

Notes and Announcements

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and Growth Hormone Therapy

In 1985, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease was reported in young adults who had received pituitary-derived growth hormone during childhood. To date, there have been more than 70 cases reported worldwide, 15 in the USA, 15 in Great Britain, and over 40 in France. *No cases have been reported in Canada, Japan, or Australia.* The continued occurrence of cases worldwide requires vigilance by all physicians in reporting unusual neurological deterioration in any person who has received pituitary growth hormone.

Since 1988, there have been more than 45 cases of leukemia reported worldwide in children and young adults with GH deficiency treated with GH. There have been 2 cases in Canada. These cases of leukemia occurred de novo and do not include recurrences of primary leukemia. It is not clear yet whether the risk of leukemia is increased in the GH treated population. Pseudo tumour cerebri has been reported worldwide in association with early GH therapy most often in children with chronic renal failure, Turner's syndrome and GH deficiency with obesity. There have been 4 reported cases in Canada to date.

Physicians who note any unexplained neurological or hematological changes in persons previously treated with GH are requested to notify Dr. Heather Dean, Chairperson, Canadian Growth Hormone Advisory Committee at 204-787-4553 or 204-787-7435.

Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Stroke Consortium

The Annual General Meeting of the Consortium was on February 28-March 1, 1997 to hear updates on a variety of new neuroprotectives and thrombolytics in acute ischemic stroke, as well as drugs for secondary prevention. These drugs are either in current trials by the CSC or are being considered for eligibility for multicentre testing.

Dr. Robert Hobson and Dr. Henry Barnett separately presented their rationale for large multicentre studies each enrolling about 3000 patients, for carotid surgery vs. stenting. Dr. Hobson's study would be headquartered in New Jersey and Dr. Barnett's in Rhode Island. Both groups have requested funding from NIH.

The CSC now numbers nearly 80 members, with about 10 Associate members, including methodologists, neurochemists and pathologists.

The recently elected new Board consists of Dr. J.W. Norris

(Chairman) and Drs. Cote, Hachinski, Phillips, Shuaib, Silver, Simard and Teal as Board Members.

Those wishing further information should contact: Ms. Kathryn Noxon, CSC Headquarters, C408, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, 2075 Bayview Ave., North York M4N 3M5. Phone: (416) 480-6775; Fax: (416) 480-6032

The 17th Annual J.L. Silversides Lecture will be delivered on Thursday, May 22, 1997 at The Toronto Hospital, in the main auditorium by Dr. John Griffin, Professor of Neurology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Griffin will lecture on axonal peripheral neuropathies.

EPILEPSY FELLOWSHIP AT LHSC-UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, London, Ontario.

One-year fellowship in clinical or basic epileptology in preparation for academic career. Pre-requisites: a) completion of training in neurology or neurosurgery, b) legal entitlement to practice in Ontario required, c) interest in clinical investigation. Tenable at Epilepsy Unit, University Hospital. Apply to: Dr. W.T. Blume or Dr. J.P. Girvin, Co-Directors, Epilepsy Unit, London Health Sciences Centre-University Campus, 339 Windermere Road, London, Ontario N6A 5A5.