What we think about:

Our Research Priorities
Background

Stroke is the fourth biggest killer in the UK and the single largest cause of disability. The Stroke Association believes in the power of research evidence to enable stroke survivors to make the best possible recovery and save lives, through prevention and more effective treatments.

Over the last 20 years, we have awarded more than £50 million through over 400 research grants. This has led to many advances in stroke care such as the development of the FAST test for early recognition of stroke symptoms, the more widespread use of thrombolytic or clot-busting drugs, and the development of more effective rehabilitation therapies. However, funding for UK stroke research still lags behind other major conditions.
Our five year Research Strategy (2014-2019) outlined that we would develop our research priorities and introduce a dedicated funding stream to support research in these areas. After talking to practitioners, researchers, stroke survivors and their families, we have set our own research priorities in three key areas to address critical gaps in research evidence. We have set up Priority Programme Awards to fund research into each of our priorities.

Our three research priorities for 2014-2019 are:

1. **Haemorrhagic stroke**: Around 15% of all strokes are haemorrhagic, which means they are caused when a blood vessel bursts within or on the surface of the brain. Haemorrhagic strokes are usually more severe, have a much higher risk of death and have fewer available treatments than ischaemic (clot-based) strokes. In particular, we are interested in research in areas like blood pressure management and the long term needs of haemorrhagic stroke patients.

2. **The psychological consequences of stroke**: Physical impairment after a stroke can usually be easily seen and diagnosed. However, the psychological effects of stroke often remain hidden or unrecognised by some healthcare professionals, with the true impact remaining unknown. That’s why we are particularly interested in research in areas such as mood management and improving or regaining confidence following a stroke.

3. **Vascular dementia**: Vascular dementia affects around 30% of stroke survivors. Stroke doubles the risk of dementia yet there is still a lack of knowledge about the links between stroke and dementia. We need to understand more about the underlying biology of vascular dementia, and develop new ways to diagnose people early.
We are the Stroke Association

We believe in life after stroke. That’s why we support stroke survivors to make the best recovery they can. It’s why we campaign for better stroke care. And it’s why we fund research to develop new treatments and ways of preventing stroke.

We’re here for you. Together we can conquer stroke. If you’d like to know more please get in touch.

**Stroke Helpline:** 0303 3033 100
**Website:** stroke.org.uk
**Email:** helpline@stroke.org.uk
**From a textphone:** 18001 0303 3033 100

We are a charity and we rely on your support to change the lives of people affected by stroke and reduce the number of people who are struck down by this devastating condition. **Please help us to make a difference today.**

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Together we can conquer stroke