Nature Reviews Neurology 9, 359 (2013); published online 18 June 2013;
doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2013.122;
doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2013.123;
doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2013.124;
doi:10.1038/nrneurol.2013.125

IN BRIEF

PAIN

Psychophysiological factors correlate with pain perception

Research published in *Pain* has identified two distinct psychophysiological and genetic profiles that correlate with responses to pain. The study participants were stratified into two pain clusters (PCs): PC1 exhibited higher neuroticism and anxiety scores, baseline sympathetic tone, cortisol levels, and frequency of the 5-HTTLPR short allele than did PC2. The PC1 profile was associated with a reduced pain tolerance threshold compared with PC2.

Original article Farmer, A. D. *et al.* Psychophysiological responses to pain identify reproducible human clusters. *Pain* doi:10.1016/j.pain.2013.05.016

NEURO-ONCOLOGY

Telomerase-related mechanisms are implicated in gliomas with late age of onset

Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in genes required for telomerase function might confer susceptibility to glioma with a comparatively late age of onset, a new genotyping study indicates. Walsh *et al.* obtained data from 2,286 patients with glioma, and found that SNPs in the *TERT* and *RTEL1* genes were associated with an older age at glioma diagnosis than were SNPs at other glioma risk loci. The findings suggest a role for telomerase-related mechanisms in gliomas that develop later in life.

Original article Walsh, K. M. *et al.* Genetic variants in telomerase-related genes are associated with an older age at diagnosis in glioma patients: evidence for distinct pathways of gliomagenesis. *Neuro Oncol.* doi:10.1093/neuonc/not051

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

IL-12p40—an early biomarker for multiple sclerosis?

Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) levels of the cytokine IL-12p40 can distinguish clinically isolated syndrome (CIS) and multiple sclerosis (MS) from other neurological disorders (OND), and could be an early diagnostic biomarker for MS, according to a recent report. In a study involving 115 patients with relapsing–remitting MS (RRMS), CIS or OND, the RRMS and CIS groups showed significantly elevated CSF levels of IL-12p40 compared with the OND group.

Original article Orbach, R. *et al.* Interleukin-12p40 in the spinal fluid as a biomarker for clinically isolated syndrome. *Mult. Scler.* doi:10.1177/1352458513491166

STROKE

Under pressure—inflatable sleeves reduce the risk of deep vein thrombosis after stroke

A new study published in *The Lancet* demonstrates that intermittent pneumatic compression (IPC), applied to the legs via inflatable sleeves, can substantially reduce the risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in patients who are rendered immobile following stroke. The CLOTS 3 trial enrolled 2,876 patients, half of whom were randomly assigned to IPC. 12.2% of the patients in the no-IPC group experienced DVT within 30 days of randomization, compared with 8.5% in the IPC group.

Original article CLOTS (Clots in Legs Or sTockings after Stroke) Trials Collaboration. Effectiveness of intermittent pneumatic compression in reduction of risk of deep vein thrombosis in patients who have had a stroke (CLOTS 3): a multicentre randomised controlled trial. *Lancet* doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(13)61050-8