Symposium 5: Disorders of motivation in brain conditions

Sponsored by the Association of British Neurologists

Theme: Attention, motivation, behaviour

Monday 10th April, 16:20 - 18:00

Disorders of motivation, such as pathological apathy and impulsive decision making, are now recognized to be common syndromes that occur across a range of brain disorders. They affect more than a third of patients with neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Parkinson's disease and frontotemporal dementia; people who have suffered stroke or traumatic brain injury; and individuals suffering from depression and schizophrenia. They also have a major negative impact on the quality of life of patients and their carers, and represent a major unmet need since there are no definitive treatments.

Recent work in basic neuroscience has begun to unravel some of the brain mechanisms underlying apathy and impulsivity. They have also demonstrated that it might be possible to modulate both syndromes using drugs, for example those that target the dopamine and serotonin neurotransmitter systems of the brain.

In this symposium, we bring together some leading researchers in the field, covering basic science studies right through to applications in patients. This exciting mix of speakers will show how new developments in the field have begun to apply neuroscience for clinical benefit, as well as demonstrate how research in patients can have an impact on the development of new avenues of enquiry in science.

Chair: Professor Masud Husain (University of Oxford)

Co-Chair: Professor Trevor Robbins (University of Cambridge)

Speaker 1: Professor Trevor Robbins (University of Cambridge)

'Fractionating impulsivity: implications for brain disorders'

Speaker 2: Dr Ratko Radakovic and Professor Sharon Abrahams (University of Edinburgh)

'Multidimensional Apathy in Neurodegeneration'

Speaker 3: Dr Ciara McCabe (University of Reading)

'Reward processing in psychiatric disorders'

Speaker 4: Professor Masud Husain (University of Oxford)

'Reward and effort-based decision making'