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A word from our Chair

2021 is the 20th Anniversary of the Scottish Stroke Nurses Forum. We have decided to postpone our anniversary plans but will definitely be having a 21st party in 2022. November will see plans get underway for both our celebration and conference for next year.

I think it is fair to say that the last 18 months have been a challenge and has seen many of the nursing staff involved in stroke taking on new roles and being deployed into other posts. As I am sure you are all aware during this time the SSNF has continued to meet and we have strived to keep you informed of what has been going on. This has not always been easy. Not only due to COVID but because of the switch for many from nhs.net to nhs.scot.

The Scottish Stroke Improvement Report (<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/scottish-stroke-improvement-programme/scottish-stroke-improvement-programme-2021-national-report/ts>) reflects the impact that COVID had in 2020 but also reflects the hard work that stroke teams have put in to keep their services up and to meet the stroke standards.

We have in the last year seen some innovative developments. Link and Learn sessions on every second Tuesday lunchtime have been a great success. There has been a wide diversity of presentations including the opportunity to ask questions to Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director of Healthcare Quality and Strategy and of course on the 31st Aug 2021 I presented on behalf of the SSNF a summary of our history, our work-plan and the opportunity to recruit further members. This raised some questions about our profile / recruitment/ committee members and on the back of this there will be discussions about how to further improve our profile at our November meeting.

Thanks to Katrina McCormick we have managed to continue to produce our Newsletter twice a year. If you have something interesting happening in your area please get in touch and we can help you produce an article for the Newsletter. We would love to hear from you and your nursing team.

Our Scotland wide thrombectomy service will undoubtedly be part of the new Stroke Improvement Plan from the Scottish Government and we will share this with you as soon as it is published (likely to be 2022). Meanwhile the Thrombectomy Pilot Study continues in Tayside. The transfer paperwork that the SSNF helped to develop is being used and also assessed as part of the study along with the role of the stroke transfer nurse. CHSS trainer Amanda Johnston, an SSNF member, has delivered STAT plus training across the Health Boards helping to up-skill and prepare stroke nurses for this new and exciting role. The funding for new stroke nurse posts has been agreed and the SSNF look forward to engaging and supporting the nurses in these new roles.

The SSNF invites you to join us at our committee meetings if you would like to see what goes on. We have 3 committee subgroups that you are welcome to join, Communication (including conference planning), Education and Research.

Many of our members have been involved in updating of the STARS / stroke training website (www.chsselearning.org.uk) and this work continues. Take a look at the changes and take time to revisit these and complete them as part of your e-learning / revalidation.

Finally thank-you to all the committee members past and present for their hard work and to all our members for your on-going support without you the SSNF would not continue to thrive.

Linda Campbell, Chairperson, Sept 2021



At Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, we believe that sharing knowledge and experience is key to ensuring that people living with our conditions get the best care possible.

Our programme of education provides a high-quality learning experience for professionals from the health, social care, third and voluntary sectors. We use a blended learning approach, utilising a range of educational formats and digital resources to provide both functional and flexible learning opportunities.

National Education

Funded by a partnership with the Scottish Government, the National Educator provides national stroke training to healthcare professionals across Scotland. The current focus of the National Educator is to deliver Thrombectomy education, supported by the Scottish Ambulance Service, to registered stroke nurses who will be involved in thrombectomy care in Scotland.

The education team also deliver our national Link Up and Learn virtual education sessions which provide training to healthcare professionals involved in, or with an interest in, stroke care. Delivered in partnership with the Scottish Stroke Improvement Programme, these one-hour sessions take place fortnightly and cover a wide range of topics from colleagues working in stroke care, with time for discussion and knowledge sharing. These sessions have so far had just under 1500 attendees to sessions and over 300 watching the session recordings.

Local Education

Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, in partnership with local NHS Boards, deliver local stroke training programmes aimed at healthcare professionals, social care staff and care home staff. We currently have a Stroke Educator in NHS Fife and NHS Grampian. A variety of training courses are available which range from introductory level to advanced and give access to the training required to meet the National Stroke Education Pathway, this includes Stroke and TIA assessment training and use of intermittent pneumatic compression stockings. The training is designed to meet the needs of the learner and ranges in delivery from 1 hour awareness sessions to two full day courses. Training can be designed specifically for an area on request.

eLearning

The Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland eLearning portfolio is commissioned by Scottish Government.

Our eLearning portfolio contains learning for healthcare professionals, patients and carers, covering chest, heart and stroke conditions. These free-to-access online resources have been created by multi-disciplinary healthcare professionals, patients and carers from across Scotland. The professional resources have optional assessments which, if successfully completed, provide certificatory documentation of learning that can be used as evidence of continuous professional development.

If you would like to discuss any of the above with our education team then please email chsseducation@chss.org.uk or for more information visit www.chss.org.uk/education/



NRS Stroke Research Network current active study list

STUDY NAME	CPMS ID	STUDY NAME	CPMS ID
ATTEST 2 A trial comparing the new "clot busting" drug treatment tenecteplase with standard clot-busting treatment	33335	MSS-3 Studies of small vessel Diseases: The Mild Stroke Study 3	39665
CADASIL Characterising vascular pathophysiology in CADASIL with gluteal biopsy	15418	NICHE (LINCHPIN) Neuro-Inflammation after Cerebral Haemorrhage in Edinburgh	9974
CAIRS V1 Covid 19 Adaptive Immune Response in Stroke COVID-19	48025	OPTIMAS OPTimal TIMing of Anticoagulation after acute ischaemic Stroke: a randomised controlled trial	40836
COMMERCIAL CHARM 252LH301: Efficacy and safety of IV BIIB093 (The CHARM study)	NA	PRECIOUS PREvention of Complications to Improve OUtcome after Stroke	35935
COMMERCIAL Andexanet ICHA phase 4 RCT clinical trial of Andexanet Alfa for injection in acute intracranial haemorrhage in patients receiving an oral factor xa inhibitor	NA	PROHIBIT ICH Prevention Of Hypertensive Injury to the Brain by Intensive Treatment after IntraCerebral Haemorrhage	38628
COMMERCIAL AXIOMATIC-SSP Response-Adaptive Dose Ranging Study of BMS-986177, an Oral Factor XIa Inhibitor, for the Prevention of New Ischemic Stroke or New Covert Brain Infarction in Patients Receiving Aspirin and Clopidogrel Following Acute Ischemic stroke	NA	R4VAD Rates, risks and routes to reduce vascular dementia, (R4Vad)	40097
CONVINCE - COLchicine for preventioN of Vascular Inflammation in Non-CardioEmbolic stroke)	33929	SUSHI Saeboglove therapy for severe Upper limb disability and Severe Hand Impairment after stroke	44600
DASH Desmopressin for treatment of patients taking Antiplatelet agents with Stroke due to Haemorrhage	38963	TEMPO-2A randomized controlled trial of TNK-tPA versus standard of care for minor ischemic stroke	38360
ELAN Early versus Late initiation of direct oral Anticoagulants in post-ischaemic stroke patients with atrial fibrillation	39909	Ultra highfield MRI to detect thrombus in lacunar stroke.	NA
ENRICH AF EdoxabaN foR IntraCranial Haemorrhage survivors with atrial fibrillation	48029	Whole brain Human Ischemic Stroke Perfusion and Extended Recanalisation - Pilot (WHISPER-P)	38449
Is cerebral amyloid angiopathy associated with stroke due to intracerebral haemorrhage?	NA		

To view details about any of the studies listed study visit the Open Data Platform. <https://public-odp.nihr.ac.uk/qlikview/>





The Sir Jules Thorn Centre for Co-Creation of Rehabilitation

The Sir Jules Thorn Centre for Co-Creation of Rehabilitation is an exciting new venture. The centre is driving a revolution in rehabilitation by developing cutting edge technology through a novel co-creation approach with the rehabilitation community. Success for the centre will depend on community engagement. An event to raise awareness among stakeholders, user groups (stroke survivors, carers and health professionals), researchers and industry took place on 25th May..

The centre was the first in the world to purchase the [HERO Solution](#), the latest development from [Motek](#) and Monitored Rehab Systems. The [HERO Soltion](#) enables you to treat patients on functional strength, gait and balance, coordination and motor control to improve mobility problems caused by neurological, orthopaedic, muscular, cardiovascular or other conditions such as COVID-19 and long-COVID. [Read more.](#)

Dr Andy Kerr, Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Engineering and Physiotherapist, said:

“This type of technology is critical to achieving our ambition of equitable access to effective rehabilitation. The kit will fit perfectly into our existing portfolio of rehabilitation technology as we prepare to launch our new Sir Jules Thorn Centre for Co-Creation of Rehabilitation Technology in spring 2021.”

To find out more contact Dr Andy Kerr a.kerr@strath.ac.uk

[Centre to revolutionise rehabilitation technology for stroke survivors | University of Strathclyde](#)



The annual report was published on June 29th and is available here:

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/scottish-stroke-improvement-programme/scottish-stroke-improvement-programme-2021-national-report/>

The Scottish National Audit Programme governance process was completed as well, with all negative outliers, i.e. those that were 2 or 3 standard deviations out with the mean, or those where there has been no improvement, have all responded and are working to improve their service.

- The national meeting moved to an online only meeting, due to escalating pressures on clinical staff and was very well attended, with over 120 joining the meeting. The presentations and videos are available on the TEAMS page, and if you would like access, just ask.
- The annual review process has commenced, and all health boards, with 2 exceptions, have dates in the diary. These should be complete by the end of the year.
- Data collection for thrombectomy has commenced in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and also Ninewells have been collecting the data for some time.
- Standards for thrombectomy will be agreed at the next steering group, and will then come to the Thrombectomy Advisory Group and then NACS for approval
- We are continuing to review the outpatient dataset, and quality assurance work, including SMR01 and gaps in data collection is also progressing.





STARs eLearning Resources:

Following on from the update of the progress of eLearning in the spring SSNF newsletter I can confirm that most of the content of the 37 STARs resources have now been updated. Some still require 'finalised' with changes to the quizzes/images/interactive content of individual resources.

I am so very pleased to tell everyone that CHSS have employed technical support to help me finalise this work. Serena is an interactive content developer who joined the charity earlier this month.

So with the update of many of the resources now almost complete we are always looking for people to review the updated content. You will be acknowledged as such on the module. So if this is something that would interest you please just get in touch at: katrina.mccormick@chss.org.uk

There are a few remaining STARs modules that have just got underway work on updating content or are still to restart. I am really pleased to let you know that a working group for the continence resources has been re-established earlier this month and these resources have been rebranded as 'Bowel and Bladder Rehabilitation'. With Professor Jo Booth leading the working group for the update of this work. The group have been very busy and have already agreed all updated content required for the Core Competency and have started on the advancing module.

We are still looking to update the following modules:

'loss of feeling' CC 10, 'pain management' AM 14 and 'sensitive and effective conversations at end of life care after acute stroke' AM18. If anyone would wish to be part of any of these group please just get in touch with me at: katrina.mccormick@chss.org.uk

Some STARs Stats:

Did you know that the '**Top 5 Countries**' accessing the STARs resources in 2021 are:

Position / %	Country
1. 82%	UK
2. 3%	Ireland
3. 3%	United States
4. 2%	New Zealand
5. 2%	Australia

(1st Jan till 31st Aug 2021)

All **STARs** & **HEARTE** learning resources can be accessed @: <http://chsselearning.org.uk>

Article submitted by: Katrina McCormick, CHSS.



Save The Date!

UK Stroke Forum Conference 30th November -2nd December 2021

The 16th edition of the UK Stroke Forum will take place virtually, where we will once again come together to share best practice and research across the stroke pathway.

Visit the website for everything you need to know and regular updates about the conference @: <https://stroke.org.uk/professionals> For further information contact: ukstrokeforum@stroke.org.uk



If you would like to have an article considered or if you have something you think would be of interest for the next Newsletter please contact: linda.campbell8@nhs.scot or your local committee member

To view more information on the work of the SSNF visit the website @ <https://www.ssnf.org.uk/>