

NORTH WEST RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP

The first newsletter for the new Parkinson's UK North West RIG.

WELCOME!

Spring is in the air! I hope you're all looking forward to more clement days (in more ways than just the weather). We've been working away in the background to get our new group moving. In this first-ever newsletter, I'll just give a brief update on activity. As always, please get in touch if you have any comments, suggestions, or just want to say Hi.

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Lauch event

Thank you all again for your suggestion re: the schedule for our online launch event (to be held Friday May 14th). Professor Monty Silverdale is confirmed as 'headliner', and I'll give a very short introductory opening. We'll leave plenty of space for an informal Q&A, too. I will be sending out a poster, with sign-up links, very shortly.

Subsequent meetings (potentially in person) are in planning, where we'll hear from other researchers and group members in the region.

MEMBERS' CORNER

You may have noticed we've started a Members' Corner section of our website. As a Research Interest Group, we're all agreed that better communication between people with Parkinson's, clinicians and researchers is important. However, there is more than one way for this communication to be meaningful. Some in our group are poets, artists, musicians, story tellers... The list goes on. Sometimes, these mediums capture an experience in ways not available to scientific questioning. So, this space is for people to share some of their work.

If you've been creating, don't keep it to yourself! We'd love to see it. Head over to the website now to check out some poems from one of our members: northwestparkinsons.org/home-4/members-corner/

Can you help us improve our research?

Researchers at Manchester Metropolitan University and Salford Royal NHS are designing a study to investigate the impact of missed Parkinson's medication doses while in hospital. Parkinson's UK have been campaigning hard about this issue (parkinsons.org.uk/get-involved/get-it-time). We're planning to ask people to complete a medication diary while they're in hospital (for an overnight stay), but we need your help to make this diary effective and usable.

Please get in touch with me: n.ray@mmu.ac.uk, if you are willing to spare some of your time.

World Parkinson's Congress

The World Parkinson Congress (WPC) is an international conference on Parkinson's that takes place every 3 years. The conference is open to researchers, clinicians and people living with Parkinson's, and provides a unique environment for sharing of ideas, and hearing about the latest research findings. The next international congress is planned for 2022 in Barcelona, but there will also be a virtual event this year for the first time. The virtual congress takes place from 17-21 May 2021 and will include a range of talks on Basic Science, Clinical Science, Treatment Options, Comprehensive Care, and Living with Parkinson's.

Registration opens on 1st April (there is a small fee of \$25 USD. However, if you would like to attend but are unable to pay, please contact judith.bek@manchester.ac.uk to discuss possible support). For more information on the conference see <https://www.worldpdcoalition.org/WPCVirtual>.