Update on Alzheimer’s research

Sussex scientists have been using the ears of mice to study a gene responsible for Alzheimer’s disease.

Drs Richard Killick, Ruth Maxwell and Lynne Mayne are studying Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative disorders at the Trafford Centre for Graduate Medical Education and Research. Their latest research, including a paper on community care of Alzheimer sufferers, was discussed at an annual meeting on 5 November.

Richard is funded by the Wellcome Trust to study a particular gene responsible for the early-onset form of Alzheimer’s, which affects people in their forties rather than the over sixties. This gene, known as a presenilin (before senility) is expressed in certain nerve cells which form connections with cells in the inner ear during early development.

The ear is a useful model of Alzheimer’s as it is easier to study than the human brain. The disease is still a puzzle, which is compounded by there being no equivalent disorder in other species which could be used as a model of the disease.

Lynne and Ruth are currently setting up a database on the routes Alzheimer’s patients follow through the health and social services and what treatments they receive. These data are critical in evaluating and improving services for both patients and carers.

TV chefs get a taste of campus cuisine

From l-r: Greg and Max talk food with refectory head chef Derek Potter.

TV chefs visited campus last week to sample some student cuisine. Camp cooks Greg Robinson and Max Schofield were tasting the Refectory’s dish of the day – poached salmon – to compare with food cooked by Lewes Court students as part of a programme on ‘student grub’.

Bulletin followed the film crew around the fifth floor of the Refectory as lunch was prepared for approximately 800 staff and students.

For Max this was a nostalgic trip back to Sussex after studying for a BA in CCS and an MSW in the 1970s.

As a student, Max enjoyed preparing fun dishes, such as his savoury suet pudding with bacon. “I loved it because it always worked, wasn’t expensive and filled you up” he said.

At that time, the Refectory was located in Mandela Hall. “The one meal I remember eating was eggs florentine (poached egg on a bed of spinach). I tried something new and found out that I hate spinach. That’s all I remember about campus food.”

Greg and Max are passionate about food and eat out three times a day.

“There’s nothing suspicious about being thin chefs – we just work out a lot!” they said.

Greg and Max started their careers in catering by making cakes for family and friends, and now bake to order for occasions such as the Lion King film premiere and the Queen Mother’s 90th birthday. “We know every major craze,” said Greg proudly.

“I haven’t made a Teletubbies cake yet, but I would love to do Laa Laa.”

The show, Cookabout with Greg and Max will be screened early next year on the Discovery Home and Leisure channel on cable and satellite.
Juan Bosco Azorin-Peris
23 October 1976–14 July 1997
There will be a ceremony to plant a tree in memory of Bosco on Wednesday 3 December at 2 pm on the grass between BIOLS and Pevensey, close to the BIOLS main entrance.

Bosco, who tragically was drowned in July, would have been a final-year student on the Molecular Genetics in Biotechnology degree programme in BIOLS.

If the weather is wet the ceremony will be held in the Biology Lecture Theatre.

Centre for Continuing Education

Day Schools

- Saturday 6 December
  Actor, Character, Mask.
  Beads and Beadwork in Africa.
  Symbolism in Britain.
- Saturday 10 January
  Archaeology of London
  Hatting and Holding: Melanie Klein and Donald Winnicott

On-campus courses

- On-campus Courses
  Desktop Publishing
  Tuesdays for 10 weeks, starts 13 January 1998.
  Exploring Multimedia
  Tuesdays for 16 weeks, starts 13 January 1998.
  Microsoft Applications on the PC
  Wednesdays for 10 weeks, starts 14 January 1998.
  Using and Understanding a PC
  Thursdays for 10 weeks starts 15 January 1998.
- Off-campus
  Natural History Illustration
  Thursdays for 10 weeks, starts 8 January 1998.
  Prehistoric Metallurgy weekend
  Ancient Craft and Technology Week
  27 to 31 July 1998.

To enrol on any of the above courses please contact the Centre for Continuing Education, EDB, on 01273 (67) 8926/8527/8040.

News

The other side of Noel

Each President of the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) takes a particular theme for their year of office. The theme chosen by Noel Sladen, Senior Assistant Finance Officer here at Sussex, and this year’s President of the AAT is ‘Network for Success’.

The idea behind this is, of course, fostering communication between the various members of the association and pursuing this mission is one of the many tasks facing Noel during his hectic and eventful presidential year.

The body over which Noel currently presides is not a small organisation: it is a professional body with 25,000 members worldwide and an annual turnover of £7 million pounds. But probably the most significant aspect of its role, is its training and education scheme. There are currently 65,000 students enrolled on courses which lead to NVQ qualifications at stages II, III and IV.

In a recent interview in the Association’s journal, Noel describes this scheme, which marked a break with the traditional, theoretical, accountancy training, as the Association’s greatest success during his time on the Council. “We picked up on a Government initiative and had the vision, despite detractors, to see the potential. We were the pioneers and now have a training scheme which actually deals with what happens in the workplace.” One important aspect of the qualification is that allows students, many of whom are school leavers, or women returners, to take their accountancy training in stages. According to Noel, “one of the main functions of the AAT is to encourage people to broaden their horizons. For many people, the traditional routes to an accountancy qualification may not be appropriate at a particular time, or it may represent too big a leap. The AAT scheme helps members to gain confidence and gives them recognition for the expertise they are actually developing in the workplace.”

Working in a University environment, Noel sees a possible development of the scheme within higher education, as a means of improving the marketability of graduates. “The highly practical approach of the AAT qualification, maybe offered as a module within a non-vocational degree course, could enhance the employment prospects of many university students,” he says.

Being President of this large, thriving organisation is clearly a considerable honour, but it is also onerous. Noel is grateful for the support given to him by the University, but obviously a great deal of his ‘spare’ time is taken up with presidential duties. As well as acting as ‘chairman of the Board’, he is constantly on the move, travelling the country, representing the Association and bringing its members together. He has visited the odd exotic location, notably the Caribbean this summer, but is more likely to be found in Solihull or Basingstoke, talking to members and fostering the various networks which are at the centre of his vision.

Although active within the AAT at District level for many years, Noel never imagined that he would become its President. “It is great honour and one that I truly never expected. I have always been enthusiastic about the aims of the Association but never envisaged that I would be in this position. It is hard work, admittedly, but its a great event in my life and this is a year that I will always remember.”

Hot Plants and Chaperones at the Biotech Ball

Anyone who had doubts about the potency of plants would have had them dispelled by last week’s professorial lecture by Tony Moore of BIOLS. Our own familiar arum lilies, and their huge relative, the tropical Amorphophallus, have a characteristic hot and smelly phallloid structure which sticks up from the centre of the inflorescence and attracts insects for pollination. The heat helps to volatilise the sulphur chemicals and is produced in the mitochondria, the power houses of the cell, by uncoupling energy transformations from more normal metabolism.

A molecular ball is taking place in the mitochondria and it is the job of proteins called chaperones to escort selected molecules to the ball and to make sure that the right sort of meetings take place. In some plants, an artificially induced surplus of these chaperones has the effect of increasing the size of leaves and general productivity. This could be useful if applied to salad and other leafy crops.

Agriculture offers a huge potential growth area for biotechnology, said Tony, quoting a recent paper in Nature Biotechnology by Julian Burke of BIOLS and Sandy Thomas of SPRU. Plant science may still be regarded as a Cinderella but the ball and the chaperones are waiting.
Christmas is coming

Carols by Candlelight
The University Carol Service will take place in the Meeting House Chapel on Sunday 7 December at 6pm. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

The Meeting House Christmas Appeal
This year’s appeal is for Child Landmine Victims and Save the Children Fund (rehabilitation programmes). Donations should be sent to: Barbara Barber in the Meeting House, tel: (67)8217. Cheques should be made payable to The Meeting House Appeal 1997. Collecting tins are available if you are able to help with fundraising.

University Christmas Party
For everybody - Monday 22 December. Falmer Bar/Hot House, 5.30pm to midnight. Buffet, raffle and disco all for the incredibly low price of £2. Tickets will be available on the door or in most buildings in advance.

Christmas Lunches and Dinners in the PDR
These are available from now until lunchtime on Monday 22 December. Three courses (each with choice of dishes), plus coffee and mince pie. Lunch £11.25, Dinner £13.25.

Christmas Card: Individual cards are on sale from the Bookshop and Students’ Union Shop. Orders may also be made through Christine Anthony in the Information Office on 3766, at £3.75 for ten or 40p per single card. The Christmas card can be seen in full colour on the net: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/USIS/news/card.html

Christmas menus in the Refectory
Traditional Christmas lunch for £4.15 in the Laines Restaurant, Level 2 on Tuesday 9 and Thursday 18 December from 12.15 to 2.15pm. A limited number of tables can be reserved for large parties. Ring Jenny on 8221.

Christmas lunch or dinner at the Playing Fields Pavilion
Traditional fare with some exciting accompaniments plus vegetarian option for £9.95, now until 22 December. To book for evening or lunchtime phone Gail 8230 or Simon 7230.

In brief

Please help and thank you
ROKPA, the Tibetan word for ‘help’, a charity, and a University Society, would like to thank all those who so generously supported the Poverty Awareness Dinner, held in the Refectory recently. The total raised was £370 which will be divided, after expenses, between ROKPA in Tibet, ROKPA in Nepal and the Seaview Project for the homeless in Hastings.

ROKPA is now running a Blanket Drive until the end of the Spring Term. Please bring any spare, clean, blankets, sleeping bags and items of warm clothing to ROKPA’s Committee, which meets each Wednesday, between 5.00 and 6.00 pm in the Quiet Room of the Meeting House.

ROKPA is also organising a Christmas Quiz Night on Tuesday 2 December at 7.30 pm in Falmer Bar. There are great prizes and we look forward to seeing as many of our supporters there as possible. Please try and persuade your friends to produce a team of four. The entry fee is just £1 and all proceeds will be distributed in the same way as above.
What's on...

Monday 1 December – Sunday 7 December

Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

- Monday 1 December
  12.30 pm Centre for Modern French Thought: Jacques Derrida, A discussion about politics and friendship. Chichester Lecture Theatre

12.30 pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Forum: Michael Erass, Development of knowledge and skills at work. Room A183

1.00 pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: David Reynolds, Correcting for errors in episodic records: the relative impact of discredited content on pre- and post-correction information. Biology Lecture Room (EP 3.9)

2.00 pm Particle Physics Seminar: H Abele (Heidelberg University) Measurement of the electron asymmetry in free neutron decay. Room Pevensey 2A1

3.00 pm Centre for Mathematical Analysis Seminar: Y Saito (Alabama University) The Neumann Laplacian on a domain and embedded trees. Room Pevensey 2A2

5.00 pm Sociology and Social Psychology Seminar: Mike Savage (University of Manchester) Is there a future for class analysis? Room D310

Tuesday 2 December

10.15 am Analysis and American Universities, Past, Present, Future: Vincenzo Raimo, Winners and losers: faculty, administration and casual labour. Room EDB 121

2.00 pm Mathematical Analysis Colloquium: J J Duistermaat (Utrecht University) Rolling rigid bodies. Room Pevensey 1A3

2.00 pm Psychology Work In Progress Seminar: Andy Field, Re-evaluating evaluative conditioning. Room Pevensey 2A1

4.00 pm Engineering Colloquium: Tony Beer (Southern Water R & D co-ordinator) R & D in the water industry - an engineering perspective. Room ENGG II - AS2

4.15 pm Biochemistry, Genetics and Development Seminar: Helen Sang (Roslin Institute) Developing methods for transgenic manipulation of poultry. Biology Lecture Theatre

4.30 pm Social and Political Thought Seminar: Katherine MacVarish, Misadventures of the diatropic: Merleau-Ponty, Lukacs and Revolutionary Praxis. Room D630

5.00 pm Social Anthropology Seminar: David Turton (Oxford University) War and ethnicity. Room D722

5.15 pm German Research Colloquium: Celine Surprenant, Lyotard's reading of Freud. Room A155

6.30 pm Christopher Thorne Memorial Lecture: Roderick Ogley, Making policy for the world: reality or make-believe? Chichester Lecture Theatre

Wednesday 3 December

1.00 pm IDS Occasional Seminar: Ricardo Antunes, Globalisation and trades unions in Brazil. Room 221

1.30 pm Sussex Centre for Optical and Atomic Physics Seminar: Mohamed Bahiker (Sussex University) Atom dynamics in microcavities. Room Pevensey 2A2

2.00 pm Queery Lesbian and Gay Studies Seminar: Alison Humphris (Oxford University) Europe - a history, a lecture by the author. Room A103

4.00 pm Music Graduate Research Seminar: Dai Griffiths and Oxford Brookes: Utter to anti-utter: a formal and historical framework for talking about words in pop songs. Recital room, Falmer House 120

4.00 pm Centre for Legal Studies Seminar: David O'Keefe (University College London) Admissibility of preliminary references under Art. 177 of the EC Treaty. Room D640

5.00 pm English Graduate Colloquium: Heather Glen (Cambridge University) Entirely bewildered: vision in Villette. Room D640

Thursday 4 December

11.30 am Economics Seminar: Sophia Delipalla & Owen O'Donnell (Kent University) The comparison between ad valorem and specific taxation under imperfect competition: evidence from the European cigarette industry. Room D310

4.00 pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Brian Butterworth (University College London) The psychology and neuropsychology of numbers. Biology Lecture Room (EP 3.9)

4.00 pm Geography Research Seminar: Gabriel Lipschitz (Bar-Ilan University, Israel) Core versus periphery: immigration and regional development in Israel 1948-1995. Room D610

4.00 pm Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science Colloquium: Tony McCaffrey, Lasers in science. Chichester Lecture Theatre

5.00 pm Sussex Development Lecture: Rt Hon. Clare Short (Secretary of State for International Development). Room A1

5.00 pm History Work in Progress Seminar: Ian Gazeley-Under the wage gap in Britain, 1914-1950. Room A155

5.00 pm Centre for Modern French Thought Seminar: Robert Vallier, Title t.b.s. Room A71

Friday 5 December

11.30 am Topology, Algebra and Geometry Seminar: D L Johnson (Nottingham University) Embedding some finitely presented groups. Room Pevensey 2/3A

2.00 pm SPRU Seminar: David Gann, How we live and what we might live in. Room EDB 121

4.00 pm Applied Mathematics and Numerical Analysis Seminar: Michele Bartuccelli (Surrey University) Conditions for positivity of solutions of a class of dissipative partial differential equations. Room Pevensey 1A1

4.00 pm Astronomy Centre Colloquium: T Theuns (Oxford & Cambridge IoA) Stimulating the evolution of the intergalactic medium. Room Pevensey 1A7

4.30 pm Philosophy Society Seminar: Paul Davies, Antinomies. Room A155

Meeting House Events

- December 1 - World AIDS Day, silent reflection followed by the Gospel Choir, 5.00 pm
- December 2 - lunchtime recital with Charles Macdonald (organ) at 1.20 pm in the chapel
- December 7 - The Wise Eternal Word, carols and readings by candlelight, 6.00 pm. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Miscellaneous

- Save 10% at Boots Christmas shopping evenings at the Eastbourne (Arndale Centre) branch on 3 December and at Brighton (North Street) branch on 10 December, from 6-9 pm. 10% off on presentation of staff I.D or with invitation, available from Staffing Services, room 227 Sussex House
- Language Courses - sign up for weekly courses starting after Christmas, including Latin, beginners German, Italian, elementary French, plus Czech, Japanese and Italian. Also fast track courses in German and Japanese. For more details of all courses, contact Michele on ext. 2016

Small Ads

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE: during week at low rent for someone prepared to eat sit. Queen's Park area. Contact Crescy Cannan on 60887 or e-mail: c.cannan@sussex.ac.uk

REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURY: third year shiatsu student writing dissertation on RS, especially computer operators. If you are suffering and would like to discuss your symptoms and receive free shiatsu treatment, contact Sue Massey on 557769 (evs.)

FOR SALE: pine kitchen table, 5' x 3' with detachable legs, £185 o.n.o; cast iron stove, top loader, cylindrical, good burner, £195 o.n.o; large ELC sandpit and lid, orange, £18 o.n.o; 2 BMX bicycles, suitable for 5 and 8 year old, £15 each. Contact ext. 3231 or 862597

AU PAIR AVAILABLE: sensible and mature 19 year old French girl looking for an au-pair work in Brighton area from next summer onwards. Contact Michael Gasiorek on 07803 660206, or e-mail: gasiorek@romarin.univ-alex.fr

ACCOMMODATION WANTED: two bedroom unfurnished flat in Hove from December. Good references and deposit available, contact ext. 3853 or e-mail: M.Ligh@sussex.ac.uk

MATHS TUTION: GCSE, A-level or undergraduate level, reasonable rates, contact John on ext. 3007 or 772051

RECYCLING: Challey School are collecting used inkjet cartridges of the following types to raise funds for the IT department: HP DJ 51625A; 51629A; Canon BC-01 and 02; Canon BX-2 and 3. Contact Jenny on ext. 2062 or 483424

FOR SALE: spacious three bedroom flat with private garden, West Worthing. Contact 01903 234949

FOR SALE: Epson PCAX with key-board and monochrome monitor 3030W. No operating disc, £20 o.n.o. Contact Cat on ext. 8677 or e-mail: C.J.Stead@sussex.ac.uk

FOR SALE: Toshiba colour notebook, 486 DX, Windows 95, MS Office 97, Excel, Word 7, charger, bag, v.g.c., £650. Contact 271933

TWO CATS: hl, neutered, 18 months old, brother/sister, beautiful, gentle, clean and friendly. Need good home together due to owner's housing crisis. Contact Mrs Richards on 770167

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday of term, with copy deadline the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome any suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads. Please contact the Information Office. Sussex House on ext. 8209 or e-mail: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk