What we think about:
Our research priorities

Rebuilding lives after stroke

Stroke Association
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.
Research Priorities

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.
When stroke strikes, part of your brain shuts down. And so does a part of you. Life changes instantly and recovery is tough. But the brain can adapt. Our specialist support, research and campaigning are only possible with the courage and determination of the stroke community. With more donations and support from you, we can rebuild even more lives.

Donate or find out more at stroke.org.uk

Contact us

We’re here for you. Contact us for expert information and support by phone, email and online.
Stroke Helpline: 0303 3033 100
From a textphone: 18001 0303 3033 100
Email: helpline@stroke.org.uk
Website: stroke.org.uk

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