The development of SITraN is still pretty much a building site as you can see from the snapshots from pictures taken by the builders. However, at last it is out of the ground, the steel work frame is now being installed and is progressing well in-line with the construction programme, even taking into account the exceptionally wet weather conditions during November and early December. The main retaining wall structure is complete. The overall progress achieved on site is going well and ISG feel positive for completion in August 2010. ISG have been awarded the “Considerate Constructors Award” for the project and scored 35.5 out of a possible 40 and the development is
listed in the top 10% of building sites in the country. Also, very exciting news, we have received the postal address for the new building:

Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience  
385A Glossop Road  
Sheffield  
S10 2HQ

As part of the restructuring of the Medical School you will have seen from the recent email from Susan Bridgeford, Faculty Director of Operations, we have a new Departmental Manager (DM), Mr Kevin Corke has been appointed as DM to the Neuroscience Department. Kevin will do a feature for future Newsletters and we warmly welcome Kevin to the group.

Many congratulations to **Professor Paul Ince** and **Dr Steve Wharton** who have been awarded a Project Grant (2010-2014) of £1.5m from the Medical Research Council: Epidemiological Neuropathology of dementia - The Cognitive Function and Ageing Neuropathology Study. **P.G. Ince (PI)**, C. Brayne, S. Love, F.E. Matthews, J.A.R. Nicoll, D Walsh, **S.B. Wharton**

Also many congratulations to **Dr Ke Ning** and **Professor Mimoun Azzouz** who have been awarded a SMA Europe (2010-2011) of 60,000 Euro: PTEN modulation effects on motor neuron axonal growth and neuromuscular junction size in spinal muscular atrophy. **Ke Ning (PI) and Mimoun Azzouz (co-PI)**

**New Starters and Leavers:**

**Academic Neurology:**

We warmly welcome and sadly say goodbye to the following:

**Sue Thompson** has joined Neurology as a Research Associate, who will be working on the Non-invasive Ventilation Natural History study along with Dr Christopher McDermott and Professor Pamela Shaw.
Mr Theocharis Stavroulakis will join Neurology on the 11th January 2010 as a Research Assistant working on recruitment of subjects to MND Clinical Research Projects. The function of the RA will be to provide co-ordination of PROGAS, a PROspective study of GASTrostomy in patients with motor neurone disease.

We also have two leavers at end of December and wish them well:

Richard Adams, Research Nurse will leave his role in co-ordinating the epidemiological study. Thanks to Richard for all his hard work during the last year.

Rachael Hibberd will be leaving her role as MND DNA bank nurse but staying on to work as the DeNDRoN nurse 0.5wte so will still be seen around the department.

Laura Ferraiuolo – recently submitted a preliminary application for funding for a Sir Henry Wellcome Fellowship for 4 year funding. We are very pleased to report that it was accepted to send a full application. Well done Laura and fingers crossed....


Mutant SOD1 G93A microglia have an inflammatory phenotype and elevated production of MCP1. SA Sargsyan, DJ Blackburn, SC Barber, PN Monk, PJ Shaw. Neuroreport 2009 (In Press).


Richard Mead has just had confirmation that we have entered a team of runners for next year’s Sheffield half-marathon (Sunday 25th April 2010). A team of 4 running for SITraN and will raise
sponsorship for SIF. Richard, Jill Shepherd, Scott Allen and Lee Leclere (Ellen Bennets other half) make up the team.

If anyone wants to join us they are more than welcome, see
http://www.sheffieldmarathon.com/info/list/ to enter.

Press Coverage:

Psychiatry in the news:

Work with collaborators at Bradford University on the neural basis of tranquillity received national newspaper coverage following its presentation at an Acoustics Conference at London Zoo on October 9th attended by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

The Erwin Stengel Award

Erwin Stengel was born in Vienna as an identical twin. He studied medicine in Vienna and went on to training in psychiatry and psychoanalysis. In 1957 he took up the first Chair of Psychiatry in Sheffield with responsibility for Clinical services of the United Sheffield Hospitals where he demonstrated the proper clinical care of patients following suicide attempts and also encouraged young colleagues in the study of psychiatric aspects of pain. His trainees included Michael Bond (now Sir Michael Bond, President of the International Association for the Study of Pain), Harold Merskey, Graham Spear and Issy Pilowsky (Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of Adelaide, South Australia and father of Professor Lyn Pilowsky, previously from the Institute of Psychiatry, London). Erwin Stengel was one of the founders of the International Association for Suicide Prevention. He died in 1973.

Alongside the bronze bust of Erwin Stengel that resides in our lecture theatre is a decorated cup given to Stengel by Sigmund Freud. This was a present from Freud in gratitude for Stengel’s successful treatment of a member of his household staff.

The Stengel Prize ‘for academic excellence in Psychiatry’ was re-inaugurated in 2005 at a ceremony attended by Professor Jenner (the second Professor of Psychiatry in Sheffield). The prize winner (s) is expected to produce a critical review on a research topic of relevance to clinical psychiatry between 1500 and 2000 words.

Congratulations to the prize winners, Dr Andrew Heighton and Dr Lourence Lewis-Hanna, who will present their research at The Academic Research Seminar on 16th December 2009 and receive their prizes. Dr Heighton will present on ‘Empathy in practice: Intersubjectivity and Psychiatry’. Dr Lewis-Hanna on ‘Auditory Hallucinations and the aberrant activation theory’.
Recruitment to Psychiatry Evening

The Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Trust and Academic Clinical Psychiatry hosted a Psychiatry Recruitment Fair during the evening of Wednesday 25th November 2009, held in the Lecture Theatre in Academic Clinical Psychiatry. The fair was a great success with approximately 10 stations displaying an array of posters showing the different specialities within psychiatry. Approximately 40 keen medical students attended the event and presentations were given by senior members of SHSC and Academic Clinical Psychiatry. Many of the psychiatry junior doctors gave up their evening to discuss with the medical students opportunities for careers in. This fair has now become an annual event.

Academic Neurology Unit: Postdoctoral Research Associate: (Ref: RO7577) see www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs - closing date: 18th December 2009. Summary: Comparison of gene expression profile in two experimental models showing strain specific difference in motor neuron disease phenotype.

Applications are invited for the post of Postdoctoral Research Associate, funded by the Motor Neurone Disease Association. This post will be based initially in the Academic Neurology Unit, Sheffield with the opportunity to apply to spend a further two years of the project at the Mario Negri institute in Milan. Please see Sheffield University’s Jobs webpage for further details.

Christmas Lunch:

Just a reminder of the Christmas lunch on Thursday 17th December at the Ego Restaurant, if you would like further details or owe money please contact Rebecca Brown: rebecca.brown@sheffield.ac.uk
Christmas Lecture:

Neuroscience Christmas Lecture "An epic South Pole journey" Doug Oppenheim and Jeremy Rogers.

Friday 18th December 2009 - 2pm Medical School Lecture Theatre 3, F floor.

This time last year Doug and Jeremy set out to do a sponsored journey to the South Pole. They skied 1000km over 2 months through some of the most hostile terrain on the planet. We were honoured that they chose the Sheffield Institute of Translational Neuroscience (SITraN) as their charitable cause and they raised £750,000 to help with the costs of the building.

They have kindly agreed to do a presentation about this amazing feat of endurance for our Neuroscience Christmas lecture and they will deliver the story with great panache and humour.

You are warmly invited to come along and hear the story from the awesome pair - it will be an amazing start to the festive season.

Wishing you all Seasons Greetings.