

# From Edinburgh to Dundee: Research Interest Groups - a success story

**Ken Bowler**

**Chair**

**Edinburgh Research Interest Group**

# WPC Review Symposium Speakers



Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch

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# Research Interest Group

## Motivation

**Research towards a cure is a principal aim of Parkinson's UK**

**Surveys confirm that the overwhelming majority of members support this**

**Despite this, relatively few members actively engage in research-related activities – other than fund-raising**

## Aims

**To increase the number of members actively engaged in research activities of some sort and to raise awareness of research projects and outcomes**

# Research Interest Group

## The objectives are:

- **To encourage and develop all members' interest in research.**
- **To provide opportunities for members with an interest in Parkinson's research to meet, communicate, work together and generally further the cause of research**

**Approx 40 members**

# The Early Days: 2011-2012

- July 2011** Inaugural meeting: objectives set
- Sep 2011** Development of action plan
- Dec 2011** Meeting at CRM on Nutrition – **member-led**
- Feb 2012** Medication Workshop – **outside experts**
- Mar 2012** Talk to ERIG by Dr Anton Gartner
- May 2012** Public lecture by Professor Roger Barker

**Special thanks to Dr Tilo Kunath and Sheila Edward**

# Medication Workshop

## A selection of comments from participants:

*Well done, the Edinburgh Branch.*

*An interesting and well-organised meeting. Well done, Marian, Leo and Liz.*

*Grateful to organisers for putting on informative event; first time I have attended such an event, met some nice people.*

*An excellent event.*

*Well supported event, shows that there is support for further meetings.*

# Research Talk

**Saturday 24 March 2012:**

**Talk to ERIG by Dr Anton Gartner, University of Dundee, at SCRM, 10:30-12:30.**

***Exploiting and Exploring simple non-vertebrate animal models for Parkinson's research, what do we learn?***

# Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine



Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch

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# The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture

Professor Roger Barker (Cambridge)

*How close are we to solving the problem of what goes wrong in Parkinson's ?*



## Some comments on the lecture:

*"What an inspirational talk....thank you **so much** for helping " organise that."* FT Edinburgh

*"I attended Tuesday's lecture by Professor Roger Barker at the Royal College of Physicians and would like to thank everyone at Edinburgh Parkinson's for organising it and bringing such an eminent, inspirational speaker to the city. His presentation was fascinating and highly informative and was much appreciated by all who attended."* SH Edinburgh

*"Thank you for an excellent session tonight"* HS Edinburgh

*"Well done organising such an interesting and well-run event, thank you all very much indeed."* MM Edinburgh

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Welcome

Drop-In Parkinson's Café

2018 Branch Summer  
Lunch

News

Events Calendar

Edinburgh Parkinson's  
Lecture 2018

Branch Meetings

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Training & Care Programs

Parkinson's Nurse  
Specialists

Support Workers & Advice

Research Interest Group

Research news

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Recent research meetings

Recruiting our members for  
research

Join the Research Interest  
Group

World Parkinson Coalition

Join the Edinburgh Branch  
of Parkinson's UK

Contact the Branch

## Edinburgh Research Interest Group

The objectives of the Group are:

- To provide opportunities for members with an interest in Parkinson's research to meet, communicate, work together and generally further the cause of research.
- To encourage and develop all members' interest in research.

You can listen to a podcast of an interview with the Group Chair, Ken Bowler, which gives the background to the Group. Follow the link to hear the podcast.

### Activities and Information

Join the Research Interest Group

Confirm or cancel your ERIG membership

Forthcoming Meetings

The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture

Reports from past meetings

Learn about iPS stem cells

Participation in clinical trials

How to recruit our members for research projects

PhD opportunities: Edinburgh Neuroscience

QMU student projects

Newsletters

Current research projects supported by Parkinson's UK

Science of Parkinson's website

Research Support Network (RSN)

Search this site...

GO

Donate to the Edinburgh  
Branch with JustGiving

### Group Contact



**Group Chair**

Prof Ken Bowler

E Mail to Group Chair

Tel: 0131 669 8961

### Research Links

Anne Rowling Regenerative  
Neurology Clinic

European Parkinson's Disease  
Association

Braining Neuro

MRC Centre for Regenerative

# ERIG Newsletter

## Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch Research Interest Group

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Newsletter December 2011 Issue No. 1

### Objectives

The Group held its inaugural meeting on 2 July, 2011. The Objectives of the Research Interest Group were agreed to be:

1. To provide opportunities for members with an interest in Parkinson's research to meet, communicate, work together and generally further the cause of research.
2. To encourage and develop all members' interest in research.

### In this issue:

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Research News

Web Site.

### Medication Workshop

A medication workshop is being planned for Wednesday 22 February, 2012, at the Eric Liddell Centre, 15 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DP.

Discussions will be led by Alison Stewart, Senior Parkinson's Nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital, and Alison Thomson, Senior Clinical Pharmacist in the Department of Neurosciences at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

The organisers are [Marian McIntyre](#), [Leo Hislop](#) and [Liz McBain](#), to whom enquiries should be directed. The flyer for the meeting is available at

[http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org/files/Seminar\\_on\\_Medication.pdf](http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org/files/Seminar_on_Medication.pdf)

### The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2012

We are pleased to announce that the eminent Cambridge neuroscientist, Dr Roger Barker, has accepted a joint invitation from the Edinburgh Branch and the Lothian Parkinson's Services Advisory Group to give an evening public lecture on Tuesday 8 May 2012 in Edinburgh on research breakthroughs in Parkinson's Disease and its treatment.

Tickets for the lecture will be available in the New Year, together with further details of the talk and schedule. The venue will be The Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Although this is an Edinburgh Branch initiative, participation and attendance by any Parkinson's UK member is welcomed. For further details, visit the Edinburgh Branch website at

<http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org>

### Research News:

### Stem Cell Breakthrough

For the first time Parkinson's UK-funded scientists have grown new nerve cells from a person with one of the most rapidly progressing inherited forms of Parkinson's. This research, led by the University of Edinburgh in collaboration with UCL (University College London), has been published in the journal *Nature Communications*: see

<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/journal/v2/n8/full/ncomms1453.html>

Lead researcher Dr Tilo Kunath works in the Institute for Stem Cell Research at the University of Edinburgh. You can hear him in discussion with Mary Wamock on a recent BBC World Service programme 'The Forum' at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00inf02#p00k1yml> or listen to an extract from the programme at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00k1y/z>

"For the first time Parkinson's UK-funded scientists have grown new nerve cells from a person with one of the most rapidly progressing inherited forms of Parkinson's."

### Stem cells transformed into brain cells

New York researchers led by Dr Lorenz Studer have reported in the journal *Nature* on recent work on transforming stem cells into brain cells in an animal model. To read a report in the Guardian dated 6th November, 2011 go to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2011/nov/06/stem-cells-brain-parkinsons-disease?newsfeed=true> For those interested in more technical details, the abstract of the *Nature* article may be found by going to <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature10648.html>

### Anne Rowling Clinic, Edinburgh

Building work has begun on the new Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic. The clinic will be an addition to the front of Chancellor's Building at Little France and is due to be completed in mid 2012. The clinic will focus on patient-based studies to help find treatments that could slow the progression of Multiple Sclerosis and other progressive, incurable diseases such as Motor Neurone Disease, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease. It was established in 2010 following a £10M donation from JK Rowling and is named in memory of Ms Rowling's mother, who died from MS at the age of 45.

### Web site

The Edinburgh Branch web site is at <http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org> and the Research Interest Group page is [http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org/branch\\_news.php](http://www.edinburghparkinsons.org/branch_news.php)

Any queries should be directed to the Editor and Chair of the Research Interest Group, [Ken Bowler](#) by email to [ken.bowler@talk21.com](mailto:ken.bowler@talk21.com)

Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A charity registered in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC037554).

# The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2013



**Professor Ray Chaudhuri**

***Non-motor  
symptoms of  
Parkinson's:  
Important yet often  
neglected. Why?***

25<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at RCPE

7.15 pm

Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch AGM 2013

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# The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2014

Professor Tony Schapira UCL

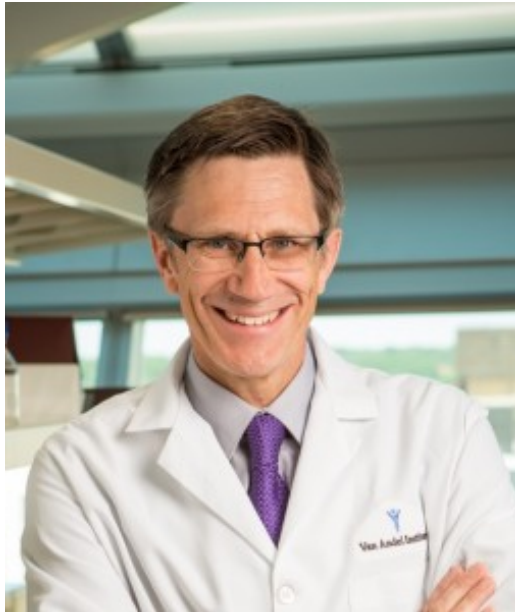
*Recent Advances in  
the Cause and  
Treatment of  
Parkinson's*



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# The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2015



**Professor Patrik Brundin**

***The battle to beat  
Parkinson's: the end  
of the beginning***

22nd April 2015 at RCPE

7.15 pm



# The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2016

Professor Bastiaan Bloem

*The Future of  
Parkinson Care*



Legacy?

Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch

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# The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2017

## Professor Andrew Lees (UCL)

The quest to find a cure for Parkinson's disease  
Mentored by a Madman: The William Burroughs experiment



20<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Royal College of Physicians

Edinburgh, Queen Street

7.15 pm

# The Edinburgh Parkinson's Lecture 2018

**Professor Giovanna Mallucci (Cambridge)**

**The Road to New Treatments for Dementia  
and Parkinson's**



17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

QMRI

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh,  
Little France

7.15 pm

# Seminars, Workshops and other Activities

**Sep 2012**      **Parkinson's and Exercise: Gill Baer (QMU) & Jane Hislop (QMU & Napier)**

**Dec 2012**      **Dr Miratul Muquit (Dundee)**

**Mar 2013**      **Pain Workshop (member-led)**

**Feb 2014**      **Dr Carl Counsell (Aberdeen)**

**Nov 2014**      **WPC Scientific Update Workshop**

**Jan 2015**      **Visit to Parkure**

**Julie Jones (RGU Aberdeen) on                      Physiotherapy**

**Feb 2015**      **Professor Dario Alessi FRS (Dundee)**

- May 2016**    **Parkinson's: Let's Get Moving**
- Nov 2016**    **WPC review by Alison, David and Tilo**
- Jan 2017**    **Dr Alison Green, University of Edinburgh,  
Possible biomarker for Parkinson's**
- Apr 2017**    **Dr Esther Sammler, University of Dundee,  
Genes in Parkinson's, from "bench to  
bedside"**
- Dec 2017**    **Talks by Dr Tilo Kunath on "Stem Cell  
Therapy for Parkinson's" and Leona  
Braund on "Living with Parkinson's"**
- Jun 2018**    **Prof Wlady Gedroyc (IC) MR guided  
focused ultrasound of the brain**

## A few more things.....

**Research projects:** the woman who can smell Parkinson's

**Student projects:** QMU physio, UoE med

**Spreading the word:** invited paper describing our activities “Adventures with Parkinson's: Empowering Parkinson's patients to become active partners in research and treatment”

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**And now..... DRIG**

# Acknowledgements

I am immensely grateful to:

- **Patrick Mark**, Chairman, now Vice Chairman, Edinburgh Branch
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- **Sheila Edward and Werner Remmele**, Edinburgh Branch
- **Lubna Arif , Emily Hughes, Claire Stephenson, Claire Bale, Anna Louise Smith (Parkinson's UK)**
- **Many other members of the Edinburgh Branch**