**Update from NRS Stroke Public Engagement Group**

Hi everyone.

It has been only a few months since we last sent one of our Scottish Stroke Research newsletters, but it seems a lifetime ago.

The covid-19 pandemic has touched every aspect of our lives and stroke research was not immune to this. In the spring many stroke research studies had to stop, or at least pause, their activity. Universities were in lockdown; clinicians working on research had to return to fulltime frontline duties and most of all we had to make sure that people living with stroke were not put at risk by helping with stroke research.

In the Scottish stroke research community we are all starting to adjust to ‘new normal’ ways of working. This has meant some big changes for how we conduct our research studies. However, one thing that will never change is the importance of involving stroke survivors in all aspects of this research.

Social distancing rules mean that we will not be having any big in-person meetings or workshops this year, but there are other ways to keep you informed about stroke research and for you to get involved. We will continue to send our newsletter and we will continue to let you know about opportunities to get involved in research. (See below)

We are always happy to hear from you, but we are especially keen to hear your thoughts on covid-19 and stroke research involvement. Answering the questions below would be really helpful for our planning.

* Has the covid-19 situation changed how you feel about helping with stroke research?
* What do you think are the most important questions regarding covid-19 and stroke?
* How would you feel about participating in research using video platforms like ‘zoom’ or ‘skype’?
* Do you have any other ideas about participating in stroke research at the moment?

**You can email your answers to:** **kmcburnie@nhs.net** **or post them to:**

**Karen McBurnie**

**NRS Stroke Research Network**

**Research Administrator/PA**

**Room 17**

**4th Floor, Walton Annexe**

**Glasgow Royal Infirmary**

**G31 2HT**

Thanks for reading and keep in touch!

Dr Terry Quinn

**News and Opportunities**

The stroke association in partnership with the James Lind Alliance are working to prioritise stroke research questions. Over the last few months, the team have been seeking opinions of stroke survivors, their caregivers, clinicians and anyone else with an interest in stroke. So far, they have received over 1300 responses, with a great response from Scotland. You can follow the progress:

<https://www.stroke.org.uk/research/priority-setting-partnership>

Further prioritisation events are planned for early next year, so there is still time to get involved, email Sandra.regan@stroke.org.uk or call Sandra on 07703 319791 to join the mailing list.

NRS Stroke’s very own Terry Quinn has been working with the Stroke Association to raise awareness of some of the hidden effects of stroke – memory, mood and thinking problems. Terry’s interest in this area came from conversations he had with members of this group.

You can see a video where Ruth, a young stroke survivor, shares her story with Terry:

Weblink: <https://www.stroke.org.uk/rebuilding-lives/ruths-story>

Dr Lorraine Work is a stroke researcher in University of Glasgow. Her team are hoping to use blood samples from people who had covid-19 to understand the effects that the virus may have on the brain and blood vessels. Lorraine wants to make sure that her laboratory work makes sense and is relevant to stroke survivors. She is looking for one or two people with experience of stroke (a stroke survivor or caregiver) who she could share initial results with and who could help her plan the next phase of her work. If you are interested let us know by emailing kmcburnie@nhs.net or call Karen on 07999 535 085

You can read more about Lorraine’s stroke research here:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/icams/staff/lorrainework/>