

NEWSLETTER No. 25

NOVEMBER 2003

QUEEN SQUARE NEWS

DEATHS

Mr. Bert Morton

A number of Alumni who studied in the EEG Department will remember Bert Morton who has sadly died. He served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War and spent much of the war in Cyprus and Palestine as a member of various radar stations. He came into contact during this period with Dennis Williams who recruited him to the EEG Department at the National at the end of the war. He spent the rest of his working life at the National, rising to Principal Physicist. Strictly his duties were to support the EEG Department but in fact he provided help, advice and practical solutions to people from all over the Hospital and Institute as well as to innumerable overseas visitors and colleagues.

Bert retired in the formal sense of the word in 1985 but continued to come into the EEG department and to collaborate with Merton and Marsden for the next decade, as well as pursuing his life long hobby of amateur radio. (This is an extract from the obituary written by Dr. Nick Murray for the Annual Report of the Institute 2001-2002)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

UCL has awarded Personal Chairs to **Cathy Price**, **Philip Patsalos**, and to **Parmjit Jat**, currently at UCL and the Ludwig Institute, who joined Professor Collinge's Department in October 2003, and a Senior Lectureship to **Dr. C. Selai**.

DEPARTURES

Dr. Richard Harvey, Alzheimer's Society Senior Fellow and Honorary Senior Lecturer, left the Institute at the end of July 2003 to take up the post of Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry at Geelong Hospital and Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne.

Dr. Hannah Cock, Wellcome Advanced Training Fellow, left the Institute at the end of August 2003 to take up the post of Clinical Senior Lecturer at St. George's Hospital Medical School, London.

OTHER NEWS

The Institute has been awarded £3.4 million in the UCL SRIF II Exercise to redevelop 33 Queen Square (in conjunction with the UCLH Trust who contributed an equal amount to the funding package). A further £1.5 million has been awarded for the establishment of a MEG facility to replace the PET scanner and cyclotron in the Department of Imaging Neuroscience at 12 Queen Square.

RESEARCH IN SURGICAL NEUROLOGY AT THE NATIONAL

In 2003 the National celebrated 25 years of neurosurgical research with a reunion of all past and present Research Fellows and Registrars.

Around 100 international neurosurgeons attended 2 days of lectures chaired by Dr. Martin Smith, Dr. Ian Calder and Mr. Andrew Ransford.

Professor Alan Crockard's closing lecture entitled 'Serendipity' was followed by a Reception where current staff from the hospital met up with old friends, and a dinner at the Royal College of Surgeons rounded off the event.

MEMORIAL AND INAUGURAL LECTURES

DAVID MARSDEN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Professor Yves Agid of the Centre d'Investigation Clinique, Groupe Hospitalier Pitié- Salpêtrière, delivered the second David Marsden Memorial Lecture on 4th November 2003, His title was: "The role of the basal ganglia in the pathophysiology of emotions".

8th CARMICHAEL MEMORIAL LECTURE

Professor Mahlon Delong of the Department of Neurology, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, delivered the 8th Carmichael Memorial Lecture at the Institute's Annual Address in October 2003. His title was: "Parkinson's disease: pathophysiologic basis and surgical treatments".

3rd ANITA HARDING MEMORIAL LECTURE

Professor John Collinge delivered the 3rd Anita Harding Memorial Lecture as his Inaugural Lecture in June 2003. He spoke on "Kuru and vCJD: what we have learned, unlearned and have yet to learn"

1st GEORGE Du BOULAY EPONYMOUS LECTURE

This lecture was delivered in June 2003 by **Professor E Sander Connolly Jnr.** His title was: "Vasospasm:its causes and consequences".

GOWERS MEMORIAL LECTURE

It has been agreed that this lecture, last held in the 1980's be resurrected, and **Professor John Duncan** has been invited to give this in May 2004. Professor Duncan has been in recent contact with members of the Gowers family – the grandson and great grandson of Sir William Gowers.

SPINAL INJURY

Ground breaking work on repairing spinal injuries is going ahead at the National, combining cutting edge research with innovative clinical practice.

Dr. Geoffrey Raisman, FRS, and his team from MRC Mill Hill have been working on techniques for repairing the spinal cord after it has been injured. Dr. Raisman's team is now planning to transfer to the Institute of Neurology in 2004, in preparation for a collaborative human study.

EXPANDING SERVICE FOR ANEURYSM TREATMENT

The National's service for treating vascular disorders such as aneurysms, arterio-venous malformations and vascular stenosis continues to expand. It is still being developed, but patients are already benefiting from new staff and improved access to the service. Professor Tarek Yousry points out that the hospital is supporting the management of aneurysms very broadly – both through neurosurgery and through neuroradiological interventions.

BOTOX TREATMENTS FOR BLADDER INCONTINENCE

In a procedure originally developed in Switzerland, small amounts of Botox are injected into the bladder wall with an ultrafine needle. This partially paralyses the bladder muscles preventing them from contracting and causing incontinence. At the National, Urology Consultant Dr. Prokar Dasgupta has pioneered a technique for delivering the injections under local anaesthesia which can be done as a out-patient procedure. Professor Clare Fowler, who has been working on new treatments for the over active bladder for many years, and who works with Dr. Dasgupta,, feels that their early results with the use of Botox are very encouraging

ALUMNUS NEWS

We would like to congratulate the following:

PROFESSOR JOHN DARLING, who left Queen Square in 2001 to take up the Chair of Biomedical Science at the University of Wolverhampton. He is also the Director of the Research Institute in Healthcare Science, which is a joint venture between the School of Applied Science and the School of Health, at the University.

PROFESSOR SUTHIPUN JITPIMOLMARD was appointed in October 2002 to be Chairman of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Thailand.

DR. CHRISTIAN KRARUP from Denmark was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians in May 2003.

OVERSEAS TREKS IN 2004

Guatemala Mayan Medicine Trek in February 2004

Guatemala is the Mayan heartland of Central America. It is a country of outstanding beauty with Mayan ruins lying amongst virgin rain forests. The trek takes place in Northern Guatemala through rain forest, where the tropical ecosystem supports thousands of plants and hundreds of bird species as well as monkeys, jaguars, tapirs and reptiles. The trek will be accompanied by a local Shaman and Mayan medicine expert who will teach the group about herbal remedies from the forest and the philosophy of traditional Maya healing. The trek end at the spectacular Mayan ruins of Tika, with its 3000 temples, shrines, ceremonial platforms and plazas, home to howler monkeys, toucans and wild turkeys.

SOUTH AFRICAN SAVANNAH TREK APRIL 2004

This trek which is back by popular demand takes you hiking through the Savannah and bushland of the Northern Cape and walking the dramatic Orange River where there will be the opportunity to experience the thrills of rafting. It will also explore the wilderness of this beautiful landscape seeing springbok, kudu, hartebeest, zebra, giraffe, ostrich and wilderbeest.

For application forms and further information for either trek, please call 020 7829 8724 or e-mail helensandwell@uch.org

LONDON MARATHON

23 Runners from the National took part in the 2003 London Marathon raising £58,000 for projects at the National. If you would like to take part in next year's Marathon, please contact Helen Sandwell as above.

RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

This is just a reminder that if you would like to receive the Newsletter by e-mail and have not already informed us, you should let Pat Harris know (p.harris@ion.ucl.ac.uk) so that this can be arranged.

In addition you may like to know that the Institute Annual Report for the year 2001-2002 has just been published and a web-based version of this and full lists of staff publications are available via the Institute of Neurology website www.ion.ac.uk

The next Newsletter will be issued mid-2004 and as usual I would be very happy to receive newsworthy items. I am always delighted to hear from you either by letter or e-mail and to help you with any enquiries you may have.