

# Ataxia UK Specialist Ataxia Clinic

at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital  
in Sheffield

**Ataxia UK accredited Ataxia Centres are Centres of Excellence**, where people with ataxia should receive the best possible quality of care and a co-ordinated service combining diagnosis, treatment, support and research. You are guaranteed to be seen by a neurologist with expertise in the ataxias. An accredited Centre must also comply with other criteria. (Contact Ataxia UK for further information.)

The Centres have been set up in direct response to needs identified by people affected by ataxia, as well as clinicians with expertise in the condition.



*Dr Marios Hadjivassiliou receiving the certificate of accreditation from Ataxia UK's Chair*

The Centre at the Sheffield Royal Hallamshire Hospital is the first Accredited Centre in the North of England.



## The Sheffield Ataxia Clinic

The Ataxia clinic is held once a week. It is a specialised service for all patients with suspected or genetically confirmed familial ataxias or other immune mediated and degenerative cerebellar ataxias. A more specialised gluten ataxia clinic is also held once a week. Referrals to both clinics are accepted from neurologists and GPs.

### The clinic provides:

- Access to a neurologist with 12 years expertise of seeing patients with ataxia
- Continuity of care – patients see the same Neurologist
- Regular yearly (or 6 monthly) follow-up
- Availability of all latest diagnostic tests (either locally or via collaborations with other research centres)
- Genetic counselling via a Genetic counsellor

Continued overleaf...

- Referral to other specialists within the Hospital already experienced in dealing with some of the additional medical complications of some ataxias
  - e.g. cardiologists, neuro-ophthalmologists, geneticists
- Referral to physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy
- Referral to Neurological Therapy Outreach service if appropriate - involving home visits from physiotherapist and/or occupational therapist
- Support both during and between clinic visits via the Ataxia specialist nurse. This nurse is available to discuss medical, social or financial queries
- Close links with primary, community and secondary care services for shared care and education on the ataxias
- Inclusion of patient information on an ataxia database, facilitating research
- Regular monitoring of clinic to ensure responding to patients' needs.

#### **Involvement in Research:**

Dr Hadjivassiliou is also involved in various research projects. Patients who are interested may therefore have the opportunity to take part in research. His main expertise is in immune mediated ataxias and in particular ataxia associated with sensitivity to gluten (gluten ataxia)

#### **The Clinic Team:**

The clinic team includes the ataxia specialist neurologist, Dr Marios Hadjivassiliou and an ataxia specialist nurse, Diane Friend (0114 271 3946).

**Anyone interested in getting an appointment to attend the Ataxia clinic should ask their doctor or neurologist for a referral. Referrals are accepted from GPs and neurologists throughout the UK.**

#### **Contact details for referrals:**

##### **Dr Hadjivassiliou**

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 Royal Hallamshire Hospital  
 Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust  
 Glossop Road  
 Sheffield S10 2JF  
 Tel: 0114 271 2502

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