The Neurology Research Group continues its work in a wide range of areas but especially in those of multiple sclerosis and movement disorders. The research team includes; Dr Okka Kimmich, Dr Anna Molloy, Dr Laura Williams, Newman Fellow in Movement Disorders; Dr Karen O’Connell, Newman Fellow in MS Research; Post-Doctoral MS Research Fellow, Dr Jean Fletcher (based at TCD); MS Nurse Specialists Marguerite Duggan and Lisa Buckley, Parkinson’s Nurse Heather Kevighan and Clinical Trials Research Nurse Sinead Jordan.

In November 2012 we began recruiting for our first investigator-led interventional clinical trial entitled: ‘Dose-related effects of vitamin D on immune responses in patients with Clinically Isolated Syndrome or early MS and healthy control participants. An exploratory double blinded placebo controlled study’ (2012CIS/VD/SVUH). The principal investigator of this study is Professor Michael Hutchinson. To date 26 participants have been screened. A second interventional trial involving MS participants, led by Dr Christopher McGaigan is due to commence in spring 2013.

Neuropsychological assessments of participants with MS, conducted over three years, are ongoing as part of a larger study on evoked potentials in MS. Neuropsychological assessments are being completed in collaboration with Sean O Donnchadha, Marie Claire O Brien, Dr Jessica Bramham and Dr Teresa Burke from the School of Psychology, UCD.

Research in dystonia in conjunction with Prof Richard Reilly and Dr Robert Whelan of the Department of Neural Engineering has been funded jointly by the HRB and Dystonia Ireland with a two-year grant. We have shown that the temporal discrimination threshold is a useful endophenotype in adult onset primary torsion dystonia (AOPTD) and this may have important implications for understanding the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying this disorder and ultimately its genetic basis.

Our research registrars and collaborators represented our department at several international and national neurology conferences throughout the year presenting our current data.
Dr Karen O’Connell  
**Blegen Idex Newman Research Fellow in Neurology**  
**Location:** St Vincent’s University Hospital  
**Contact:** 01 221 4030  
**Email:** k.connell@st-vincents.ie  
I am a Consultant Neurologist in St Vincent’s University Hospital with a specialist interest in Movement Disorders. Our group, led by Professor Michael Hutchinson, has an established interest in the study of clinical, genetic, imaging, and neurophysiological aspects of dystonia.  

Dr Sean O’Kordan  
**Clinical Lecturer**  
**Location:** St Vincent’s University Hospital  
**Contact:** 01 221 4030  
**Email:** s.okordan@st-vincents.ie  
I am a Consultant Neurologist in St Vincent’s University Hospital with a specialist interest in Movement Disorders. Our group, led by Professor Michael Hutchinson, has an established interest in the study of clinical, genetic, imaging, and neurophysiological aspects of dystonia.

Grants:  
**Title:** Biogen Idex Newman Research Grant  
**Funder:** Biogen Idex Newman Research Grant  
**Start/End Dates:** 2012-2014  
**Amount:** €24,000  
**Funder:** Biogen Idex Newman Research Grant  
**Start/End Dates:** 2014-2018  
**Amount:** €440,000

**Title:** IICN- Novartis Fellowship research grant  
**Funder:** Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience & Novartis  
**Start/End Dates:** 2013-2017  
**Amount:** €105,000

**Title:** The effect of sacral neuromodulation on inputs to the somatosensory cortex  
**Funder:** Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)  
**Start/End Dates:** 01-SEP-11 / 31-AUG-15  
**Amount:** €175,000

**Title:** Reflex and behavioural studies of faecal continence and incontinence in an animal model and optimisation of frequency parameters of sacral neuromodulation  
**Funder:** Medtronic Inc.  
**Start/End Dates:** 22-JUN-12 / 01-JAN-15  
**Amount:** €105,000

**Title:** ICGAN: Novartis Fellowship research grant  
**Funder:** Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience & Novartis  
**Start/End Dates:** 01-JAN-13 / 31-OCT-16  
**Amount:** €50,000

**Title:** Clinical Scientist Award The temporal discrimination threshold as a medi-  
**Funder:** Health Research Board  
**Start/End Dates:** 01-JAN-13 / 31-OCT-16  
**Amount:** €24,000

**Title:** A new model for studying eye development  
**Funder:** University College Dublin Foundation Ltd.  
**Start/End Dates:** 01-JAN-13 / 31-OCT-16  
**Amount:** €800,000