

Parkinson's NSW
Ultimo Support Group (USG)
Notes from Meeting – Thursday 3rd July 2008

Attendance:

Gerald Ganglbauer
Deborah Corbett
Mike and Sue Willard
Laurin McKinnon
Simon Lewis
Pam England
Brian England
Trish Morgan
Brendan Hartnett

The Ultimo Parkinson's Support Group held its second meeting at the Ultimo Community Centre.

Dr Simon Lewis from the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital at Camperdown (RPA), spoke on the different drugs available for PWP.. Dr Lewis, a neurologist from The University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine Neurology Unit is now at RPA and is establishing The Brain and Mind Research Center at RPA. He is young, energetic and keen to strengthen communication between neurologists in Australia. His talk on Parkinson's drugs and his realistic perspective on why certain drugs are available and others are not was delivered with a typical English (or should I say Welsh) sense of humour.

He distributed handouts on various drugs and divided the types into Initiation or initial treatment drugs and Adjuvant or 'add-on' treatments. He was able to give a 'European' perspective on initial treatment drugs, which tends to favour Dopamine agonists mixed with levodopa. Questions were asked on the risks of Agonists, DBS, stem cell treatment and genetic or environmental causes for Parkinson's.

Trish Morgan, who is responsible for support groups within Parkinson's NSW, handed out information on Sifrol (pramipexole) and a trial being conducted at Bankstown hospital on the possible contributing factors of genes and environmental factors on the development of Parkinson's.

Various publications were available for sale or perusal.

As a first time member of a support group I found it very informative and relaxed. Thankyou to the convenors.

Deborah Corbett