

## PROGRAMME OF TOPICS AND SPEAKERS FOR BRANCH MEETINGS 2017

We are very pleased to have some exciting talks on medical and general interest subjects planned for this year

March 1 (This Meeting is also the **AGM** for the Oxford Branch of Parkinson'sUK.)

---

### **DBS: what it can do and what it can't do**

Increasing the knowledge of how the brain functions and what goes amiss in conditions such as PD make Deep Brain Surgery (DBS) a fascinating subject.

**James FitzGerald** *Consultant Neurosurgeon, Oxford University Medical Sciences Division (OMSD)*

**World Parkinson's Awareness Day is on April 11 and Parkinson's Awareness Week is April 10-16.**

**2017 is the 200th Anniversary of the publication of Dr James Parkinson's influential 'Essay on the Shaking Palsy'.**

In

April 5 'What do we know today that we didn't know then? Our April branch meeting will address this question and to help us to answer, we will also have a viewing of the BBC's **Parkinson's: The Funny Side** on the big screen. Many of us have seen this documentary presented by Paul Mayhew Archer, when he finds unexpected similarities between us....things like how we often drink our tea and coffee when it's cold, and how we crave chocolate!

We have planned some activities and discussion points. We may see if our discussions can show that our experience of living with Parkinson's has further similarities. Perhaps we can share our coping strategies? Perhaps our care givers have noticed thingsLet's enjoy the programme together and find out what we can about ourselves. It'll be good for a laugh! **Parkinson's: The Funny Side.**

**Paul Mayhew-Archer** *Scriptwriter of a wide range of comedy programmes for the BBC including episodes of The Vicar of Dibley. Paul is also a member of our Branch*

---

May 3 **Mitophagy in Parkinson's: Servicing the Brain's Energy Generator**

**Dr Joanna Poulton** *Professor of Mitochondrial Genetics, (OMSD)*

Mitochondria are proving to be of great interest to the scientific community as they search for the root causes of diseases such as PD and finding ways to overcome any breakdown of their function.

---

June 7 *TBC*

July 5 **The Linked Trials initiated by The Cure Parkinson's Trust** *A broad based review of international co-operation and progress in the quest for a cure and better palliative care. Pioneers of ways to involve patients as partners in research and clinical work. Helen Matthews and Dr Richard Wyse*

*Our August and September meetings will repeat the format adopted in the last couple of years. Members share their concerns, work out how the branch can help them better and help plan for future speakers and hopefully they will hear back from experts at the next meeting. In groups share your concerns with others. This could be about understanding more about the condition, how you can cope, where to get help and from whom. Your questions and comments will be brought to professionals for answers next month.*

*The groups: 1) those with Parkinson's, 2) those with Parkinson's living alone, 3) caregivers, 4) those coping with loss...their loved one is in a care home or has passed away, 5) young age and early onset people with Parkinson's*

---

September 6 *Using the information from previous month's discussions we bring your enquiries to a panel of professionals. In this meeting we also have a short presentation from a company specialising in preparing Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) documents.*

---

**The Oxford Fundraising Walk is on Sunday 10 September**

October 4 *A presentation from the Chair of the Trustees of Parkinson's UK Head Office. Also Bryony Sheridan has a presentation about keeping driving skills for PD car drivers research; and Sarah-Lynn Spruzen is offering to report on her survey done for her Masters in Applied Human Nutrition course at Oxford Brookes on the relationship of non-motor PD symptoms to diet*

---

November 1 *Professor Frances Platt and her PhD student Mylene, Oxford University Department of Pharmacology, Our Branch is supporting them on an exciting research mission going to*

December 6 *Christmas Party with games, food and talk.*

And looking ahead to 2018...

3 January 2018 Our own Branch Research officer (Volunteer) is all set to bring us up to date with the state of play in the world wide quest for a cure and for improvements in the treatment options available