**Converting data files to CSV**

You may wish to analyze patch clamp recordings, obtained using *patchclamp*, with third-party (non-Matlab) software, such as Origin, pClamp, Igor Pro, or Excel. A utility included with the *patchclamp* software called convertocsv will help in this regard. It converts the data from Matlab format to an ASCII format called comma-separated-values (CSV), which can then be imported directly into many other programs.

Type the following at the Matlab command line:

>> converttocsv

This will open the following GUI:

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

First, select the data folder in which the data you wish to convert are saved by pressing the button **data folder** and then using the resulting dialog window. The name of this folder will be displayed in the field **data folder.**

All data files found in the specified data folder will be shown in the list box **file list**. Select whatever files you wish to convert. If you wish to convert more than one file, select more than one item from the list box in the usual Windows OS way (hold down the shift or CTRL keys while left clicking.)

Then select the folder in which the converted data are to be saved by pressing the button **save folder** and using the resulting dialog window.

Finally, press the button **convert to CSV**.

The data will be saved within the save folder in subfolders based on the date they were taken. For example, say that the data were taken on March 14, 2021 and you specified C:\Users\YourName\Documents\MyData as the save folder. Then the *converttocsv* program will save the converted files into C:\Users\YourName\Documents\MyData\2021\03\14.