

Wave goodbye to ADHD?

PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGICAL research has shown that ADHD children exhibit an excess of slow wave theta (4–7Hz) brain activity (Mann *et al.*, 1992). Now a team led by Professor John Gruzelier at Imperial College London has been awarded £225,000 to investigate the use of EEG-biofeedback, or neurofeedback, as an alternative non-invasive treatment for ADHD.

Neurofeedback involves conditioning a specific aspect of brain electrical activity, such as frequency, location, amplitude or

duration through real-time auditory and visual ‘feedback’, and is designed to enhance some frequencies whilst inhibiting others. Professor Gruzelier explains: ‘It is not difficult to learn and has been used successfully in a variety of settings, including feasibility studies with schizophrenic patients (Gruzelier *et al.*, 1999) and as a means of communication for “locked in” patients (Birbaumer *et al.*, 1999).

‘Using neurofeedback it should be possible to redress imbalances in cortical activity exhibited by children with ADHD, and in turn benefit behaviour and cognitive performance. Despite promising results abroad, the lack of controlled large-scale studies has limited acceptance of neurofeedback for ADHD. Our three-year project is funded by Cerebra, the foundation for the brain-injured infant, and with the collaboration of Dr Sturge at Northwick Park Hospital. We aim to examine the efficacy of neurofeedback in

comparison to both a non-neurofeedback control group and a non-neurofeedback stimulant-only group. We’ll also follow up at six and twelve months.’

□ *For more information, contact either Professor John Gruzelier or Dr David Vernon at the Department of Cognitive Neuroscience and Behaviour, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, St Dunstan’s Road, London. E-mail: J.Gruzelier@ic.ac.uk or D.Vernon@ic.ac.uk.*

References

- Birbaumer, N., Ghanayim, N., Hinterberger, T., Iverson, I., Kotchoubey, B., Kubler, A. *et al.* (1999). A spelling device for the paralysed. *Nature*, 398, 297–298.
- Gruzelier, J., Hardman, E., Wild, J. & Zaman, R. (1999). Learned control of slow potential interhemispheric asymmetry in schizophrenia. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, 34(3), 341–348.
- Mann, C.A., Lubar, J.F., Zimmerman, A.W., Miller, C.A. & Muenchen, R.A. (1992). Quantitative analysis of EEG in boys with attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder: Controlled study with clinical implications. *Pediatric Neurology*, 8(1), 30–36.

E-mail Lisa Morrison on lismor@bps.org.uk with your tips, questions, work in progress – anything related to the research process that you think would be of interest to our wide audience.

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Working memory and underachievement in the primary school years (MRC 2001–2004)

Susan Gathercole (University of Durham. E-mail: s.gathercole@durham.ac.uk), Catherine Willis and Anne-Marie Adams (Liverpool Hope University).

The study assesses the extent to which working-memory skills influence educational achievement. The aims are to investigate whether working memory-skills at school entry are better predictors of attainment in SATs and special educational needs (SEN) status than baseline assessments,

and whether children with SEN have working-memory deficits.

Visual perception and visuomotor control in spatial neglect (MRC 2001–2006)

A.D. Milner (University of Durham. E-mail:

a.d.milner@durham.ac.uk)

We are investigating (a) how neglect affects visual experience, visually guided actions and spatial cognition; and (b) how these different aspects can be improved by short periods of visuomotor adaptation to prismatic spectacles.

If you would like your recently funded research to feature in this column, contact Lisa Morrison on lismor@bps.org.uk with the funding body, amount awarded, period of funding, title, contact details and a clear summary of the project in under 50 words.

Wellcome grants programme

THE Wellcome Trust is making £3 million a year available to support projects that inform, debate, and stimulate – uniting science and society.

Two types of award will be available. The People Awards (of up to £30,000) aim to support activities that communicate biomedical science to the public and improve public understanding. Collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches are particularly encouraged. Projects funded under this scheme may include workshops and talks, arts projects, and teaching materials or techniques to encourage wider discussions. Society Awards (over £50,000) will be given for specific projects submitted in response to calls for research geared at

making a significant impact on public engagement with science and its related issues. The first three themes are: the arts (encouraging artists and other creative professionals to explore biomedical subjects and themes); young people's education (introducing new ideas into science education and boosting teachers' confidence in dealing with socioscientific issues); and broadening access (promoting discussion among new audiences about the impact of biomedical science on their lives).

□ *For more information contact Veronica McCabe, Programme Officer (tel: 020 7611 8415; e-mail: v.mccabe@wellcome.ac.uk) or visit www.wellcome.ac.uk/engagingscience.*

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES listed by deadline

8 November 2002

Research Into Ageing. Programme grants and research fellowships. Contact: Dr Susanne Sorensen. Tel: 020 7404 6878, website: www.ageing.org

ESRC: Research Centres Competition. Contact: Mohammed Quraishi, Competition Project Manager. Tel: 01793 413052; e-mail: Mohammed.Quraishi@esrc.ac.uk; website: www.esrc.ac.uk

13 November 2002

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. Grants-in-aid program. Contact: SPSSI Central Office, PO Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248, USA. E-mail: spssi@spssi.org

Alzheimer's Research Trust. PhD project grants and programme grants. Contact: Rebecca Wood. E-mail: azt@btinternet.com

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour. Postgraduate and research workshops, and research grants. Contact: Sue Healy. Tel: 0131 650 5455; e-mail: s.healy@ed.ac.uk; website: www.societies.ncl.ac.uk/asab/grants.html

21 November 2002

Wellcome Trust. Training fellowships in health research. Contact: Rebecca Christou. Tel: 020 7611 8888; website: www.wellcome.ac.uk

1 December 2002

NERC. Standard Research Grants. Contact: Dr J.H. Baker. Tel: 01793 411564; website: www.ageing.org

Leverhulme Trust. Research interchange grants. Contact: J. Cater. Tel: 020 7822 6952; e-mail: jcater@leverhulme.org.uk; website: www.leverhulme.org.uk

Wellcome Trust. Engaging Science – Society Awards. Contact: Rebecca Christou, Grants Information Officer. Tel: 020 7611 8888; website: www.wellcome.ac.uk

National Sleep Foundation. Pickwick Postdoctoral Fellowship. E-mail: nspf@sleepfoundation.org

4 December 2002

PPP Foundation. Children and adolescents grants. Tel: 020 7307 2622; e-mail: info@pppfoundation.org.uk

RESEARCH REQUESTS

■ I AM currently undertaking research into the **experience of retirement for dancers**, and how this experience might affect the **sense of self** at individual and sociological levels. Please contact me if you have been involved in such career, if you have any experiences relating to the project which you would like to share, or if you would like to know more.

Irina Roncaglia

University of London, Birkbeck

E-mail: roncagliaa@aol.com; tel/fax: 020 8747 0620

■ WE are identifying **clinical psychologists** working in **learning disabilities** with an interest in **psychosis**, and any research in this area. Please contact me to share your good practice.

Gillian Haddock

E-mail: GHaddock@fs1.with.man.ac.uk

■ OVER the past few years we have identified a number of character strengths and virtues valued in the United States. We would now like English-speaking scholars from different nations to comment on the presence or absence of these virtues and strengths in their home cultures. We have placed a survey online that will take about half an hour to complete. Please go to www.viastrengths.org/international and enter the code '2002'.

Martin E.P. Seligman

University of Pennsylvania

Christopher Peterson

University of Michigan

6 December 2002

Cancer Research UK. Project grants. Contact: Dr Lynn Turner. Tel: 020 7317 5178; website: www.cancerresearchuk.org

11 December 2002

PPP Foundation. Older people grants. Tel: 020 7307 2622; e-mail: info@pppfoundation.org.uk

15 December 2002

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Established investigator awards, postdoctoral fellowship and research grants. Contact: Grants Administrator. E-mail: inquiry@afsp.org, website: www.afsp.org

16 December 2002

Social Science Research Council. Sexuality research fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships and dissertation fellowships. Tel: 00 1 212 377 2700; e-mail: info@ssrc.org, website: www.ssrc.org

6 January 2003

Wellcome Trust. International research fellowship. Contact: Rebecca Christou, Grants Information Officer. Tel: 020 7611 8888; website: www.wellcome.ac.uk

9 January 2002

Leverhulme Trust. Study abroad studentships. Contact: J. Cater. Tel: 020 7822 6952; e-mail: jcater@leverhulme.org.uk; website: www.leverhulme.org.uk

10 January 2003

MRC. Career Development Award. Tel: 020 7636 5422; website: www.mrc.ac.uk

20 January 2003

BBSRC. New investigators scheme and research programme grants. Contact: Grants and Awards Administrator. Tel: 01793 413200; website: www.bbsrc.ac.uk

open date schemes

See January and May issues.

A searchable database containing full details of the various national and international funding opportunities for psychologists can be found on the Society's website at www.bps.org.uk/careers/funding.cfm

If you are a grant-awarding body, please e-mail Lisa Morrison (lismor@bps.org.uk) with details of your scheme for inclusion in this column.