



National Hospital for
Neurology & Neurosurgery
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Institute of Neurology
University College
London WC1N 3BG



QUEEN SQUARE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION

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QUEEN SQUARE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 26

SEPTEMBER 2004

QUEEN SQUARE NEWS

DEATHS

It is with sadness that we report the following deaths:

Dr. Peter Nathan on 5th December 2002. He was a familiar presence at Queen Square for more than 50 years. His achievement was that his work was central to the thinking and practice of neurologists, neurosurgeons and those concerned with management of severe pain in the second half of the 20th century. Many organisations concerned with medicine, culture and the environment and many talented young people entering these fields too have cause to be grateful for his support.

He qualified in medicine at the Middlesex Hospital in 1939. During the war he served in the UK (at the Head Injury Unit, Oxford), Italy and Palestine. In 1946 he joined the MRC's Neurological Research Unit at the National Hospital, Queen Square, working with Dr. Marion (Mai) Smith, studying the intrinsic pathways of the human spinal cord; knowledge about them at that time was imprecise, being an amalgam of observations in man and animals.

Peter's best known achievement was in relation to the control of pain. In the course of his early work he became increasingly convinced that better methods were needed and he set about developing them, drawing on his own experience and that of others. As his work became known, increasing numbers of patients were referred from a wide area, and his clinic at Queen Square gradually emerged as one of the first Pain Clinics in the UK. Neurologists, anaesthetists and palliative care physicians from around the world came to learn his approach. After Peter and Mai Smith retired they continued their work, together with Pat Deacon, in the Department of Neuropathology at Oxford, Mai dying in 1988 and Peter continuing into the last year of his life.

Peter's approach to everything he was interested in was marked by freshness and almost child-like enthusiasm which he often translated into financial support (usually anonymous). A good example is provided by the internationally successful musical, *Canterbury Tales*. It was originally devised by his life-long friend for the 650th anniversary of Exeter College, Oxford. Its success led to the suggestion that it might be put on in London. No theatrical backer was interested, so Peter put up the entire production costs. The huge profit from it went to charitable purposes.

Peter lived modestly. He was a generous and amusing friend and a delightful colleague. He was always ready with praise, and he was unfailingly encouraging to the young. He must have been one of the last private scholars of medicine. He used his personal wealth to further his work and to support a remarkable range of causes and individuals in medicine and the arts.

(This a condensed version of the obituary written by Professor Ian McDonald)

Dr. Simon Boniface died on 27th November 2003. He was a neurological registrar at Queen Square in the 1980's, and later worked at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

PROMOTIONS, HONOURS AND AWARDS

Professor John Collinge was awarded the CBE in the New Year Honours list for his services to medical research

Dr Sebastian Brandner has been appointed to the Established UCL Chair of Neuropathology.

PERSONAL CHAIRS have been awarded to **Dr. David Baker, Dr. Peter Brown and Dr. Tamas Revesz.**

PERSONAL READERSHIPS have been awarded to **Dr. Nick Fox, Dr. Gavin Giovannoni and Dr. Dmitri Rusakov.**

Professor John Rothwell, Professor Daniel Wolpert and Professor Nick Wood have been made Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Ray Dolan has been given an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Research Award. The awards are given annually to outstanding scientists and scholars resident outside Germany to facilitate research collaboration with colleagues in Germany.

Professor Karl Friston, Wellcome Department of Imaging Neuroscience, was awarded the 2003 Minerva Foundation Golden Brain Award.

OTHER NEWS

RETIREMENTS

The following are retiring at the end of 2004:

Professor Michael Trimble, the Raymond Way Clinical Senior Lecturer
Professor Francesco Scaravilli, Head of the Division of Neuropathology

DEMENTIA RESEARCH CENTRE

Phase I of the Dementia Research Centre project is complete. Dementia Research staff moved into the newly refurbished high tech centre in May 2004 and the occasion was marked by an Open Day to show the premises off to some of the major funders.

Professor Martin Rossor who heads the Dementia Research Group is delighted with their new home and said, 'The Group is a truly multi-disciplinary team seeing patients for treatment and research purposes, counselling and to provide advice. We are delighted with the opening of a dedicated Centre that will support clinical research into dementia. We feel that the Centre and the planned new MRI scanner will help us to make real progress on these devastating diseases.'

The final phase of the project is the installation of a dedicated high-powered 3TMRI. This is planned alongside two other scanners, which will be housed in the same suite.

PARKINSON'S PROGRESS

Researchers in **Professor Nick Wood's** neurogenetics unit at the Institute have identified a gene that causes some cases of Parkinson's disease; it may open up new avenues of research into other genetic factors involved in Parkinson's. This is the first time that a Parkinson's gene has been identified by scientists in the UK.

TREKS

SAVANNAH TREK

Patients and staff from the National Hospital joined forces with a small number of like minded recruits from other UK hospitals this year to take part in the third ever popular trek to the Savannah lands of South Africa. £100,000 was raised for the six hospitals involved , with over £50,000 for the National.

MARATHON SUCCESS

This year's London Marathon , which took place on 18th April had a bumper National Hospital team taking part. It raised £36,000 towards projects at the National. Anyone wishing to take part next year should contact Helen Sandwell on 0207 829 8724.. E-mail helen.sandwell@uclh.org

ALUMNUS NEWS

Dr. Arthur McKirdy died in Switzerland on 19th May 2004, after a long illness. He was a postgraduate visitor on many occasions in the 1980's.

DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL NEUROLOGY

Five students, from China, Georgia, Sudan and Jordan attended the course last year.

Dr. Abdee Ryalat from Jordan won the "Pat Harris Prize".

MSc IN CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCE

This (academic year 2003/4) was the 6th year this course has been run. Sixteen students from UK, Ireland, Italy, Nigeria, Sudan, Oman, Japan and Australia completed the course, nine with distinctions. The Haymon Gorlov Prize was won jointly by **Paul Johns** and **Gemma Northam**.

QUEEN SQUARE PRIZE

Dr Mark Edwards won this prize with his essay entitled "The dystonic brain: abnormal plasticity and its modulation".

MOST HIGHLY CITED NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCHERS

Eight members of the Institute of Neurology are currently on this list of the 254 most highly cited authors in neuroscience. They are Professors Richard Frackowiak, Karl Friston, Chris Frith, Andrew Lees, Ian McDonald, David Miller, John Rothwell and the late David Marsden. The full list can be viewed at www.isihighlycited.com/ →Browse → Category Neuroscience.

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

On 26th September 2003e at the Aristotle University Medical School, and at the instigation of **Professor Ioannis Milonas**, an Alumnus of the Institute of Neurology, **Professor Ian McDonald** was awarded the Honorary Doctoral Degree of the Medical School of Aristotle University for his contribution in the field of neurology and especially for his work in multiple sclerosis. A meeting on Multiple Sclerosis in his honour

was held the next day with many eminent speakers, including **Professor Alastair Compston, Professor Ed Thompson, and Professor David Miller.**

During the summer **Professor Jim McLeod** from New South Wales and an Alumnus of Queen Square, visited London to attend the 150th Celebration of the University Boat Race. 50 years ago when he was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, he was a member of the winning crew. It was good to have a chat with him and catch up on all his news.

WOLFSON LECTURE THEATRE

Those of you who used to grumble about how uncomfortable the Wolfson Lecture Theatre was, may be interested to know that it has undergone a transformation and there is greatly improved leg room!

RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

This is just a reminder that if you would like to receive the newsletter by email and have not already informed us, you should let me know so that this can be arranged – p.harris@ion.ucl.ac.uk.
The Institute of Neurology's website is www.ion.ucl.ac.uk

The next Newsletter will be issued mid 2005 and I would welcome newsworthy items. I am always delighted to hear from you, either by letter or e-mail, and to help with any queries you may have.
I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
MEDICAL SCHOOL

INVITATION

The Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Professor **Ioannis G. Antonopoulos**
and the President of the Medical School
Professor **Ioannis N. Bondis**
kindly invite you to attend a Ceremony to award
the Honorary Doctoral Degree of the Medical School
to **WILLIAM IAN McDONALD**
Professor of Neurology in University of London.
The Ceremony will be held
at the Aula of the Old School of Philosophy of the Aristotle University,
on Friday, September 26, 2003 at 19:00.

The Rector
Professor IOANNIS G. ANTONOPOULOS

The President of the Medical School
Professor IOANNIS N. BONDIS

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
MEDICAL SCHOOL

PROGRAMME

OF THE CEREMONY
to award the Honorary Doctoral Degree
of the Medical School
to **William Ian McDonald**
Professor of Neurology in University of London

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003, at: 19:00
AULA OF THE OLD SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY
OF THE ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI



PROGRAM
Saturday 27 September 2003

MS WORKSHOP : SPEAKERS

09.45 - 10.00	I. Milonas - I. Mc Donald Welcome	13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
10.00 - 10.30	A. Compston "Mechanisms of axon-glia injury in multiple sclerosis"	14.00 - 14.30	D. Miller "Understanding and monitoring the course of MS by MR"
10.30 - 11.00	H. Lassmann "The pathology of MS lesions: a clue to understand the mechanisms of demyelination and tissue damage"	14.30 - 15.00	J. Kesserling "Neurorehabilitation in MS - an anthropological approach"
11.00 - 11.30	E. Thompson "Brain proteins in body fluids"	15.00 - 15.30	I. Milonas "Early treatment in MS"
11.30 - 12.00	Coffee break	15.30 - 16.00	M. Clanet "Perspectives in methodology of therapeutic trials in MS"
12.00 - 12.30	C. Fieschi "MS in twins from continental Italy and Sardinia"	16.00 - 16.30	L. Kappos "Developing New Treatments in MS - A Continuing Challenge for the Clinical Neurologist"
12.30 - 13.00	X. Montalban "A longitudinal study of clinically isolated syndromes"		



ΑΝΑΓΟΡΕΥΣΗ

ΤΟΥ ΚΑΘΗΓΗΤΗ ΝΕΥΡΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ
ΤΟΥ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΛΟΝΔΙΝΟΥ
κ. **WILLIAM IAN McDONALD**
ΩΣ ΕΠΙΤΙΜΟΥ ΔΙΑΚΤΟΡΑ
ΤΟΥ ΤΜΗΜΑΤΟΣ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗΣ
ΤΟΥ ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟΥ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟΥ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

