The next Newsletter will be issued in the Summer and newsworthy items will be most welcome. In the meantime I would like to wish everyone , rather belatedly, a very happy and peaceful New Year.