NRS Stroke Research Network current active study list

To view details about any of the studies listed study visit the Open Data Platform.

**ODP Public View**  [http://public-odp.nihr.ac.uk/qlikview/](http://public-odp.nihr.ac.uk/qlikview/)

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**VNS Stroke Study MT-ST-01: Vagus Nerve Stimulation Paired with Rehabilitation Improves Upper Limb Recovery after Chronic Ischemic Stroke** Jesse D Dawson, University of Glasgow.

Two studies have now been completed of this new brain stimulation technique world-wide, with more than half of the participants being recruited in the SRN. Results of the first study were presented at the 2015 International Stroke Conference (ISC) in Nashville Tennessee and published in the journal of stroke. Results of the second study were presented at the 2017 ISC in the conference main event and it is estimated the results reached as many as 97 million people! The studies suggest that pairing brain stimulation with physiotherapy using the vagus nerve helps improve arm function after stroke. A pivotal phase 3 study of the technique will begin in summer 2017 in the USA and Scotland.

**ATTEST2: A trial comparing the new “clot busting” drug treatment tenecteplase with standard clot-busting treatment** Professor Keith Muir, University of Glasgow.

Tenecteplase is being tested in a large clinical trial to establish whether it is better than alteplase for the treatment of acute ischaemic stroke. This will involve a large number of hospitals in the UK, and possibly overseas. People who are considered suitable for clot busting treatment will be allocated at random to receive either the current standard treatment with alteplase, or tenecteplase, and will be followed up for the first 90 days to measure the effects on recovery. Even if the drugs are equally effective, tenectaplace is an attractive option. It is less expensive and much easier to give (needing a single injection only.

This new Stroke Association & British Heart Foundation funded study opened at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow in December 2016. The study will recruit until August 2019 with a global recruitment target of 1870 of which 30% will be from the SRN. Approvals to open at other Scottish sites are currently underway: Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Wishaw General Hospital and Monklands General Hospital.

**Penumbra and Recanalisation Acute Computed Tomography in Ischaemic Stroke Evaluation**

EXTENSION DATE CONFIRMED

EME NIHR funders have granted a 12 month extension to the PRACTISE study. The study will now recruit until March 2018.

The study is currently open at 9 sites across the UK and there is a strong possibility new sites will be sought in Scotland in the near future.
Many congratulations to Research Investigators Dr Katie Gallacher and Dr David Alexander Dickie on their recent Stroke Association research awards.

Dr David Alexander Dickie works at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and did his PhD and post doctoral training at the University of Edinburgh. He said, “My postdoctoral fellowship will use brain MRI scans from stroke survivors, including ultra high field 7 Tesla scanning, to identify areas of brain damage associated with stroke. By developing new ways to quantify these areas of damage we may predict how well patients will do in the long-term, providing earlier diagnoses and improved outcomes after stroke.”

Dr Katie Gallacher is based at General Practice and Primary Care, Institute of Health and Wellbeing. She said “I was awarded a Stroke Association Clinical Lectureship. The work will focus on developing measures to assess self-management workload issues and interventions to enable people with stroke to self-manage health problems.”

Stroke researchers in Edinburgh and Glasgow have begun trying to increase representation of stroke survivors in SHARE, a register of people interested in participating in health research. They have obtained permissions and funding to write to 2000 stroke survivors to invite them to participate in SHARE. If this is successful then they will look to invite all stroke survivors in Scotland.

SHARE website
https://www.registerforshare.org/

Follow us @scottishstroke for all the latest news on forthcoming events, and conferences, stroke research updates, PCP updates and more.
At the mention of PPI many readers will have visions of daytime TV adverts and mis-sold insurance. However, the PPI of interest here is Patient and Public Involvement in research. I have had the good fortune to be involved in a number of PPI projects and so when the network asked if I would like to say something about PPI in the Newsletter I immediately agreed. And what I want to say is just two words – Thank you. Thank you to all the stroke survivors, carers and interested members of the public who have helped improve stroke research in Scotland.

Historically, stroke research was ‘done to’ patients by scientific experts. This approach missed the opportunity to fully involve the real experts in stroke, the people whose lives have been affected by stroke themselves. There isn’t space to list all the SRN supported projects that have benefited from patient, carer or public input. To give a flavour of PPI in stroke in Scotland, I will mention some recent activity.

In a series of priority setting workshops, stroke survivors told us that they wanted to see more research around the memory, thinking and mood consequences of stroke. The Scottish stroke research community responded and we now have some national studies planned or recruiting that focus on this topic, examples include the APPLE study (assessing post stroke psychology longitudinal evaluation) and the recently funded R4VaD study.

The best examples of patient and public involvement are where the lay members assist with all aspects of a study. This has been the approach taken with APPLE and R4VaD, with a group of stroke survivors helping set the question, design the projects and comment on the conduct of the study as it recruits. We are looking forward to continuing to work with stroke survivors as we start to interpret findings and disseminate results.

An appreciation of PPI should begin early in a stroke research career. The Stroke Association have recognised this and invited a group of early career Scottish stroke researchers to a PPI training day, chaired by the Stroke Association’s newly appointed Research Engagement Officer, Laura Piercy.

Not everyone can be directly involved in stroke studies, but it is important that everyone has a chance to hear about the important stroke research happening in Scotland. We now have more and more opportunity to spread the message of stroke research beyond the traditional formats of scientific conferences and journals. You can follow SRN and many of the Scottish stroke research teams on twitter (@ScottishStroke); recent web blogs have covered vascular dementia (http://bit.ly/2voxZdu) and memory testing in stroke (wp.me/p2gajT-16h); while outreach activities such as the popular European Researchers night and Café with Heart allow for a good old fashioned face-to-face chat with researchers.

So, thank you to everyone who has helped and to those who have read this and want to get involved or just hear more then please get in touch at this email: gg-uhb.scottishstroke@nhs.net

Dr Terry Quinn (terry.quinn@glasgow.ac.uk)
@DrTerryQuinn

Stroke Association PPI training day featuring some Scottish PhD students
Patient, Carer & Public Involvement - what’s happening in your area?

The Research to Understand Stroke due to Haemorrhage (RUSH) Patient Reference Group (PRG)

The RUSH programme is dedicated to better understanding the causes and outcome of stroke due to spontaneous (non-traumatic) intracerebral haemorrhage in adults, leading to randomised controlled clinical trials of interventions to improve outcome. The RUSH programme has been and is involved in the design (e.g. RESTART, LINCHPIN, PATCH, ARUBA) and delivery (e.g. TICH2) of many research projects, with the support of SRN Research Nurses.

The researchers in RUSH firmly believe in patient, carer and public involvement (PCPI) when designing and conducting their research. Their Patient Reference Group (PRG) includes men and women who have survived brain haemorrhage. The PRG helps the researchers to plan and conduct new research by commenting on study priorities, design and the materials used. The PRG meets in person at least once per year, and enjoys regular updates by quarterly email, Twitter (@BleedingStroke) and Facebook (/bleedingstroke). More details are available at: [http://www.ed.ac.uk/clinical-brain-sciences/research/diagnoses-disease-targets/rush/rush-patient-reference-group](http://www.ed.ac.uk/clinical-brain-sciences/research/diagnoses-disease-targets/rush/rush-patient-reference-group).

For example, the PRG considered the methods and materials of a new MRI-PET study – a study using Scotland’s first new advanced scanner that combines magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) to reveal details of the brain’s structure and function. One of the PRG’s members accompanied the team when the study was reviewed – and subsequently approved! – by the Scotland A Research Ethics Committee.

If you have recently planned Patient, Carer & Public Involvement activity in your local area or are about to do so, we want to hear from you! Our plan is to publish PCPI events and activities on our website. Please email [liz.ronald@nhs.net](mailto:liz.ronald@nhs.net) with a brief description of your activity or event and attach any photographs you may have. Thank you.
**Dates for your Diary**

**12th UK STROKE FORUM CONFERENCE 2017**
*The UK’s largest multi-disciplinary conference for stroke care professionals*
Tues 28—Thur 30 November 2017
Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool
Early bird registration ends
28 August 2017

**Edinburgh Clinical Trials Management Course**
*Thur 30 Nov—Fri 01 Dec 2017*
John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh
This two-day course focuses on management of randomised controlled trials (RCTs)
For more information and to book a place visit ECTMC- (2 Day Course)

**Stroke 2017**
*6th annual stroke symposium*
Wednesday 20 September 2017
Royal College of Physicians and surgeons of Glasgow
*The day will give practicing clinicians an opportunity to update their knowledge in the rapidly changing field of stroke care.*
Book online at RCPSG
Or call 0141 241 6210
Or email caity.ryan@rcpsg.ac.uk

**2017 NHS Research Scotland Annual Conference**
Wednesday 01 November 2017
Perth Concert Hall
Visit the Conference website to stay up to date or follow @NHS Research-
Training & Education

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The GCRF offer a wide range of courses that are designed to meet the needs of researchers and associated staff.

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The WTCRF run varied courses to help you with your research and host seminars covering a variety of research and healthcare topics.

For more information, or to book a place please visit the WTCRF education programme

Stroke Training and Awareness
Resources (STARs)

New STARS advancing module
Management of tone and spasticity after stroke—a role for everyone

www.stroketraining.org

The module includes a refresher on basic muscle anatomy and physiology, what we mean by tone and spasticity, treatments, specialist spasticity clinics and a case study

NRS SRN Coordinating Centre

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University of Strathclyde
PhD student, Michael Hamilton has taken on the role of managing the Stroke Group at Strathclyde. Michael will organise meetings, seminars and invite speakers to present to the group.

The meetings are excellent opportunities to keep up to date with and share the latest stroke research, encourage collaborations between researchers across disciplines.

If you would like information circulated to the stroke group and/or you would like to present to them please get in touch with Michael and he will organise this for you.

michael.hamilton@strath.ac.uk

Visit the University of Strathclyde web page for information about the groups aims, expertise and ongoing research.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY
WEEKLY SEMINARS

Dr Stephen Makin a newly appointed Clinical Lecturer at Glasgow University has started a weekly research seminar in Geriatric Medicine.

If you would like to attend the seminars they are held on Mondays at 12.30 in Seminar Room 1 of the New Lister Building at GRI. Seminars typically last one hour.

For more information contact Stephen:
Stephen.Makin@glasgow.ac.uk