

## **Tourette Syndrome**

Dr Hugo Critchley is a Neuropsychiatrist who, since January 2005 is consultant for the adult Tourette Syndrome Clinic at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery following Professor Mary Robertson and Dr Michael Orth. Dr Critchley is a Wellcome Senior Research Fellow in Clinical Science, funded for a research programme examining interactions between brain and body that underlie physical and psychological symptoms.

In addition to providing tertiary specialist advice regarding treatment and related conditions, an important aspect of the Tourette Syndrome Clinic is to support clinical research relating to this disorder. Collaboration across many departments within the National Hospital and the UCL Institute of Neurology is key to maintain the excellent research record established by Professor Mary M. Robertson at the National Hospital clinic towards optimal understanding and treatment of this condition. Professor Robertson continues to be a collaborator on on-going clinical studies of in collaboration with.

An important new programme was initiated by Dr Michael Orth (a neurologist with particular clinical and research expertise in Tourette Syndrome gained at the National Hospital) in collaboration with **Professor Marwan Hariz** to examine the efficacy of DBS in the treatment of Tourette syndrome. The Functional Neurosurgery Unit led by Professor Hariz have established the usefulness of DBS in treatment of movement disorders including Parkinson's Disease and Dystonia. A number of units around the world have used DBS to treat Tourette Syndrome and published results have been encouraging (e.g. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3589395.stm>). However, it is important to establish clearly the usefulness of this approach and optimise the methodology. A research programme to study DBS in Tourette Syndrome has been set up with on-going input from Dr Orth, and suitable patients identified. It is anticipated that this neurosurgical research will advance clinical treatment of people affected by severe incapacitating Tourette Syndrome.

The Tourette Syndrome (UK) Association provides support and education on behalf of those affected by Tourette Syndrome