

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting Neuromodulation Society of United Kingdom and Ireland, 1-2 December 2005, Dudley, West Midlands**

This year's conference hosted over 100 delegates to a meeting which provided an update on exciting developments in neuromodulation. The attendance exceeded our target and the society's thanks are owed to Dr Jon Raphael and his team for their efforts in organisation.

To set the scene, a pre-meeting seminar on advances in spinal cord stimulation was organised by Advanced Bionics at a hotel near the hospital. Dr Todd Whitehurst presented new ways of approaching therapy by drawing on their experiences in other areas of neural therapy such as cochlear implantation. Dr Joshua Prager, president of the North American NS, shared his vast clinical experience. The seminar was well received and chair of the satellite seminar, Mr. Brian Simpson commented on how neurostimulation is being taken to new levels.

The 5th ASM of the NS(UKI) commenced with the keynote conference speaker. Two presentations on the scientific basis of spinal cord stimulation by Prof Bengt Linderoth of the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm updated the audience on laboratory research into neurotransmitters involved in this process in both neuropathic and ischaemic pain. From this scientific basis, the conference moved to explore some therapeutic uses. Emerging areas were considered by Prof Nick Kenefick a colorectal surgeon from Bristol, UK describing his experiences and research data on sacral nerve stimulation for rectal pathology of faecal incontinence and constipation. Dr Sam Eldabe from Middlesbrough, UK provided the interim results of patient controlled analgesia from the European multicentre study of the patient therapy manager demonstrating high patient satisfaction with this modality and no greater complications than comparable therapies.

The delegates took a break from the lectures to enjoy the leisure facilities and to meet with colleagues at the conference dinner to the background of a local jazz band.

The second day started with an update on deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's disease from Ms Ros Mitchell, a neurosurgeon from Birmingham, UK and with a presentation on the use of sacral nerve stimulation for urinary incontinence by Ms Sohier Elniel, an urogynaecologist from London.

Two further overseas speakers provided refreshing insights for the delegates. Dr Allen Burton, Associate Professor of Anaesthesiology and Pain Medicine at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre was able to share his experience in managing severe cancer pain by intrathecal therapies. Dr Bob van Hilten, Associate Professor of Neurology at Leiden, Netherlands presented on his experience in managing the dystonia of CRPS with intrathecal baclofen.

To get a sense of the developing research and experience from the UK, 10 free papers were accepted for presentation covering areas such as the basic science of potassium channel dysfunction in neuropathic pain, the clinical outcomes of SCS therapy, adverse events of intrathecal therapy and cost effectiveness studies.

The meeting ended with a presentation from Dr Kate Grady of the British Pain Society on the developing guidelines for intrathecal drug delivery systems.

Next years meeting is to be held in Cork, Ireland on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October where it is hoped all those who use neuromodulation in their professional lives will once again enjoy the academic and social interactions of this multidisciplinary society.