

EMJ EUROPEAN
MEDICAL JOURNAL

NEUROLOGY

ISSN 2054-4529

Vol 31 • August 2015 • emjreviews.com

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Review of

EAN 2015

Berlin, Germany



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Q: Your work with the Oasi Institute is highly specialised, what attracted you to this particular branch of neurology?

A: The possibility to combine clinical practice and scientific research in the field of neurodegenerative diseases and sleep disorders; this research may have crucial clinical implications for the management and treatment of these patients.

Q: Are neurodegenerative diseases such as dementia becoming more prevalent, and is there anything that people can do to lower their risk?

A: Neurodegenerative diseases are becoming more and more prevalent, even considering the longer life expectancy of the general population. A healthy lifestyle and adequate management of vascular risk factors are necessary in order to prevent these disorders.

Q: How effective are current therapies for neurodegenerative diseases, and are there more in development?

A: Current therapies do not change the course of dementing processes or Parkinsonian syndromes, but they do manage to slow down their progression. Promising evidence has come from investigations of new neuroprotective agents and disease-modifying drugs.

Q: What do you hope to achieve in your research in the next couple of years?

A: To provide further insights into the neurophysiological mechanisms and neurochemical basis of vascular-related cognitive impairment. These insights may have practical implications for the design of novel therapeutic approaches.

Q: Are there any areas of neurology/neuroscience that you would like to study but have not yet had

the opportunity to? Are there any subjects that you feel deserve more attention than they currently receive?

A: Neuropaediatrics, cognitive rehabilitation, and non-invasive brain stimulation.

Q: How would you describe the overall rate of progress in neurology/neuroscience research in recent years?

A: I think that the overall amount of scientific research in neuroscience has increased recently, with its focus being on providing a greater understanding of neurodegenerative diseases.

Q: In your view, what are the main challenges facing neurologists today?

A: The prevention of stroke and minimising its consequences, the design of new disease-modifying drugs for multiple sclerosis and motor neuron disease, and enhancing cognitive rehabilitation and other non-pharmacological therapeutic interventions.

Q: How important are events such as EAN 2015 to the field of neurology/neuroscience?

A: They are extremely important and exciting, especially for young doctors and specialists. Sharing ideas and resources is the future for neuroscientists.

Q: What advice would you give to young doctors interested in a career in neurology/neuroscience?

A: Keep studying to learn and ask 'why?' of the neurobiological phenomena, attend different laboratories and institutes to share ideas with other colleagues with different areas of interest, never give up your scientific goals, and always look for cultural growth.

“Promising evidence has come from investigations of new neuroprotective agents and disease-modifying drugs.”