Speaker Biographies 1-3 December 2015

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Dr John Bamford
Dr John Bamford was appointed in 1990 as part of the Chest Heart and Stroke Association's (as it was then) first initiative to develop stroke services in the UK. I was a research fellow with the original Oxfordshire Community Stroke Project in the early 1980s and have had a longstanding interest in cerebral small vessel disease. I continue to be intrigued by clinical symptoms and signs and have concluded that the more you see, the more difficult it gets - particularly in TIA clinics.

Professor Julie Bernhardt
Professor Bernhardt leads a large interdisciplinary team of researchers committed to development and testing of new rehabilitation interventions aimed at reducing the burden of stroke related disability. The international AVERT trial sits at the core of her program. This recently completed trial included over 2000 stroke patients, 1000 investigators and has been touted as ‘setting new standards for stroke rehabilitation trials’. Julie is Director of Australia’s first NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery which will undertake a program of work that extends from bench (discovery) to bedside (implementation). She heads an international consortium that aims to set new standards for rehabilitation and recovery research.

Professor Jo Booth
Professor Jo Booth’s research focuses on effective conservative management of urinary symptoms and continence in stroke survivors and older adults. Her current studies investigate hydration, supported self-management and nerve stimulation. She is a registered nurse and the clinical research lead for the local NHS continence services, undertaking regular practice. She chairs the UK Association for Continence Advice Education and Research Committee and is a member of the Nursing Committee of the International Continence Society.

Dr Audrey Bowen
Audrey is Stroke Association’s John Marshall Memorial Reader in Psychology at the University of Manchester and Theme Lead with responsibility for stroke within the CLAHRC Greater Manchester. She represents the British Psychological Society on the Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party (RCP London) and is joint editor for the National Clinical Guideline for Stroke. Audrey is President Elect of the Society for Research in Rehabilitation. Her own research interests are in developing the evidence base for stroke rehabilitation especially for people with cognitive and communication difficulties.

Dr Ben Bray
Ben is a public health registrar and honorary clinical lecturer at the Farr Institute, University College London. He is Research Director for the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme and his main area of academic interest is healthcare quality and outcomes research in stroke care.
**Professor Chris Burton**

Chris is Professor of Rehabilitation and Nursing Research in Bangor University’s School of Healthcare Sciences. His research concentrates on the interface between Implementation and Cerebrovascular Disease. Current stroke-related funding includes a number of process evaluations embedded in trials of neurological rehabilitation and nursing interventions, the first discrete choice experiment of patient preferences for community stroke services, and the first empirical investigation of clinical decision-making at the interface of end of life care in acute stroke. His implementation research includes an evaluation of NHS England’s CLAHRC programme to link Universities and NHS trusts around applied research and implementation. He is President of the Society for Research in Rehabilitation, and Vice Chair of the National Stroke Nursing Forum. He was recently awarded an Improvement Science Fellowship from the Health Foundation to investigate the organisational impacts of quality improvement.

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**Dr Sebastien Chastin**

Dr Sebastien Chastin is a tenured Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of Applied Health Research at Glasgow University. He received BSc in metrology, a Master in Rehabilitation Sciences and a PhD in Non-linear physics. He is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society. His research focusses on dynamics of behaviour and compositional analysis applied to human movement behaviour. Understanding why, when and how people decide to move or not, is crucial to promoting healthy movement behaviour. He develops statistical and analytical techniques to extract information from body worn sensor such as accelerometers that enable to understand how humans accumulate physical activity, sedentary time and sleep and how this changes over time. He has a special interest in how the dynamics of behaviour change with age and how it is related to geriatric syndromes. Currently Sebastien heads the sedentary behaviour investigations for the European Knowledge hub on Determinants of Diet and Physical activity (DEDIPAC) as well as a large portfolio of projects on the determinants of movement behaviour in older adults and clinical populations.

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**Dr David Cohen**

Dr David Cohen, Consultant Physician, General & Geriatric Medicine, Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow is registered with the General Medical Council as a specialist in general (internal) and geriatric medicine. Previously spent two years doing full time research into the complications of Type 1 diabetes and has published on this subject. He is responsible for admitting unselected acutely ill medical patients of all ages to a teaching district general hospital since 1991 and has responsibility for specialist rehabilitation of older people since 1991. Since 1996 David has provided an acute and rehabilitation stroke service for adults of all ages and a neurorehabilitation for brain injured adults of all ages. David is now a consultant in charge of a comprehensive Stroke Service dealing with acute stroke, rehabilitation and Transient Ischaemic Attack. He trains medical students, doctors studying for membership of the Royal College of Physicians and higher trainees in general and geriatric medicine.
**Dr Phil Clatworthy**
Phil Clatworthy is the Stroke Association Thompson Family Senior Clinical Lecturer and a consultant stroke neurologist in Bristol. He has particular expertise in the human visual system and his primary research interest is the visual effects of stroke and brain injury, including visual rehabilitation. He uses gaze tracking, visual psychophysics and neuroimaging to study the effects of hemianopia after stroke. His current research also includes imaging in hyperacute stroke, and development of technologies for upper limb rehabilitation.

**Dr Charlie Chung**
Dr Charlie Chung is an occupational therapy manager in NHS Fife and provides clinical input to the acute stroke unit, in-patient rehabilitation and day units. He has worked for 25 years in Scotland and the USA and has been a working group member of the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) 118 (2010), the Vision Best Practice Statement in Stroke (2013) and the Electrical Stimulation Consensus Statement (2014). He is a trustee of Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland and contributed to the development of the Stroke Training and Awareness Resource (STaRs) physical management, cognition and vision modules, the Stroke Competencies Toolkit (specialising occupational therapy competencies) and the stroke self-management online tool, Selfhelp4Stroke (June 2015). Charlie completed his PhD thesis on the expression of executive function after stroke through narrative and observable actions.

**Dr Neil Coulson**
Dr Neil Coulson is an Associate Professor of Health Psychology at the University of Nottingham. He is an international expert in the use of online peer support communities for individuals affected by long term illness.

**Professor Martin Dennis**
Professor Martin Dennis moved to Edinburgh in 1990 to take up a consultant post at the Western General Hospitals. His role was to establish a specialist stroke service in Edinburgh. Since then he has been promoted to a Chair of stroke medicine and is the Lead clinician for stroke services for Lothian. He currently chairs the National Advisory Committee on Stroke which provides advice to the Scottish Government Health Department and is the clinical lead for the Scottish Stroke Care Audit. He has been Chief investigator of two International Multicentre RCTs – the ongoing CLOTS trials and the completed FOOD trials. He was a founding member of BASP and its first president.

**Professor Diederik Dippel**
Professor Diederik Dippel is a neurologist at Erasmus MC dept of Neurology and Stroke Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He is PI of the Multicenter Randomized Clinical Trial of Endovascular treatment for Acute ischemic stroke in The Netherlands, the first trial to show a beneficial effect of thrombectomy for acute ischemic stroke by means of retrievable stents. He tries to divide his time between patient care and clinical research.
**Caroline Dodridge**  
Caroline is a clinical Orthoptist based at Oxford University Hospital NHS Trust with a specialist interest in Stroke, Neurology and Neuro-rehabilitation. Over the last 10 years she has developed specialist skills in assessing and managing patients with complex neurological and ocular impairment referred from the Neuroscience, Stroke Units and Oxford Centre for Enablement. 
Caroline’s research interests include vision problems in stroke and she was a co-researcher on the Vision in Stroke (VIS) study and a local investigator for Vision In Stroke Intervention Or Not (VISION).

**Holly Dorning**  
Holly Dorning is a Research Analyst at the Nuffield Trust. She joined the Trust in May 2013 and has a particular interest in measuring changes in the quality of health and social care. Prior to joining the Trust, Holly worked for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society, where she led the analysis of the My MS, My Needs project which explored if people with MS were getting what they needed from health and social care.

**Dr Fergus Doubal**  
Dr Doubal is a Senior Clinical Lecturer in the University of Edinburgh, and a Stroke Physician and Geriatrician in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh in Scotland. His major research interest is in cerebral small vessel disease causing dementia and stroke and he uses advanced MRI imaging and retinal imaging to understand the pathophysiology of this small vessel vasculopathy. He is also planning randomized trials of treatments in small vessel disease and determining patient preferences for trial outcomes in SVD. His research has been funded by the Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council, Chief Scientist’s Officer and the Stroke Association.

**Dr Judi Edmans**  
Dr Judi Edmans is an Occupational Therapist, with over 30 years’ experience in stroke rehabilitation including clinical practice and research. Judi has published a number of papers mainly on different aspects of stroke rehabilitation in a variety of rehabilitation journals and has presented her work both nationally and internationally. She is the editor of the book, “Occupational Therapy and Stroke”, first published in 2000 and updated in 2010. Judi is also the co-editor of the book “Occupational Therapy and Neurological Conditions” due to be published in March 2016.

She is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Nottingham and has worked solely in rehabilitation research for the past 12 years. Her most recent research involved using the Microsoft ‘Kinect’ as a rehabilitation tool for facial weakness after stroke. This research involved a partnership between two universities, an NHS provider, an industry partner and service users and is the focus of her presentation today.
**Dr Rebecca Fisher**
Dr Rebecca Fisher is a Senior Research Fellow and Portfolio Development Manager, working with Professor Marion Walker at the University of Nottingham. Rebecca’s current research is focused on the implementation of evidence-based community stroke services and she is operational lead for the Stroke Rehabilitation Theme within the East Midlands Academic Health Science Network in the UK.

**Dr Joanna Fletcher-Smith**
Dr Joanna Fletcher-Smith is an HCPC registered occupational therapist by professional background and has worked in stroke rehabilitation research at the University of Nottingham since February 2008. She is currently the Principal Investigator for the NIHR RfPB funded ESCAPS study. Joanna’s previous research includes both single centre pilot and large multi-centre cluster RCTs, national survey studies, psychometric testing of outcome measures, focus group and interview studies and a Cochrane systematic review and meta-analysis. Joanna is a member of council for the Society of Research in Rehabilitation and a reviewer for the Royal College of Physicians Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party, the British Journal of Occupational Therapy, and the Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy. Joanna has presented at national and international conferences and won the UKOTRF ‘Research Capacity Award’, the College of Occupational Therapists ‘Early Researcher Award’ and the ‘Verna Wright Prize’ for her research in stroke rehabilitation.

**Melanie Fleming**
Melanie Fleming is currently a Research Assistant and PhD student in the Centre of Human and Aerospace Physiological Sciences at King’s College London. She has a background in sport and exercise science, with a particular focus on movement neuroscience and is interested in the use of priming techniques with the potential to enhance rehabilitation of movement after stroke.

**Dr Claire Fitzsimons**
Claire Fitzsimons is a Chancellor’s Research Fellow in the Physical Activity for Health Research Centre at the University of Edinburgh. Her research is focused on sedentary behaviours in older adults. Time spent sedentary has been linked to diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers, independent of time spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity. Claire’s fellowship is exploring determinants of sedentary behaviour in older people, including stroke survivors, measurement of sedentary time and developing and testing possible interventions.

**Clare Gordon**
Clare Gordon is a NIHR Clinical Academic Fellow and her PhD research is on Relational Knowing on Stroke Units using Appreciative Inquiry. She also works as a Consultant Nurse for Stroke Care at The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Clare has 15 years clinical experience of both rehabilitation and acute stroke care, and prior to this had specialised in neurology and neurosurgery. She is Chair for the National Stroke Nursing Forum, and also
volunteers for the Wessex-Ghana Stroke Partnership who was successful in opening the first stroke unit in West Africa in 2013.

**Terry Gorst**
Terry is a physiotherapist working in the neuro rehabilitation service at Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust working with people with various neurological conditions including stroke. He set up an award winning therapist-led programme within the service to promote exercise efficacy and participation in sub-acute stroke survivors. He’s also in his final year of his PhD at the University of Plymouth.

**Louise Homes**
Louise graduated in 2007 from Keele University with 1<sup>st</sup> class Degree in Physiotherapy. She then completed her Band 5 rotations at Addenbrooke’s Hospital in Cambridge where her time on the Acute Neuro ward and Acute Stroke Unit inspired her career in Neurology. From 2010 she has worked as a Band 6 Neuro specialist Physiotherapist at the Northern Devon Healthcare trust specialising in Stroke. This has included rotations across Acute Stroke Unit, Stroke Rehabilitation unit and working as part of the award winning Stroke Early Supported Discharge team in the community. As a team they have been involved in the TWIST trial, BRIDGES studies and the CAST project and are currently participating with the SUMS study with MS patients.

**Jenny Huggill**
Jenny Huggill, now aged 30 had a stroke at 27 just 3 hours after giving birth to her second child. The stroke affected her left side and left her with temporary slurred speech and significant left-sided weakness for several months. Through hard work and determination, and great support from services like the Early Discharge Support Service, she has made a great recovery and managed to get back to work in the years following the stroke. After connecting with the Stroke Association, Jenny has been an active member of the parents’ stroke group in London, been on the back-to-work programme as an attendee and then a guest speaker and used her story of recovery to inspire and encourage others. She is also part of the mentoring programme and is actively working with another stroke survivor to set goals on the pathway back to work.

**Thérèse Jackson**
Thérèse is a Consultant Occupational Therapist in Stroke for NHS Grampian. She is the clinical lead for the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit (SRU) in Fraserburgh Hospital, Aberdeenshire, Scotland and holds several national roles, including occupational therapy advisor to; The National Advisory Committee for Stroke at the Scottish Government Health Department; The Cross Party Group for Heart Disease and Stroke at the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Stroke Care Audit Group.
Chris Larkin
Chris is the Area Director for the North-West region of the Stroke Association. He started his career in the NHS having trained as a Physiotherapist at The University of Manchester and worked in a number of hospitals around the North-West of England. Having joined the Stroke Association 6 years ago, after 3 years working in retail management, he has worked closely with Greater Manchester CLAHRC on a number of projects including the development of the GM-SAT post stroke assessment tool.

Dr Liz Lightbody
Liz is a Reader in Health Services Research in the Clinical Practice Research Unit within the School of Nursing at the University of Central Lancashire. She is a nurse by professional background and has been an active researcher for 20 years. Liz is a committee member of the National Stroke Nursing Forum (NSNF) and chairs the education and research sub-group. Her research interests include acute stroke care (e.g. telemedicine, neurological monitoring, nurse education, oral care, and positioning) and psychological adjustment post-stroke (e.g. screening tools, training for stroke service staff and interventions that address the needs of stroke survivors adjusting to life after stroke).

Dr Grant Mair
Dr Grant Mair works as a Senior Clinical Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and as an Honorary Consultant Neuroradiologist for NHS Lothian. His primary research interest is the imaging of stroke. He is currently investigating relationships between what we see on imaging at the onset of stroke and how this relates to stroke severity, response to treatment with intravenous thrombolysis and eventual functional outcome for these patients. He is working with both CT and MR imaging to assess changes in brain tissue, arterial blood flow and arterial perfusion of brain using a number of different imaging techniques.

Nicola Mathers
At the start of her career as a Speech and Language Therapist Nicola had a mixed post working in community with children and Adults. She then worked on a stroke rehabilitation unit in St. Asaph in North Wales, the acute stroke and Stroke/neuro Rehabilitation at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge and has been working for the last 8 years on the Acute Stroke Unit at North Devon District Hospital and in the community of Ilfracombe. In the community her work is with stroke patients, Neurological Degenerative conditions, Voice and Transgender.

Naoimh McMahon
Naoimh McMahon is a charted physiotherapist currently working in the Clinical Practice Research Unit and is a member of the PRACTISE project team. PRACTISE (Promoting Recovery of the Arm: Clinical Tools for Intensive Stroke Exercise) is funded through a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Career Development Fellowship that was awarded to Dr Louise Connell. PRACTISE is a three year study that aims to develop a feasible and structured upper limb exercise programme for
use in UK stroke rehabilitation units. Before coming to the UK Naoimh worked clinically as a physiotherapist in the Health Service Executive in Ireland and in 2010 she completed a Masters in Health Promotion at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She has worked at the University College Cork both as part of the BEd in Physical Education and Sport Studies teaching team and in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health. Naoimh’s research interests relate to development and evaluation of complex behaviour change interventions.

Professor Gillian Mead
Professor Mead is a graduate of Clare College, Cambridge. She trained in stroke medicine in Manchester and Edinburgh and was appointed Senior Lecturer in Geriatric Medicine at University of Edinburgh in 2000, and promoted to a personal Chair in 2012. Professor Mead has an international reputation for her research into ‘Life after Stroke’. She has published extensively on post-stroke fatigue and exercise training after stroke, and is co-editor of a book ‘Exercise and fitness training after stroke’ published by Elsevier in 2012. She is the 2016 winner of the William Farr Medal from the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries for her work on exercise after stroke. She is co-principal investigator of the UK FOCUS trial, a multicentre trial of fluoxetine for stroke recovery. She is joint co-ordinating editor of the Cochrane Stroke Group and an editorial board member of the International Journal of Stroke

Claire Mitchell
Claire Mitchell has worked as a speech and language therapist with adults who have neurologically acquired communication and swallowing problems, for 20 years. She has also worked at the University of Manchester as a clinical lecturer for 10 years. Her interest in using technology to deliver therapy and to evaluate this process led her to apply for an NIHR doctoral research fellowship which she started in October 2014.

Professor Keith Muir
Professor Keith Muir is a stroke neurologist, training in acute stroke & neurology in Glasgow and leading clinical stroke research at the Institute of Neurological Sciences initially as Senior Lecturer in Neurology from 2001-09, and since 2009 as SINAPSE Chair of Clinical Imaging. Main scientific interests include the application of advanced brain imaging to clinical trials as a tool for translational research, including trials of thrombolysis, thrombectomy, and physiological management. He is co-Chief Investigator for the PISTE (Pragmatic Ischaemic Thrombectomy Evaluation) trial, as well as leading the PRACTISE and ATTEST 2 trials, and leading UK involvement in WAKE-UP.

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Professor Bo Norrving
Bo Norrving is professor in neurology at Lund University, Sweden. He is corresponding author of the Swedish Aspirin Low-Dose Trial (SALT), the first trial to demonstrate the benefit of low dose aspirin therapy for stroke prevention. He is a pioneer in cerebral hemodynamics by blood flow techniques, clinical syndromes of cerebellar stroke and lacunar infarcts, and silent small vessel disease, and he chairs the steering committee of SIFAP, the world’s largest study on stroke in the young. He is a founding member if the International Stroke Genetics Consortium. He is
Senior Consulting Editor for Stroke, and Associated Editor for Neuroepidemiology. He co-founded, and currently chairs, Riksstroke, the world’s 1st national stroke registry. He chairs the section of cerebrovascular diseases of ICD-11 at WHO. Bo Norrving was President of the World Stroke Organisation from 2008 to 2012 and is currently Past-President with a 4-year term till 2016. He chairs the WSO Global Stroke Policy committee and co-chairs the WSO Guidelines and Quality Committee.

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**Dr Adrian Parry-Jones**
Adrian is an NIHR Clinician Scientist at the University of Manchester and an Honorary Consultant Neurologist at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. As an MRC Clinical Research Training Fellow under the supervision of Nancy Rothwell, he undertook a PhD investigating the mechanisms by which systemic inflammation and brain temperature worsened injury in experimental cerebral ischaemia. He was subsequently an NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Stroke Medicine and was appointed to his current role March 2015. He has a major research interest in the pathophysiology and treatment of intracerebral haemorrhage with a range of projects all aimed at improving outcomes for patients with this often devastating form of stroke.

**Emma Patchick**
Emma’s research experience and interests are around improving outcomes measurement and support services for stroke survivors with persisting cognitive and communication difficulties and their informal caregivers. She has been affiliated with the University of Manchester since 2005 as a Research Assistant; Trial Manager; PhD student; and most-recently, a Research Associate. Her current post-doctoral role is supporting the Stroke programme of the Greater Manchester Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC). She wishes to be involved with and ultimately lead on research that has potential to make a real difference to the quality of life of people with stroke and is thrilled to be presenting at the UK Stroke Forum.

**Dr Alex Pollock**
Alex is a Senior Research Fellow at the CSO-funded Nursing Midwifery and Allied Health Professions (NMAHP) Research Unit at Glasgow Caledonian University. Alex has been working in stroke rehabilitation research since 1995 and has particular expertise relating to the evaluation and the synthesis of evidence relating to the effectiveness of complex interventions. She has been a member of the Cochrane Stroke Group editorial group since 2008, is an author on 12 Cochrane systematic reviews and led the first ever Cochrane Overview relating to stroke care. She has an interest in public involvement in research, and initiated and led a James Lind Alliance priority setting project to determine the research priorities of stroke survivors, carers and health professionals relating to life after stroke. Recently Alex has been developing innovative methods of user-involvement within systematic reviews.

**Dr Sue Pownall**
Dr Sue Pownall is Head of the Speech and Language Therapy Service and the Academic Director for the Therapeutics and Palliative Care Directorate in Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Sue has worked as a Speech and
Language Therapist in Sheffield for over 20 years. Her clinical specialism is in the area of dysphagia (swallowing difficulties) and she has extensive experience of working with patients who present with dysphagia resulting from a range of medical conditions, across clinical pathways and from both acute and community settings. Sue is an active researcher with an interest in assessment and treatment interventions for dysphagia, health service research, implementation of research into clinical practice and educational approaches to skill sharing across professional boundaries. Sue is currently collaborating on an international research study evaluating a new intervention for treating chronic dysphagia using electrical stimulation.

Assistant Professor Kate Robertson
Kate is Consultant Therapist in Falls Prevention for Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust. She co-authored the Nottingham Falls Strategy in 2005 and was project lead for the College of Occupational Therapists practice guideline “assessment, prevention and management of falls in adults” published in January 2015. Kate’s current research interests include falls in care homes and falls in early dementia and mild cognitive impairment. She has published a research based “Guide to Action for Falls Prevention Tool”. Kate is also Associate Lecturer at the University of Derby, leading falls modules as part of an MSc programme.

Professor Christine Roffe
Christine Roffe is a stroke physician at the Royal Stoke University Hospital and Professor of Stroke Medicine at Keele University. She leads the Hyperacute Stroke Research Centre and is the Specialty Lead for Stroke for the West Midlands Clinical Research Network. Her key research interests are acute and hyperacute interventions for acute stroke and the prevention of stroke complications, such as hypoxia and pneumonia. She is the national lead for the NIHR hyperacute stroke research centre oversight group and portfolio lead for stroke (Acute). As member of the Executive Committee of the British Association of Stroke Physicians, and past member of the BASP Clinical Standards Committee she has contributed to planning, organization, and standard setting for stroke services.

Dr Fiona Rowe
Dr Fiona Rowe qualified as an Orthoptist in 1990 and has maintained combined clinical and academic research activity since then. She currently is a Reader in health services research at the University of Liverpool and an NIHR Research Fellow. She is associate-editor-in-chief for the journal Strabismus, associate editor for BMC Ophthalmology, chair of the regional AHP research network, Cochrane Eyes and Vision group editor and a mentor for the National Institute of Health Research health services research scheme. Her particular research interests include acquired brain injury, visual field evaluation and control of ocular alignment. Research projects include chief investigator for a national multi-centre prospective trial on the visual consequences of stroke (VIS), chief investigator for the VISION trial (funded by the Stroke Association) and chief investigation for the IVIS study (funded by the NIHR). Dr Rowe is the author of two textbooks: ‘Clinical Orthoptics’ and ‘Visual fields via the visual pathway’, co-author on four book chapters, and has presented and published her research extensively.
Professor Tony Rudd
Professor Tony Rudd is a stroke physician at Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital and Professor of Stroke Medicine at Kings College London. He has been the Clinical Director for Stroke in London since 2010 and the National Clinical Director for NHS England since 2013. Since 1995 he has chaired the Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party based at the Royal College of Physicians in London, which has been responsible for developing the National Clinical Guidelines for Stroke and running the National Sentinel Audit programme. He chaired the NICE Guidelines Development Group for Acute Stroke and TIA published in July 2008. His research is in the natural history of stroke, particularly longer term outcomes and in quality improvement. He has over 250 peer reviewed publications. He is an Honorary Vice President of the Stroke Association in the UK and was made a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in 2013.

Professor Rustam Al-Shahi Salman
Rustam Al-Shahi Salman is an MRC senior clinical fellow, professor of clinical neurology, and honorary consultant neurologist in Edinburgh. He was inspired to work on common neurological problems by Charles Warlow and the stroke research group in Edinburgh, which he joined in 1998. His clinical and research interests focus on the frequency, prognosis, treatment, and pathophysiology of intracranial haemorrhage, using research methods such as randomised controlled trials, community- or population-based cohort and case-control studies, brain banking, and meta-analysis. His clinical work includes acute TIA/stroke/thrombolysis services, acute neurology services including a rapid access neurology clinic for his local emergency department, and specialist outpatient clinics. He has received funding from the MRC, British Heart Foundation, Stroke Association, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, and the Chief Scientist Office of the Scottish Government. Rustam welcomes contact from junior doctors interested in pursuing independently funded clinical research fellowships to answer important questions about stroke due to intracerebral haemorrhage. You can follow Rustam on Twitter at @BleedingStroke.

Professor Peter Sandercock
Peter studied Medicine at the University of Oxford, and undertook his postgraduate clinical training in Stoke-on-Trent, Manchester, Oxford and Liverpool, followed by a visiting academic fellowship at McMaster University Canada. His initial research was on the epidemiology of stroke in Oxfordshire, and in clinical trials of stroke prevention. When he took up his post in Edinburgh he set up and ran the first International Stroke Trial (IST-1), the first ‘mega-trial’ in acute ischaemic stroke. It tested aspirin & heparin in 19,435 patients recruited within 48 hours of stroke onset from 467 hospitals in 37 countries. He is the Co-Chief Investigator of IST-3, with 3035 patients, the largest-ever trial of ‘clot-busting’ thrombolytic therapy for acute ischaemic stroke. He was Co-ordinating Editor of the Cochrane Stroke Research Group (CSRG) for over 10 years, and still remains active in the group. The CSRG publishes and updates systematic reviews of trials of different interventions for the treatment, rehabilitation and secondary prevention of stroke. He has served on many academic, investigator-led stroke randomised clinical trial Data Monitoring and Trial Steering Committees. He established the Edinburgh Clinical Trials
Management Course and has a major role in the University of Edinburgh on-line MSC in Clinical Trials by distance learning. [http://bit.ly/1dyLqXR](http://bit.ly/1dyLqXR)

**Dr Emily Sena**

Dr Emily Sena is a research fellow specialised in the validity of preclinical studies. Her research interests are in the use of systematic review and meta-analysis of preclinical studies to increase the understanding of critical facets of translational medicine and developing new hypotheses for testing in the laboratory. She also has an interest in assessing for the presence and impact of publication bias in the life sciences. She runs projects using these techniques on data describing the modelling of a range of disease models across the basic sciences. This is part of a multicentre international research collaboration facilitating the pooling and analysis of such data.

**Ruth Siewruk**

Ruth Siewruk is a Specialist Occupational Therapist for Northern Devon Healthcare NHS trust working in Stroke and Brain Injury. Based in Acute inpatient and community ESD. Currently on Maternity leave.

**Dr Rachel Simkiss**

As professional lead for psychologists working into an extensive range of physical health services at Barts Health NHS Trust in East London, the integration of psychologists within multi-disciplinary settings in healthcare has become a long-established special interest. Rachel is interested in the most efficient and effective provision of scarce clinical psychology resources: stroke leads the way as a model of inter-disciplinary working. Rachel is a member of the NHS London Strategic Clinical Networks Stroke Senior Clinical Leadership Group and chairs the associated Emotional Support after Stroke working party, which is involved in the sharing and promotion of good practice in the field.

**Carron Sintler**

I qualified as a physiotherapist in 1995 from Coventry University, and since then have followed a career pathway in stroke. I have been in my current post as a non-medical consultant for eleven years, and it continues to present new challenges and opportunities. The post is shared by University Hospital NHS Trust and Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust, and enables me to have an influence over the whole pathway from stroke onset to long-term follow up. My career highlights include a position on the National Stroke Strategy Workforce group, member of the NICE Guidance Development Committee for VTE prevention, and peer reviewer of stroke services. Clinically, my interests are early and continued rehabilitation, prevention of complications, spasticity management including provision of botulinum toxin injection therapy, goal setting and patient and carer involvement.

**Veronica Southern**

Veronica has worked as a pioneering and disruptively innovative NHS Speech and Language Therapist for 25 years! She recently moved out of clinical practice to work within her Trust’s IT Department to disseminate her innovation skills and expertise in the use of technology, and especially video-as-a-service across the wider Trust footprint – and to give her SLT colleagues a rest! She has set up Veronica Southern Telerehab Ltd in order to share her skills across the wider NHS and health economy. Veronica has developed a clinical tool, Teleswallowing (remote assessment of
swallowing problems), and set up Teleswallowing Ltd to promote its use and the use of video in clinical services. She lives in Blackpool but is nationally and internationally available via video!

Dr Brad Sutherland
Dr Brad Sutherland graduated with a PhD in Pharmacology at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand in 2009 where he investigated how inflammatory pathways affected the ischaemic brain. He then began a post-doctoral research fellowship with Prof Alastair Buchan in the Acute Stroke Programme at the University of Oxford where his primary research interests have been identifying novel neuroprotective treatments for stroke as well as exploring how blood flow is controlled in the brain.

Dr Lois Thomas
Dr Lois Thomas is Reader in Health Services Research in the School of Health Sciences at the University of Central Lancashire. Her research is focussed on implementation and evaluation of complex interventions, with a particular focus on innovative methods of transferring research evidence into practice and facilitating service user involvement in research. She has methodological expertise in questionnaire design (HTA), systematic review (Cochrane), and trials of complex interventions (NIHR). Her specialist topic interest is in urinary incontinence after stroke, and she has just completed an NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research including a cluster randomised controlled feasibility trial of a systematic voiding programme after acute stroke. Lois is a member of the NIHR College of Experts.

Liz Topliss
Liz is the UKSF Carer Rep and have worked with Stroke Survivors for 37 years, 30 years as organiser of the Sutton Coldfield Stroke Club. For a while she worked as Chaplain's Assistant on the Neuro ward of the local hospital. As a Pastoral Worker in the Methodist Church she has been with patients on their end of life pathway and has sat with them at the end.

Pippa Tyrrell
Prof Tyrrell was appointed as a Stroke Association funded Consultant Stroke Physician in Salford in 1995 where she established the Salford Stroke service. In 2006, she was appointed Senior Lecturer in Stroke Medicine at the University of Manchester, and Professor and Stroke and Vascular Centre Lead in 2012. Prof Tyrrell’s research interests include translational studies of the role of the immune response in cerebral ischaemia in stroke and subarachnoid haemorrhage, aspects of stroke rehabilitation and long term care following stroke. She has over 90 peer reviewed publications and is CI on current grants from MRC, Stroke Association and NIHR. She was Clinical Lead for the NW Stroke LRN until 2014, and was successful in obtaining funding for the NIHR Salford Hyperacute Stroke Research Centre. Her clinical interests include acute stroke management and rehabilitation and long term care. She is an Associate Director of the RCP stroke programme with responsibility for the national stroke audit, SSNAP, and was Clinical Lead for the Greater Manchester Stroke Improvement Network until 2013. She is a Trustee and medical
Vice Chair of the Stroke Association and chairs its Research Awards Panel. She was very involved in the reorganization of stroke services in Greater Manchester from 2008, developed the Greater Manchester Stroke Assessment Tool with GM CLAHRC, and is one of a team of consultants who provide stroke care in Greater Manchester’s Comprehensive Stroke Centre based in Salford.

**Bex Towney**

Bex has worked in the health and fitness for 27 years. In the past 12 years, specifically working with referred populations delivering exercise and establishing programmes and protocols in a range of settings and for a range of clinical populations. She has been at the forefront of delivery of exercise in line with the development of the training framework for exercise professionals and holds qualifications in exercise including; cardiac rehab (phase IV), exercise and fitness after stroke, exercise for long term neurological conditions, falls prevention. She currently works as an exercise specialist within a community resource team in South Wales and for ‘Later Life Training’ delivering training courses across the UK and Europe.

**V**

**Dr Maria Vidal**

Maria has been qualified as a clinical psychologist for 11 years and has worked in both acute stroke and stroke rehab for up to 7 years in Barts Health NHS Trust. Maria currently works in the community stroke team at Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone, and takes a lead role in assisting the multidisciplinary team to consider the emotional and psychological needs of patients and their carers who have been affected by stroke. Maria holds a special interest in systemic psychotherapy where the role of relationships is considered and how the wider context impacts on psychological difficulties. In terms of working within the field of stroke care, this is significant when engaging with families and wider networks but also in the facilitation of training and reflective practice with multidisciplinary teams.

**Professor Frederike van Wijck**

Frederike qualified as a physiotherapist and movement scientist in The Netherlands and is currently a professor of Neurological Rehabilitation at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU). She is a member of the Cochrane Stroke Editorial Group, junior secretary of the Society for Research in Rehabilitation, research lead and founding member of the Scottish Stroke Allied Health Professions Forum and co-lead of the *Living with Stroke and other long-term neurological conditions Research Group* at GCU.

**W**

**Caroline Watkins**

Caroline is the only nursing professor of stroke care in the UK. Caroline leads the internationally renowned Clinical Practice Research Unit (CPRU) for stroke research, is Director of Lancashire Clinical Trials Unit (Lancashire CTU), and Director of Capacity Building and Implementation for NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care North West Coast (NIHR CLAHRC NWC).
Caroline is also the Director of Research and Innovation for College of Health and Wellbeing. She has established Research Support Team (RST) and Health Research Methodology and Implementation Hub (HeRMI) to improve former School of Health, now College of Health and Wellbeing capacity and capability for research, as well as providing a mechanism for developing researchers.

**Dr Will Whiteley**

Dr Will Whiteley is an MRC Clinician Scientist at the University of Edinburgh. He is a consultant neurologist for NHS Lothian, actively involved in stroke/TIA clinics, stroke thrombolysis and general neurology. As a CSO Clinical Academic Training Fellow, he studied the use of blood biomarkers for the prediction of the diagnosis and prognosis of stroke in the emergency department, and read for an MSc in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

**Dr Jane Williams**

Jane’s current role is Clinical Programme Director for Integrated Rehabilitation with Southern Health Foundation NHS Trust. This current role is focussed on redesigning rehabilitation pathways within the community and links closely with Vanguard, Better Care fund and frailty modelling work streams in the region. Jane continues to work clinically and directs rehabilitation programmes of care within community hospitals. Previously Jane spent twenty years working in various roles within the field of stroke care within Portsmouth and South East Hampshire area. Culminating in a role as Consultant Nurse in Stroke Care which encompassed delivering clinical care, education and training, leadership, and delivery of an evidence based stroke service. Jane has always been involved in many regional and national working parties and completed a Ph.D. in 2003 on decision making processes in the ethically sensitive area of nutrition after stroke.