



NIMAST
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STROKE FORUM

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Northern Ireland Stroke Conference Tuesday 11th June 2019 Speaker Biographies

Dr Niamh Kennedy (*Lecturer in School of Psychology in Ulster University*)

Dr Niamh Kennedy is a Lecturer in School of Psychology in Ulster University. Her research area is into recovery following stroke, including functional recovery, neuroplasticity and psychosocial effects. She uses a variety of research methodologies including experimental neuroscience and mixed methods. She has worked on a range of research studies from large Stroke rehabilitation trials to case reports. She works collaboratively with Allied Health Professionals, Neuroscientists, Psychologists and charities.

Dr Robert Simister (*Consultant Stroke Neurologist, University College London Hospitals*)

Rob Simister works at UCLH in London where he leads the comprehensive stroke service. His stroke specialist interests include hyperacute stroke care and stroke associated with intracranial large vessel disease.

Professor Gillian Mead (*Professor of Stroke and Elderly Care Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Honorary consultant stroke physician, NHS Lothian*)

Professor Mead trained in Medicine in Cambridge. She moved to Manchester where she performed the first randomised trial of carotid endarterectomy in acute stroke, and then to University of Edinburgh where she is now Professor of Stroke and Elderly Care Medicine. She leads a programme of research aimed at improving 'Life after Stroke', and recently established the ENLITES (Edinburgh Life after Stroke Research Research Group). She has over 100 publications on topics such as palliative care after stroke, post-stroke fatigue, neuropsychiatric consequences of stroke, the role of physical fitness training to improve quality of life after stroke, and how to reduce sedentary behaviour after stroke. She co-led the multicentre FOCUS trial recruiting 3127 patients published in Lancet in 2018. She holds grant funding worth several million pounds. She is the co-lead editor of the Cochrane Stroke Group and sits of the editorial board of International Journal of Stroke.

Professor Tanya McCance (*Professor of Nursing, Ulster University*)

Professor Tanya McCance has an international reputation in the development of person-centred practice through the use of participatory research approaches, such as practice development and action research. She has been a registered nurse since 1990 and throughout her career has held several joint posts between higher education institutions and health and social care providers demonstrating her commitment to the integration of practice, education, and research. She has developed a programme of work through engaged scholarship and research that is underpinned by the Person-centred Practice Framework, which is central to the impact of her research. Her most recent work focuses on the identification of a

relevant and appropriate set of key performance indicators for nursing and midwifery that are indicative of person-centred care and the development of methods that will demonstrate the unique contribution of nursing to the patient experience. Tanya's research activities reflect her passion for nursing and her commitment to the development of person-centred practice that will enhance the care experience for patients and their families.

Dr Sue Hunter (*Deputy Head of School Research Lead SHAR, Keele University*)

Dr Sue Hunter is a registered Physiotherapist, qualifying from Withington Hospital School of Physiotherapy, Manchester. After a 17-year career in the NHS specialising in stroke and neuro-rehabilitation, she was awarded a 3-year Research Fellowship from Research into Ageing, completing a PhD exploring physical therapy for sensorimotor dysfunction in the upper limb after stroke. Currently Senior Lecturer, Deputy Head of School and Research Lead in the School of Health and Rehabilitation at Keele University, Sue's research falls into two fundamental areas: evaluating complex therapy interventions for neurological rehabilitation; and exploring experiences of living with a long-term neurological condition. She has a particular interest in somatosensory impairment and its effect on recovery and restoration of movement, and on perception following acquired brain injury. Sue leads a neurorehabilitation research team including, masters and doctoral students, and post-doctoral researchers, and is an experienced research supervisor. She also leads the Keele CAHPR Hub, and is Chair of the UK CAHPR Regional Hub Forum.

Carolee McLaughlin (*Clinical Lead Stroke services for Speech and Language therapy, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust*)

Carolee has over 25 years' experience as a specialist speech and language therapist. As clinical lead for stroke services in Belfast TRUST, Carolee has worked with the team to raise awareness and improve the care and management of SLT to stroke patients with both communication and swallowing impairment. Carolee has worked with RCSLT, has written the FEES policy, and was instrumental in introducing FEES to N Ireland 19 years ago. Carolee provides lectures on dysphagia to undergraduate students in University of Ulster. She is also the external examiner on the postgraduate dysphagia course in Dublin. Evidenced based therapy is the focus of Carolee's management as this has driven her interest in research. Carolee has presented nationally and internationally and is honoured to be co clinical lead to the NICRN network for stroke.

Mandy Ellis (*Lead Nurse REaCH Team*)

Mandy Ellis is currently the Lead Nurse for the REaCH Service in the Northern Trust. The REaCH team provide training education and development for registered nurses within the independent sector. Mandy piloted this in reach work in 2015 with a small number of Nursing Homes and due to the outcomes and success of the pilot she was able to secure permanent funding from the Trust for the service to be rolled out to all 67 Nursing Homes within the Northern Trust.

Emma Martin (*Clinical Nurse Specialist in Stroke and Thrombectomy, Beaumont Hospital*)

Emma began working in Neurology and Stroke in 2009. She completed her specialist practice diploma in neurology followed by the Post Graduate Diploma in Neuroscience Nursing with the RCSI and Beaumont Hospital. Following this she worked for some time as a CNM in Neurology and Stroke. She also worked for some

time in Neuro Intensive Care before taking up the role of the CNS in Stroke and Thrombectomy in 2015.

Since being in the CNS role in Stroke and Thrombectomy Emma has completed a Diploma in Stroke Medicine with the Royal College of Physicians. She is also part of the National Thrombectomy Governance group and National Stroke database steering group. She has also spoke at numerous conferences such as the Irish Heart Foundation Stroke Conference in Croke Park. Emma has also been involved with the introduction and upkeep of the nurse led swallow screen assessment, fine bore NG placement via Cortrak and stroke specific early out of hours feeding.

Dr Nevan Joyce (*Registrar in Geriatric Medicine, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust*)

Nevan Joyce is a specialist registrar in Geriatric medicine who is currently based within the Belfast trust. He is the Northern Ireland trainee representative for the British Geriatric Society and has had work presented at the European Stroke Organisation Conference. He has a particular interest in the areas of hyperacute and acute care of stroke patients.

Marie Donnelly (*Macmillan CNS/Palliative Care Facilitator, Western Health Social Care Trust*)

Marie has been nursing for 30 years, but specifically in Palliative care as a CNS since 2008 in both the community and acute sectors.

She has very recently changed jobs to a Macmillan Palliative Care Facilitator in the WHSCT, and looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Education has been a continuous journey, completing my RGN training in 1992, BSC Hons in Community Nursing in 1998, Post- Graduate Diploma in Specialist Practice in Palliative care in 2009, Non- Medical Prescribing in 2016, with many stand-alone modules along the way and publishing an article in the British Journal of Nursing.

Working in Palliative Care has been a privilege and a passion, meeting the most remarkable and resilient people along the way. She has seen the difference it can make for people to be able to share their stories and have the opportunity to make their plans and wishes known for both them and their families but there is still a lot of work to be done!

Dr Cameron Lindsay (*Physiotherapist, South Eastern HSC Trust*)

Cameron works clinically in the acute stroke unit at the Ulster Hospital. He has over fifteen year's experience working in senior clinical positions in neurological rehabilitation. He also has a great interest in the science of neurological rehabilitation and has completed post graduate training in both clinical and academic areas.

Professor Anne Forster (*Professor of Stroke Rehabilitation, University of Leeds*)

Anne Forster, is Head of the Academic Unit of Elderly Care and Rehabilitation, which is based in Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and part of the University of Leeds. A physiotherapist, she has a long-standing interest in elderly

care and stroke and has undertaken a number of Cochrane Reviews, qualitative studies and randomised trials examining the effects of complex interventions in these patient groups.

Anne led two of the world's largest stroke rehabilitation trials: the TRACS trial (Training Caregivers after Stroke, (Lancet, 2013)) and the LoTScare trial (Longer-term Outcomes after Stroke (Stroke,2015)). She is currently Chief Investigator for two NIHR Programme grants. One focused on reducing sedentary behaviour in residents of care homes, the other addressing longer-term outcomes for people after stroke. She is a NIHR Senior Investigator.

Beverley Turtle (PhD researcher, Ulster University)

Beverley Turtle is in the third year of her PhD studentship at Ulster University. Her research interests include stroke rehabilitation and outcome assessment.

Dr Colin Mengah (Speciality Doctor, Stroke and Care of the Elderly, Ulster Hospital)

Employed since 2017 within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust on Ulster Hospital site to establish an ambulatory stroke team with the help of the multidisciplinary team.

Suzanne Lawford (Senior Physiotherapist, University Hospitals Birmingham)

Suzanne graduated from Coventry University in 2007 and begun working at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham soon after. She has worked through rotational posts at band 5 and 6 level and have been working as a band 7 in neurological outpatients since 2012.

She has worked as part of the Facial Palsy Team at QEHB which includes Consultant ENT and Plastic surgeons and specialist physiotherapists. She also assess and treat patients with facial palsy secondary to a variety of causes, both UMN and LMN and as a physiotherapy team; we treat approximately 250 patients per year.

She is also part of Facial Therapy Specialists UK, a group dedicated to teaching therapists about assessing and treating facial palsy, promoting facial rehabilitation and advocating for best practice, evidence based treatment to be available for patients.

Dr Paul Burns (Consultant interventional neuroradiologist, Victoria Hospital Belfast)

Dr Burns is a consultant diagnostic and interventional Neuroradiologist based at the Royal Victoria Hospital. His research interests include endovascular stroke treatment. He was the UK PI for the ESCAPE endovascular stroke trial and also more recently for the ESCAPE-NA1 trial.

Dr Nevan Joyce (Registrar in Geriatric Medicine, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust)

Nevan Joyce is a specialist registrar in Geriatric medicine who is currently based within the Belfast trust. He is the Northern Ireland trainee representative for the British Geriatric Society and has had work presented at the European Stroke

Organisation Conference. He has a particular interest in the areas of hyperacute and acute care of stroke patients.

Professor Avril Drummond (Professor of Healthcare Research and Occupational therapist, University of Nottingham)

Avril Drummond is Professor of Healthcare Research and Director of Research in the School of Health Sciences, University of Nottingham. She is an occupational therapist with a longstanding interest in rehabilitation after stroke and has published research on stroke services and specific rehabilitation interventions.

Avril is a member of the Royal College of Physicians Intercollegiate Working Party for Stroke. She was Chair of the UK Stroke Forum and recently Chaired the 'Life after Stroke' group for the Action Plan for Europe. Avril serves on the executive management board of a local NHS hospital Trust which is currently re-designing its stroke services.

Dr Ivan Wiggam (Consultant physician and clinical director of stroke services, Belfast health and social care trust)

Dr Ivan Wiggam is clinical director of stroke services in Belfast and honorary clinical lecturer at Queens University Belfast. Dr Wiggam graduated in medicine with honours in 1990. Following research on the metabolic aspects of vascular disease he was awarded an MD degree and completed specialist training in Belfast and Edinburgh. He was appointed as consultant physician in 2000 and has led several service developments since then. He is committed to provision of high quality care, as evidenced by a recent A rating in SSNAP for the Belfast team. He has worked closely with neuroradiology colleagues to develop the Belfast thrombectomy service, now recognised as one of the most active centres in the UK. Dr Wiggam has been member of the regional Task & Finish group for reshaping stroke services in Northern Ireland and is also a member of the Clinical Standards Committee of the British Association of Stroke Physicians.