

World Stroke Organization (WSO)

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

one voice

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one voice

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

I am pleased to report that WSO continues to go from strength to strength and it is my great honor as President to write this foreword. Our 2015 Annual Report demonstrates the increasing scope of our activities and the many accomplishments to celebrate.

Our membership is growing steadily and plays an important role in support of our mission to reduce the global burden of stroke through prevention, treatment and long-term care. Engaging our members in everything we do is an integral part of our strategy and we are grateful for their support.

Increasingly, advocacy plays a vital and overarching role in our WSO efforts to create awareness of stroke, influence decision makers and stakeholders to adopt practices and policies that will support our vision and mission. To further enhance our WSO global advocacy efforts, we joined the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Alliance as a formal affiliate from 2016, ensuring we have a place at the table to position stroke higher on the global health agenda.

Past President, Bo Norrving and I were privileged to represent the WSO at the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) meeting in New York, in September 2015. At this high level event, 16 sustainable goals were adopted, including a goal # 3 to *"Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"*, and *"By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being"*. The document emphasizes not only prevention of NCDs, where stroke joins hands with many other disease groups sharing a similar risk factor profile, but also stresses the provision of adequate services. We are committed to facilitating organized stroke care around the World, underpinned by our Global Stroke Services guidelines and action plan.

We are proud to have organized another highly successful World Stroke Day on October 29, 2015. There were 141 events in 40 countries and 957 online articles across 5 continents. WSD appeared in various types of mass media (print and online), TV, Radio, Social Media with major impact. The hashtag #WSD15 was tweeted over 10,000 times. Our stroke theme remained "I am woman", emphasizing the greater burden in women, including the caregiver burden. Our 2015 WSD awards were given to the Chinese Stroke Association and the Finnish Brain Society. Special awards for individual achievement went to Mrs Rita Melifonwu (Nigeria) and Professor Dipes Mandel (Bengal).

A highlight of World Stroke Day 2015 was the publication of the updated World Stroke Proclamation, led by Vladimir Hachinski on behalf of WSO. Our earlier Proclamation was revised to emphasize both stroke and preventable dementia. Stroke and preventable dementia are now a key focus, given the opportunities for lifestyle and risk factor modification of relevance to prevention of the major causes of dementia. The proclamation has been endorsed by many major national and international bodies, including neurological and psychiatric organizations, Alzheimer's Diseases and other dementia bodies, together with major stroke organizations. You can read the revised proclamation here:

<http://m.stroke.ahajournals.org/content/46/11/3039.full.pdf>

Educational and research activities are central to our mission. Our WSO research committee, chaired by Ralph Sacco, has published a set of global research recommendations in line with our mission for stroke treatment, prevention and recovery. Key themes include establishment of stroke centers and trials networks, establishing a global chronic disease prevention initiative, standardizing the practice of post-stroke rehabilitation and evaluating the best ways to improve life after stroke. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ijis.12625/epdf>

The WSO has organized or been a partner with other key organizations in delivering teaching courses around the World, led by our Education Chair Michael Brainin. These were conducted in 2015 in Sub-Saharan Africa (Khartoum), Beijing, Kuala Lumpur, Santiago (Chile), while we continued to support the very successful ESO (Krems) Masters Program in stroke.

WSO was involved in major regional initiatives such as the Latin American Stroke Summit, organized by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association and the Pan American Health Organization, which addressed stroke care in the Latin American region and led to the development of a consensus statement, The Santiago Declaration. The Declaration served to unify the regional leadership under key priorities and commitments, also involving the health authorities in the region.

Our e-learning continues to expand. WSO together with Multilearning, revamped the World Stroke Academy and this is now a very vibrant online educational experience led by the Editor in Chief, Michael Brainin. We invite you to register and visit the new WSA website, which provides stroke information for healthcare professionals, utilizing a dynamic and award winning e-learning platform. <http://world-stroke-academy.org>

Our leading scientific stroke journal, the International Journal of Stroke (IJS), edited by Geoffrey Donnan is now produced by SAGE Publication from January 2016. We congratulate Geoff and the Managing Editor Carmen Lahiff Jenkins on the success of the Journal and are confident that further growth of the Journal will be enhanced by our new publisher.

Under the leadership of Werner Hacke, Peter Sandercock, Jeyaraj Pandian, planning is proceeding very well for the 10th World Stroke Congress being held in Hyderabad India, 26-29 October, 2016. This will be an outstanding scientific, educational and cultural experience in a vibrant setting with a rich and diverse history, in one of India's high-tech cities. We warmly invite you to attend the congress. <http://wsc.kenes.com>

The Board has embarked on a strategic planning process, with evaluation of our current status and the development of a clear plan of where we see ourselves in 5 years' time as an organization. Key strategic themes have emerged, including the strengthening our global capacity to reduce the impact of stroke; building awareness and knowledge of stroke; and growing a robust organization. The Board has endorsed a Vision for the WSO, "A life Free of Stroke." We have confirmed our central mission statement "To reduce the global burden of stroke through prevention, treatment and long-term care". As previously indicated, we are committed to the prevention of both stroke and dementia. The final strategy plan will be presented in May 2016.

Our organization is financially robust, but we are working continuously to improve our financial outlook. In this light, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all our sponsors and partners, as their generous support and interest in WSO has enabled our broad range of activities. I want to gratefully acknowledge the support of Medtronic, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Astra Zeneca, BMS, Pfizer, Stryker and Ever NeuroPharma, for our educational and advocacy activities. I wish to warmly thank our Executive and Board of WSO for their outstanding work over the past year. I particularly want to acknowledge our superb secretariat, headed by our Executive Officer, Mia Grupper.

Looking to the future, we are delighted to confirm the election of two outstanding and internationally renowned stroke experts for the next two Presidential terms. Werner Hacke will serve as the next President of WSO from October 2016 to 2018 and then Michael Brainin will take over as President from October 2018 to 2020. Our organization is assured of strong and wise leadership.

To conclude, thank you for your support in achieving our vision and mission as we look forward. We have a growing, harmonious and vibrant organization. Our new WSD theme for 2016 will be "stroke is treatable". Let us together aim for "A Life Free of Stroke".

Stephen Davis, WSO President



WSO BACKGROUND AND MISSION STATEMENT

stroke



THE WORLD STROKE ORGANIZATION (WSO)

is recognized as the lead global organization for stroke by the World Health Organization. It was established in October 2006 through the merger of the International Stroke Society and the World Stroke Federation with the purpose of constituting once world voice for stroke.

OUR MISSION

is to reduce the global burden of stroke through prevention, treatment, and long-term care.

OUR AIMS

are to foster the best standards of practice, to increase stroke awareness, to influence policies for prevention of stroke and vascular dementia, to improve health services, to provide education through collaboration with private and public organizations, to facilitate stroke research, and to advocate and foster systems for long-term support of stroke survivors and their families.



17,000,000
people suffer stroke
worldwide

80%
is preventable

Each year 17 million people suffer stroke worldwide, of these nearly 6 million die and another 5 million are permanently disabled. Stroke is the second leading cause of disability. Yet, 80% of stroke is preventable with appropriate awareness and prevention.

AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

World Stroke Campaign

World Stroke Day 2015 was held on 29th October across 190 countries around the world, with the World Stroke Campaign reaching more people in 2015 than ever before, culminating in a potential reach of 12.9 billion. WSO is grateful to our supporters who helped to intensify the global awareness on the fight against stroke through prevention, treatment and long-term care.

The Campaign theme focused on raising awareness of stroke prevention and risk among women using the tagline "I am Woman - stroke affects me, stroke affects everyone". WSC succeeded in providing knowledge and enhancing discussion on women and stroke to international audiences. Some highlights of the campaign this year included:

Over **40** countries submitted World Stroke Day events, with **141** events registered

Over **14,300** people visited the WSC website

WSD appeared in various types of mass media (Print and online), TV, Radio, Social Media

World Stroke Day 2015 was held on 29th October across **190** countries around the world, with the World Stroke Campaign reaching more people in 2015 than ever before

WSC tweeted **198** and #WorldStrokeDay and #WSD15 was tweeted over **10,000** time combined

There were **47** submissions for the World Stroke Day Awards from **21** countries

Local stroke organizations put incredible energy into their events and were crucial in spreading stroke awareness in their various regions.

Targeted stroke education and blood pressure checks on World Stroke Day by the Charotar University of Science and Technology, India





Blood Pressure checks at Parliament House in Finland highlighting that elevated high blood pressure causes damage to the brain.

Local activities were wide-ranging and included blood pressure campaigns, conferences, meetings, pamphlet letterbox drops, development of audio-visual promotional tools, screening programs, development of mobile phone apps, promoting ambassadors, clinical skills workshops, Walkathons, and more.

WSO was pleased to award four prizes for outstanding World Stroke Day activities. The winner of Best Campaign in a Low-to Middle-Income Country was the Chinese Stroke Association. The Finnish Brain Association won Best Campaign in a High Income Country. The Individual Achievement Awards went to Mrs Rita Melifonwu from Stroke Action, Nigeria and Professor Dipes Mandal from Stroke Foundation Begal India.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in making World Stroke Day a great success!

Members of the Macedonian Neurological Society on World Stroke Day holding yellow balloons with a smiley face, with one side of the mouth drooping (imitating facial paresis).



Workshops on multidisciplinary approaches to stroke care were organized in 7 hospitals across Sri Lanka.





Advocacy Workshop in Glasgow

Advocacy for stroke is a key mission for WSO. In April 2015 WSO convened its first strategic advocacy and communications workshop in Glasgow. Participants included staff of WSO member organizations worldwide who represented a diverse set of skills and expertise and included senior administrators, fundraisers, stroke experts and a survivor. The workshop aimed to review progress of the World Stroke Campaign to date and map out its future to ensure the greatest success in both developed and developing countries.

The workshop was successful in developing a three year roadmap to guide the work of the World Stroke Campaign from 2016-2020, with a 10 year view to 2025, to align with the World Health Organization non-communicable disease targets.

WSO is excited to share the new campaign theme for World Stroke Day 2016 - Stroke is Treatable – which was a key recommendation as a result of this Workshop.

Global Policy

There is no denying that global policy issues in relation to stroke featured prominently on WSO's agenda in 2015.

United Nations Sustainable Development Summit

The key event was the *United Nations Sustainable Development Summit*, in New York from 25 to 27 September, 2015. The WSO has been involved in deliberations to forge a new global health agenda in relation to NCDs and President, Steve Davis and Immediate Past President and Chair of WSO Global Policy Committee, Bo Norrving felt extremely privileged to represent WSO at this Summit where heads of state, government ministers, religious leaders and civil society representatives committed to a new set of goals that aim to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. These new goals are significant as they will guide national, regional and global government policy and investment for the next 15 years.

Goal # 3 which was adopted and pertinent to WSO's work read: to *"Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages"*, and *"By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being"*. Neurological disorders were clearly highlighted in the resolution which reads:

"We are committed to the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, including behavioural, developmental and neurological disorders, which constitute a major challenge for sustainable development."

(Article 26 in the UN outcome document).

Also during this period, more than 200 side events were held at different locations throughout New York and WSO was present at several including those organized by the NCD Alliance and the American Heart Association.



Steve Davis and Bo Norrving representing WSO at the UN Meeting on Sustainable Development Goals in New York - September 2015



WSO welcomes the inclusion of NCDs in the development targets as a key development issue which emphasizes not only prevention of NCDs, for which stroke join hands with many other diseases sharing a similar risk factor background, but also stresses the provision of adequate services. WSO is proud to be in the position to strongly promote the issue of stroke service provisions including establishment of stroke units for acute care and initial rehabilitation, acute stroke facilities, secondary prevention, and long term follow up.

Two takeaway messages were evident, it was crucial that NGOs together with ministries of health and multisectorial bodies work collaboratively in order to achieve the goals set by 2030 and it was again a testimony that stroke is part of the global agenda.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>

Strategic Technical Meeting on Management of Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke

Next on the agenda was the *Strategic Technical Meeting on Management of Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke*, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva from 28 to 30 October, 2015.

Profs Sandercock, Feigin and Pandian represented WSO in this important deliberation which also included representatives from various regional offices of WHO, American Heart Association, Hypertension League, World Heart Federation, International Society of Hypertension, Center for Disease Control, etc

The meeting was in response to a recent WHO survey which found that worldwide there was a large 'treatment gap'; currently 32 million people with strokes and heart attacks do not get medications for secondary prevention of vascular events and this meeting therefore was the first step in a process of adding a programme on management of people with acute vascular events to the WHO's current public health focus on primary prevention in vascular NCDs.

During the meeting it became clear that the management of acute cardiovascular disease and stroke events was poor worldwide, especially in low and middle income countries (LMICs) and priority areas were identified such as the need for advocacy, systems of care for acute management, steps to close the secondary prevention treatment gaps (but not neglecting prevention in high risk individuals), affordable and easy-to-deliver drugs such as the polypill, simplified risk assessment tools.

The WSO representatives gave presentations showcasing WSO's important work in stroke education, stroke care services etc and after intense discussions, three targets for the WHO Strategy for Health System Acute Management of Stroke and MI were established – they included:

- a. Raise public awareness of stroke warning symptoms and signs to hasten early recognition and transport of patients to district level hospitals.*
- b. Improved systems for triage the patients both at primary level and district level hospitals.*
- c. Establishment of stroke and coronary care units by reorganizing of existing services.*

The guidelines developers will work in collaboration with WSO and other key partners, and aim to incorporate the key elements of the WSO Global Policy and action plan. WSO made a strong plea that WHO, should move away from using the global term CVD and consider instead 'stroke and heart disease' in future policy documents (especially since in ICD 11, stroke is now a separate category from other cardiovascular diseases).

"Currently
32 million
people
with strokes and
heart attacks do not
get medications
for secondary
prevention of
vascular events"

Attendees to the Latin American
World Stroke Summit in Santiago,
Chile, October 2015.
Credit: The Front Face. Website:
<http://tff.cl/>



Latin American Stroke Summit

Also held in October was the Latin American Stroke Summit held in Santiago, Chile from 29 to 31 October, 2015. This was the first summit of its kind in Latin America organized by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) in collaboration with other organizations including the WSO.

The summit engaged key opinion leaders, health authorities, and other sectors, all of whom committed to develop a shared stroke agenda for one of the region's leading causes of death.

Overall, 41 attendees from 10 countries participated in the summit and sessions covered the situation for stroke prevention and treatment in the Latin American region, bringing onboard in-depth knowledge and detailed experience from several of the countries. WSO was well represented at the Summit by Patrice Lindsay, Bo Norrving, Sheila Martins, and Ralph Sacco. The Summit provided a forum to build the capacity of the institutions responsible for addressing stroke care by increasing their understanding of the latest in science on minimizing the exposure to stroke risk factors and increasing exposure to protective factors. Other areas reflected on the agenda included atrial fibrillation management, the financing of stroke care, and improving stroke systems of care. During workshops strategies to improve the situation was developed. Roundtable discussion were organized to help prioritize these areas while identifying how best to monitor progress in the near future. Networks between participating bodies were established and formalized.

The Summit also contributed to its shared work plan with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in support of their action plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Disease in the Americas (2013-2019) that will provide even more opportunities to elevate stroke and engage its respective staff in key countries.

The central outcome of the meeting was the consensus statement, The Santiago Declaration (La Carta de Santiago), that served to unify the regional leadership around key priorities and commitments, it outlines key actionable commitments in local context of non-communicable diseases, WHO's 25% by 2025 target and PAHO's regional strategy for non-communicable diseases.

This consensus statement was signed and endorsed by the participating organizations and garnered the support of two Ministries of Health - Chile and Colombia. A link to the document can be found here: http://www.strokeassociation.org/idc/groups/stroke-public/@wcm/@private/@hcm/@sta/documents/downloadable/ucm_479447.pdf.

The Santiago Declaration is a landmark document for the future development of stroke prevention and care in the Latin American region, and has the full support of the WSO. Follow up meetings are in the planning.



SHARING SCIENCE AND BUILDING CAPACITY



World Stroke Congress

Planning for the 10th World Stroke Congress taking place in Hyderabad, India from 26 to 29 October, 2016 is well underway and WSO is delighted to collaborate with the Indian Stroke Association to deliver what promises to be another World Stroke Congress filled with outstanding science and the unique World Stroke community.

Joint sessions with other key organizations are planned during the congress that focus on both the challenges and the solutions of our **"One World Voice for Stroke"**, the congress theme for 2016. These sessions led by experts and those people working in the area from anything from stroke prevention to restorative care after stroke and are sure to enhance our understanding of stroke in all of its different facets.

The congress will not only concentrate on health professionals but also on stroke survivors who are an important focus of WSO. The Stroke Support Organizations Committee are organizing another one day program for all parties interested in interacting, sharing ideas and learning of developments in Stroke Support Organizations (SSO) globally. In addition, two main sessions at the Congress itself are scheduled and devoted to topics of general interest: *Self-Management in Stroke Care and Models of Stroke Support for Children and Working Age Survivors*.



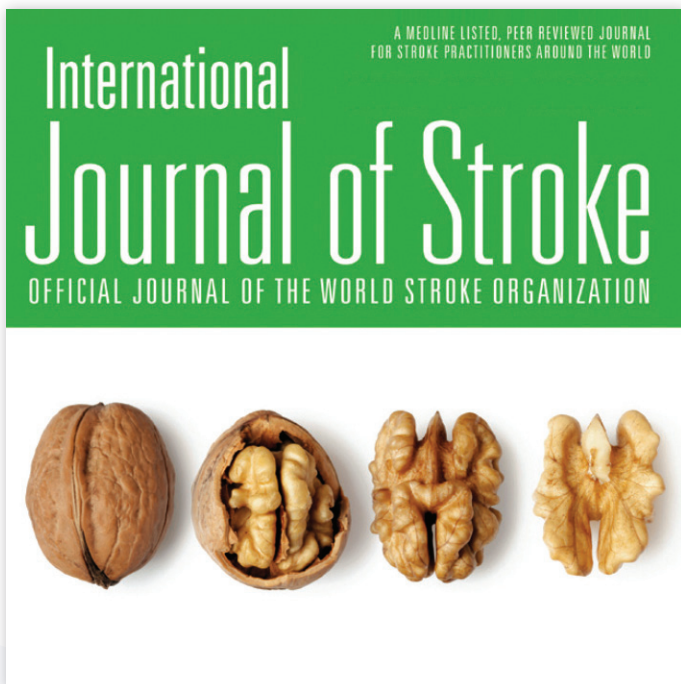
Following the success of the stroke art exhibition at the last World Stroke Congress in Istanbul, we are planning a similar event for hobbies, to be on display at the congress in Hyderabad in October, 2016.

Many stroke survivors find great solace in taking up hobbies which are also an important activity in rehabilitation following their stroke and we encourage stroke survivors to participate in this exhibition by uploading photos of their hobbies that have made a difference during their stroke journey.

International Journal of Stroke

2015 was another productive year for the International Journal of Stroke (IJS), with over 1000 manuscripts received and a final decision made for all manuscripts received within 48 days. This success is a reflection of the excellent work of its Editor-in-Chief Geoffrey Donnan, our Associate Editors, the Editorial team, Reviewers, our Managing Editor Carmen Lahiff-Jenkins and last but not least, the contributing authors. The WSO is grateful for the stroke community's ongoing contributions and commitment to the IJS and to building a global stroke community; making our journal a global voice and the 'go to' platform for sharing international stroke research.

The International Journal of Stroke is a journal leader in social media; with over 3000 followers on Twitter and numerous downloads on our You Tube channel and podcasts via podbean and iTunes.



The IJS has an impact factor of 3.833, which has steadily risen over the past decade and according to the ISI Journal Citation Reports © Ranking in 2014 ranks 15 out of 60 in the Peripheral Vascular Disease category.

As of January 2016, the International Journal of Stroke is under publication with SAGE. We are all excited at the WSO about this new partnership. SAGE, who offer the opportunity for international development and a great understanding of the field in, which the Journal is situated have already made a great start!

We are also delighted with the upward trajectory of our journal as the truly global medium for stroke research and education. Our focus moving forward, will be to continue providing the world stroke community with high a quality journal by working in close collaboration with our very own World Stroke Academy, other journals, and enhancing journal editions such as the Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian and Ukrainian.

Watch this space and follow the IJS on Twitter, Facebook, Podbean, YouTube and blogger for updates and new developments.

We are thrilled to now be publishing with SAGE, a publisher whom we feel not only is closely aligned with both our editorial goals but who has proven itself a leader within the field, now being ranked in the top 4 for publication of medical journals. Their growing medical background and clear vision for our future development is what we are most looking forward to when we begin working together. With SAGE behind us we are confident in the continuation of our key aim: reducing the global burden of stroke through prevention, treatment and long term care.

The International Journal of Stroke Editor-in-Chief Geoffrey Donnan

The message we wish to convey is that stroke awareness, education, prevention, and treatment should always be feasible.

Global set of stroke guidelines

In line with the WSO mission to reduce the global burden of stroke, the WSO has launched a Global Stroke Services Guidelines and Action Plan during the World Stroke Congress in Istanbul in 2014.

The WSO Stroke Guidelines and Quality Committee has started putting the plan into action and in 2015 concentrated on developing a toolkit as a resource for organizations/regions who are looking to create stroke services, establishing stroke systems or conducting a self-assessment on the comprehensiveness and components of existing stroke services.

The content of the toolkit has been established and the next steps are focused on developing a user-friendly electronic format, language and branding. It is envisaged that the toolkit will be launched towards the end of 2016.

The Global Stroke Services Guidelines and Action Plan is intended to augment stroke advocacy efforts throughout the world, providing a strategic plan for optimizing stroke outcomes. Despite differences in resource availability, the message the WSO wishes to convey is that stroke awareness, education, prevention, and treatment should always be feasible. Something can always be done.

Establishment of research priorities

The WSO Research Committee sponsored the first course in clinical research methods which was conducted at the 2014 World Stroke Congress in Istanbul.

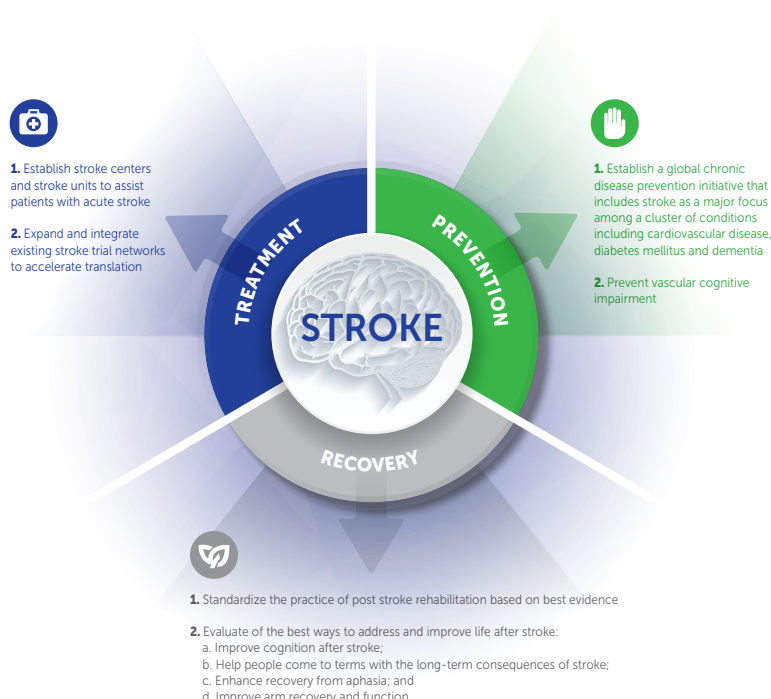
This year it was added to the WSO Stroke Academy and made available for the wider stroke community to study. For those of you attending the World Stroke Congress in Hyderabad you have the opportunity to participate in another exciting course taking place on Wednesday, 26 October, 2016 under the session title 'How to improve your research methods and get published'.

The WSO Research Committee would like to thank all those who contributed to the WSO Research recommendations relevant to the WSO mission for Stroke Treatment, Prevention and Recovery. All comments were reviewed and integrated and a manuscript was submitted to the International Journal of Stroke which was accepted and published in the IJS' October 2015 special edition. The article is available for free and we invite you to read it here:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ijis.12625/epdf>

This activity would not have been possible without the strong support of WSO members and the wider world stroke community.

With the WSO research priorities firmly established, the WSO Research Committee has a full agenda and is excited in delivering initiatives in support of WSO's mission.





World Stroke Academy

The structure and platform of the World Stroke Academy (WSA) has continued to evolve since it was first launched, and in October 2015 it was upgraded and moved to an award winning eLearning provider - Multilearning.

The WSA Editor-in-Chief, Michael Brainin and the WSA team have commissioned an exciting new series 'What to do when...', launched in October. The series presents brief and practical statements on current and frequent problems in acute and chronic stroke care and rehabilitation.

The WSA utilises different elements of social media in conjunction with the World Stroke Organization, and the society journal International Journal of Stroke, and we strongly encourage members to sign up to the WSO YouTube channel, follow us on our three complimentary Twitter handles and check out our podcast series on Podbean and iTunes, via these mediums users can access an impressive array of interviews and presentations from experts around the world.

The aim of the WSA is to keep meeting the expectations and evidence-based and best practice educational needs of the WSO membership and stroke practitioners worldwide. We are currently finalizing accreditation as a CME provider via the ACCME (American Council for Continuing Medical Education) ensuring members have access to high quality educational material. We will keep you posted on developments.

In the meantime, let your colleagues know that the World Stroke Academy is freely accessible for the next 12 months only, new content is regularly added to the platform, and we encourage users to contact us and share what educational content they would like to see available.

We welcome your feedback at world.stroke.academy@donau-uni.ac.at

We are pleased to announce that the World Stroke Academy is upgrading. With our new state-of-the-art platform collaboration with e-learning experts, Multilearning, we will continue to reach out to the global stroke community and satisfy the expectations of stroke physicians globally.

Michael Brainin, Editor-in-Chief, World Stroke Academy

Teaching courses

WSO has conducted a range of educational activities in 2015 emphasizing our commitment to stroke education.

Acute Stroke Teaching Course, Beijing, China

Prof. Stephen Davis, WSO President & other WSO representatives, Profs. Valery Feigin, Lawrence Wong, Marc Fisher, Bernard Yan and Craig Anderson travelled to China to participate in the WSO Acute Stroke Teaching Course held in conjunction with the organizers of Tiantan International Stroke Conference and Chinese Stroke Association, in Beijing, China on 26 June, 2015.

The teaching course was presented in a split format – part interactive and lecture style, with the aim of giving the most up-to-date advances in acute stroke medicine. Presentations were well received which ranged from traditional Chinese medicine and its relevance in modern stroke treatment to the next big questions on stroke, especially on the use of thrombolytics in patients outside of the current treatment time window potentially benefiting a greater number of patients.

To read the full meeting report visit: <http://wso.kenes.hosterspace.com/wso/2015/Issue-No-2/Education/Tiantan-Teaching-Course>

2015



Stroke Updates in Vietnam (HoChi Minh City, Vinh, and Hanoi) at the Annual Stroke Meeting of the Vietnamese Stroke Society

Prof. Michael Brainin, represented the WSO Education Committee, and has held Updates on Stroke Management and Treatment in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi as well as on the occasion of the Annual Stroke Meeting in Vinh, Vietnam.

ABC Program at the Asian Pacific Stroke Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Indonesia.

Prof. Stephen Davis and Prof. Michael Brainin have held lectures at the meeting from Oct2-4, 2015

ABC Program at the World Congress of Neurology, Santiago, Chile, Oct 31-Nov 5.

Prof. Bo Norrving and Prof. Natan Bornstein held lectures.

7th Regional Teaching Course (RTC) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in Khartoum, Sudan

Prof. Peter Sandercock, represented WSO at the 7th Regional Teaching Course (RTC) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in Khartoum, Sudan from 15 – 17 October, 2015.



Faculty & participants of the 7th Regional Teaching Course (RTC) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in Khartoum, Sudan from 15 – 17 October, 2015.

A consortium of international, European scientific societies and the University of Khartoum supported this meeting, which focused on two main themes: Stroke and neuro-paediatrics. Thanks to the support of these societies and an unrestricted grant, 33 young doctors and trainees coming from 19 SSA countries were able to participate with a scholarship from the RTC fund. In total, the 2015 RTC counted 123 registered participants representing 20 SSA countries.

WSO was pleased to award an annual complimentary membership to all course participants which was warmly received. To read the full meeting report visit: <http://wso.kenes.hosterspace.com/wso/2015/Issue-No-3/Education/Regional-Teaching-Course-on-Neurology-in-Sub-Saharan-Africa>

5th ESO European Master Program in Stroke Medicine, Krems, Austria

The ESO European Master Program in Stroke Medicine is a full Master course promoted by ESO with support of the WSO. All fields of stroke management and therapy are covered by a distinguished Europe-wide faculty of stroke experts.



WSO President, Steve Davis together with faculty & participants celebrating the 5th ESO European Master Program in Stroke Medicine, Krems, Austria

At the opening of this year's ESO Master Program in Stroke Medicine on April 20, 2015 in Krems, Austria, WSO President, Prof. Stephen Davis was honored to give a special lecture on the topic of 'Recent Advances in Acute Stroke Care', which was followed by a lively discussions together with the 37 doctors from 25 countries attending the course. During the welcome reception, Prof. Michael Brainin expressed his gratitude towards the WSO for their endorsement and continuous support. Many of the Master students come from developing countries and represent a broad range of stroke care around the world. For them, it is a challenging and rewarding experience to mingle with their European student colleagues. Similarities and differences in stroke care become apparent and visible and give rise to passionate discussions as well as exchange of experiences. Above all, new networks of collaboration develop among the students that in previous courses have proven to be long lasting an extremely productive.

Nigerian Stroke Society (NSS) Satellite Meeting in Nnewi, Anambra State, Nigeria

Prof Jeyaraj Pandian represented WSO at the Nigerian Stroke Society (NSS) Satellite Meeting taking place on 1 September, 2015 in Nnewi, Anambra State, Nigeria with the objective of updating relevant basic knowledge in stroke and crafting an actionable and pragmatic pathway to improve stroke care, research, education and advocacy in Nigeria. A total of 46 participants were present, including neurologists, neurosurgeons, nurses, physiotherapists, residents in Neurology and Internal Medicine, medical students and representatives of stroke support organizations from Nigeria and the UK.

The Nigeria Stroke Society (NSS) was founded in 2009 as a platform to rally neurologists and other neuroscience – related health professionals with a goal to **“Roll Back Stroke”** as well as promote stroke research, acute care and rehabilitation of stroke patients in Nigeria.

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with over 180 million people and stroke is the most common medical emergency in most tertiary hospitals, the number one non - communicable cause of death and the leading cause of neurological admission (up to 80%). Every minute, one Nigerian and up to six Africans develop a stroke.

With the theme “Roll Back Stroke: Crafting New Paths...”, there were four sessions on: stroke update; stroke management, prevention and rehabilitation; stroke research and advocacy, and young stroke professionals, each session being facilitated by a chair and co-chair respectively.

At the end of each presentation and during the general discussion session, there was a rich, pragmatic and passionate exchange of useful ideas among participants; mentoring relationships were established and possibilities of clinical exchange programs were unmasked. The need to build and strengthen multidisciplinary approach to stroke care as well as advocacy with policy makers and governments at different levels was emphasized.

The organization of this meeting was further supported by the World Federation of Neurology (WFN)/ World Stroke Organization (WSO) 2013 Educational Grant (Rufus Akinyemi, Mayowa Owolabi and Philip Adebayo) and the National Institutes of Health - funded Tailored Hospital-based Risk Reduction to Impede Vascular Events after Stroke (THRIVES) Study (Mayowa Owolabi and Rufus Akinyemi).

Participant feedback was extremely positive with overwhelming requests for ‘soft copies of all the presentations’ and enthusiasm to attend the 2016 World Stroke Congress in Hyderabad, India. Many young neurologists and trainees expressed satisfaction with the career guidance the forum provided.

<http://wso.kenes.hosterspace.com/wso/2015/Issue-No-3/Education/Nigerian-Stroke-Society-Satellite-Meeting-in-Nigeria>



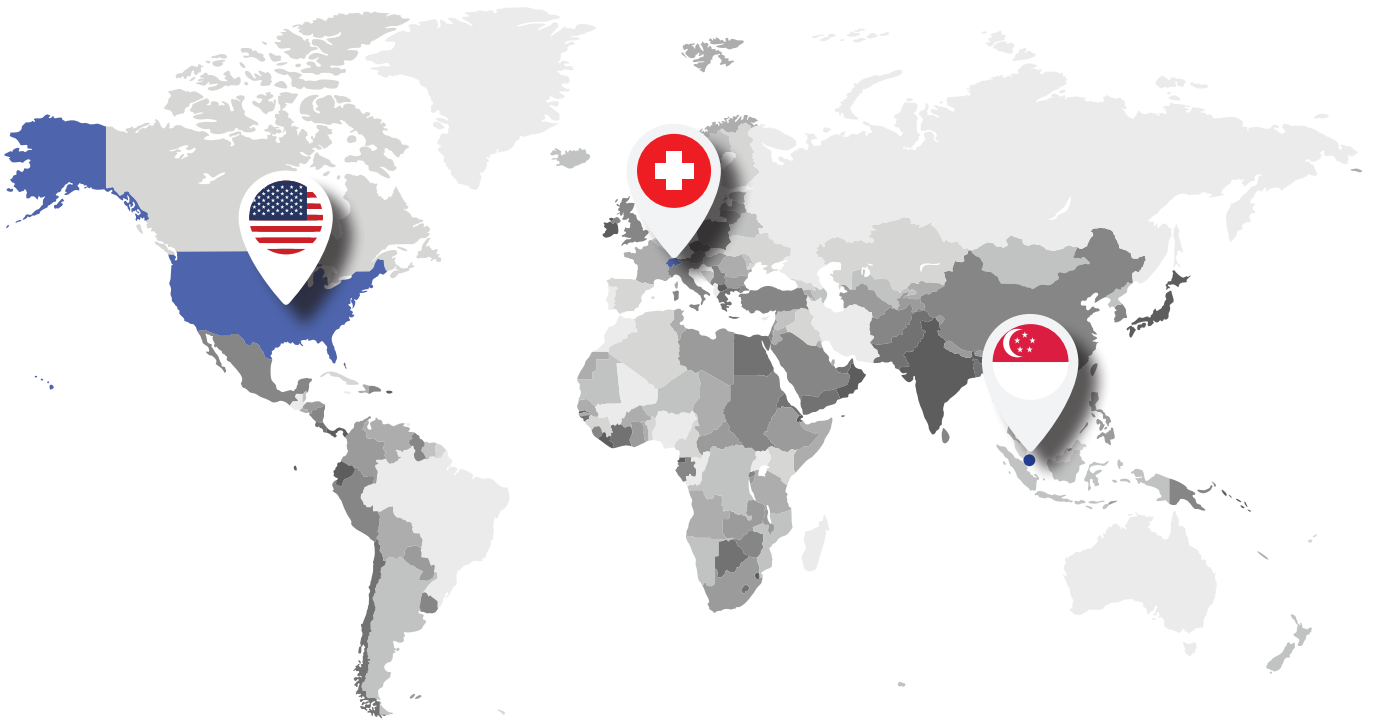
Top: Prof Jeyaraj Pandian (left) together with local experts at Nigerian Stroke Society Satellite Meeting in Nnewi, Anambra State, Nigeria

Bottom: Participants at the Nigerian Stroke Society Satellite Meeting in Nnewi, Anambra State, Nigeria

Scholarships

The Young Stroke Professionals committee was established in 2014 to support and promote best practice among young stroke professionals. Planned activities include establishing networks for education; addition of a Young Stroke Professionals section in the IJS to present and promote networks of young stroke researchers; and recruitment of young members.

In addition, the committee established the WSO Brief Clinical Exchange Scholarship Program which was launched in January 2015. The purpose of the program is to support young stroke professionals from any discipline to spend 1-2 week observerships at international centers of excellence to foster best clinical practice and collaborative research.



IN 2015, A TOTAL OF FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS WERE AWARDED.

Ajini Arasalingam from Sri Lanka visited National University Hospital (NUH) Singapore spent 10 days observing the work of stroke consultants as they provided patient care in stroke, general neurology and rehabilitation medicine. Experience was gained in stroke related neuro-diagnostic procedures, hyper-acute stroke management and outcomes as well as observing various methods of rehabilitation for stroke patients. The home institute has been selected as a provincial center for stroke and the knowledge gained will help develop the stroke rehabilitation unit and to improve services in the acute management of stroke.

Michelle Canavan from Ireland to visit MacMaster University, Hamilton, Canada (still to take place).



Jonathan Coutinho from The Netherlands visited Inselspital, Bern, Switzerland

spent two weeks observing the organization of their acute stroke unit, with a special interest in endovascular therapy which had been used to treat stroke patients for over 20 years. Over 200 stroke patients are treated with this method annually. The unit consists of twelve beds. Ancillary investigations, including 72-hour rhythm monitoring, echocardiogram, and carotid imaging are routinely completed within the first days. The results are extensively discussed by the various members of the stroke team and are then translated into patient management. One of the most notable aspects of their work-up of acute stroke patients is that they use MRI instead of CT. They have managed to integrate MRI with only minimal time delay. Next to the ER they have 4 MRI machines and due to the scheduling of time slots, one machine is always available for acute stroke patients. The system works as a well-oiled machine and it is clear that all involved parties understand the necessity of speed in the work-up of these patients. The knowledge gained will help innovate the acute stroke program at the home institute and strengthen ties between the centers.

Kate Hayward from Canada visited Washington University, St Louis, USA

spent the majority of the ten day scholarship under the mentorship of the Neurorehabilitation Laboratory gaining experience with accelerometers to measure upper limb performance after stroke but some of the time was spent in the Neuroimaging Laboratory working with in-house custom built programs to analyze accelerometer data in a novel way. The discussions around this topic will serve to inform the analysis approaches adopted for resting state neuroimaging data collected in the participant's postdoctoral studies. It was also possible to receive mentorship from other senior staff including attending local workshops on building an independent research career and in turn contribute to mentoring of local Washington University students who were early career researchers. The visit increased skills and knowledge in the use of accelerometers to measure upper limb use after stroke and led to grant submissions, collaborative studies, conference presentations and publications.

Muktader Kalbi from The Philippines visited National University Hospital, Singapore

spent a week learning more about neurosonology. The stay started with a series of lectures regarding the physics of neurosonology, transcranial doppler and carotid studies and moved to hands on training and critical discussions on various cases. With the ASEAN Neurology Conference taking place at the NUHS it was possible to participate in a pre-conference seminar on transcranial ultrasound and carotid studies which was presented by a world renowned neurosonologist. Being the only stroke neurologist at the home institute the knowledge gained will assist with difficult cases back home and help the home institute establish the first stroke unit in their region.

STROKE SUPPORT



Stroke Support Organisations (SSO's) are WSO's global patient voice and continue to play a central role in all our activities and advocacy efforts.

Official launch of SOAK at Kenyatta National Hospital. Graced by officials of NCPWD, KNH and SOAK chairman

"The toolkit helped us set up our SSO in Nigeria. In 2015 when we got approval to start work as a non-profit, we wanted to set up an SSO and had some challenges in terms of a guidance tool to do this. Then we found the toolkit and things changed. It gave us tips and ideas on how to start, stakeholders to involve and some critical paths to follow. This guidance was helpful in developing a very good project plan that has helped us accomplish a lot within the last 10 months. We still consult the toolkit from time to time to get ideas and ensure our activities/targets are aligned with the guidance provided."

Acha Memorial Foundation, Nigeria

WSO is committed to developing more SSOs and would like to see one established in every country. To facilitate this effort WSO has created a specific membership category for Stroke Support Organizations enabling them to have a say and contribute at various levels. In turn, they also help to inform the WSO about the worldwide picture of support for stroke survivors.

In the first instance WSO together with GE Healthcare funded the 'Stroke Support Organization' toolkit which offers advice and help to those wishing to set up an SSO in countries where none exist. It gives guidance on growing SSOs in different countries and contexts, with examples of how real SSOs across the world have achieved success and growth. The toolkit is now available in 11 languages and a special pre-congress workshop has been planned again at the WSC in Hyderabad in October 2016 and will offer sessions concentrating on topics to advance the development of SSO such as "Establishing and Growing SSO; Follow-up and Long term Support for Stroke Survivors and Best Practice Stroke Campaigns", where participants will learn from past successes. In addition, there is a roundtable for more individualized sharing between the participants.

Again following the experience from the last congress, a dedicated SSO poster section has called for submissions and we believe this will become an informal meeting place for sharing of information.

As part of Stage 2 in the SSO Development Project a full-time International Development Officer (IDO) was instated at the latter part of 2015 thanks to funding elicited by UK Stroke Association. The results of her employment are already evidenced and we are excited by the progress so far. As far as is known, this out-reaching role of the WSO is unique in global patient organizations. This role is able to provide more direct intensive assistance for those interested in creating and advancing SSOs.

"The toolkit is very handy when it comes to guidance on developing a new SSO... The International Development Officer searched for and provided contacts of individuals who would be help me in setting up a new SSO."

Augustine Muwonge, Uganda

"The toolkit has helped us to further understand stroke and intervention measures. The toolkit has been used to sensitize the association members about stroke and how well the members can do in their rehabilitation endeavours."

Stroke Association of Kenya

During 2015, 26 individual and SSO's contacts were renewed or established. Of these, ongoing exchange is happening with 22 contacts and in 4 cases support has been provided in the areas of setting up an organization and fundraising - in Tanzania, Liberia, Kenya and South Africa.

The IDO is in a position to be able to facilitate networking between contacts, who have often previously been working in isolation – this is crucial for the development of SSOs and to strengthen campaigning and advocacy. In East Africa, links are developing between stroke organizations in Kenya and Uganda, and contact is being encouraged between SSOs in Nigeria.

A repository of patient and public stroke educational materials has been created and during 2015 close to 150 educational materials were collected online from countries throughout the world. The materials had to be developed by credible groups and reviewed by a WSO volunteer/expert, who spoke that language and could validate the quality of the content and approve it for us. This patient education repository tool is regularly updated and made available on the WSO website.

If you are interested in setting up a Stroke Support Organisation in your country/region or you wish to find out more about SSO's visit: <http://www.world-stroke.org/for-patients/stroke-support-organizations>



Stroke Association of Kenya members, Kenyatta Hospital Doctors and the Nairobi Regional Coordinator.



The Bangalore Stroke Support Group was formally launched on 24 September, 2015 with an aim to bring all stakeholders supporting stroke survivors together, on a single platform to interact, share, and discuss issues related to stroke.

"The toolkit helps us to better understand the need and emergence of stroke supporting organization in our country and to give guides to start and develop this. The International Development Officer positively promotes and motivates to start and develop the organization."

*Derya ULUDUZ Assoc. Prof. M.D.
Istanbul University, Cerrahpasa
School of Medicine, Neurology
Department, Turkey*

"The International Development Officer has helped us foremost in getting the much needed information about stroke which has really acted as an eye opener, given that we as Stroke Association of Kenya had limited knowledge about stroke. Through the information, we have been greatly enlightened and much better prepared to sensitize our people more on stroke: its causes, the preventive measures as well as the caring of stroke patients and the rehabilitation process."

Stroke Association of Kenya

"The International Development Officer (IDO) has been a very useful resource to support our growth. Over the last few months the IDO has supported us in three areas:

- Providing us tools and templates to support program management activities (communication, stakeholder identification and mapping, funding application templates)*
- Leads around potential funding opportunities*
- General advice and support on how we can grow as an SSO."*

Acha Memorial Foundation, Nigeria

MEMBERSHIP

WSO's over **2,300** members are diverse and a dynamic mix of individuals and organisations across 95 countries.

Strength in Diversity. WSO by the Numbers

2,339

WSO Members

2,279

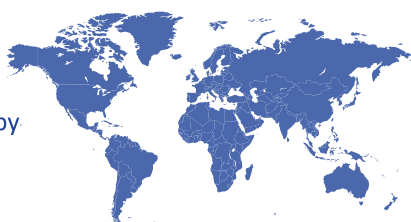
Individual Members

60

Scientific and Stroke Support Organisations

95

countries are represented by the members of WSO.

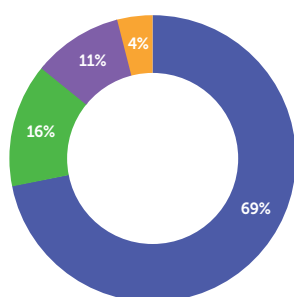


We are extremely proud and fortunate to count among our members some of the world's eminent stroke clinicians, researchers and including the major stroke societies, ministries of health, research institutes, and patient groups.

WSO has worked diligently throughout 2015 on member engagement and recruitment, continuing to witness steady growth in both areas.

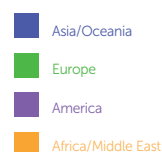
An ongoing effort is the development of targeted promotional materials to more efficiently attract existing and new segments of membership. Throughout 2015 we led an intensive outreach campaign that focused on linking WSO members to core activities, for instance World Stroke Day & the Bill of Rights, World Stroke Academy & Teaching courses and our Stroke Support activities, stimulating new collaborations in these areas.

2016 will see major member involvement as we build up to the 10th World Stroke Congress which acts as a biennial 'hub' for face to face member engagement and networking.



69% of WSO members are from the **Asia/Pacific region.**

WSO MEMBERSHIP BY REGION



WSO Society Members as of December 31, 2015

REGIONAL- NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Stroke Society Of Australasia - *Australia*
Belgian Stroke Council - *Belgium*
Brazilian Stroke Network - *Brazil*
Brazilian Stroke Society - *Brazil*
Canadian Stroke Consortium - *Canada*
The Chinese Stroke Association (CSA) - *China*
The Finnish Stroke Society - *Finland*
Société Française Neuro-Vasculaire - *France*
German Stroke Society - *Germany*
Yayasan Stroke Indonesia - *Indonesia*
The Japan Stroke Society - *Japan*
Korean Stroke Society - *Korea, South*
Malaysian Society of Neurosciences - *Malaysia*
Mongolian Stroke Society - *Mongolia*
Section Of Cerebravascular Diseases Polish Neurological Society - *Poland*
Sociedade Portuguesa do Acidente Vascular Cerebral - *Portugal*
Romanian National Stroke Association - *Romania*
Spanish Society of Neurology (SEN)-GEECV - *Spain*
European Stroke Organization - *Switzerland*
Taiwan Stroke Society - *Taiwan*
Thai Stroke Society - *Thailand*
Public Organization «Ukrainian Society for Neurorehabilitation» - *Ukraine*
British Association Of Stroke Physicians (BASP) - *United Kingdom*
American Stroke Association - *United States of America*
Intermountain Stroke Center - *United States of America*
Greek Society Of Cerebrovascular Diseases - *Greece*
Neurosciences Research Center (NSRC)-Tabriz - *Iran*
Iranian Stroke Association - *Iran*
Stroke Society Of The Philippines - *Philippines*
National Stroke Association of Sri Lanka - *Sri Lanka*
Ukrainian Anti-Stroke Association (UASA) - *Ukraine*
Pakistan Stroke Society and NARF - *Pakistan*
Central And Eastern European Stroke Society - *Croatia*
The Danish Stroke Society - *Denmark*

STROKE SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

National Stroke Foundation - *Australia*
Bangladesh Stroke Association (BSA) - *Bangladesh*
Associação Amor Vida Cuidado - *Brazil*
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada - *Canada*
Stroke Recovery Canada - *Canada*
Finnish Brain Association - *Finland*
Stroke Association Support Network-Ghana - *Ghana*
Indian Stroke Association - *India*
Stroke Foundation Of Bengal, India - *India*
Neeman Association For Stroke Survivors Israel - *Israel*
Alice Italia Onlus - The Italian Stroke Association - *Italy*
Japan Stroke Association (JSA) - *Japan*
Stroke Foundation of NZ Limited - *New Zealand*
Stroke Action Nigeria - *Nigeria*
Stroke care International Initiative - *Nigeria*
The Singapore National Stroke Association - *Singapore*
The Heart And Stroke Foundation South Africa - *South Africa*
The Stroke Survivors Foundation - *South Africa*
FRAGILE Suisse - *Switzerland*
Stroke Action UK - *United Kingdom*
Stroke Alliance For Europe - *United Kingdom*
The Stroke Association - *United Kingdom*
International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke - *United States of America*
National Stroke Association - *United States of America*
YoungStroke, Inc. - *United States of America*

FINANCIAL REPORT

The total income increased by USD 145,000 (18%) in 2015. Funds received from Industry Partners and income from the 2014 congress were the primary source of income. Other income primarily derived from membership dues and income from the journal.

Expenses decreased by USD133,000 (16%) to a total of USD679,000.

Overall for 2015 WSO had a positive result of USD279,000 which has been added to the general reserves.

The detailed financial report for all WSO activities is shown below, this includes the operations of both WSO Switzerland and WSO USA.

WORLD STROKE ORGANIZATION (Switzerland and United States consolidated) INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 (in United States Dollars)

		Total	
		2015	2014
Cash & Other Assets		1,280,018	1,027,316
Liabilities		-263,428	-290,029
General reserve		1,016,590	737,287
Income			
	Donations	580,881	706,985
	Membership Dues	117,977	105,414
	World Stroke Congress	235,177	0
	Interest	191	680
	Journal royalty	24,198	0
	Stroke Solidarity Symbol royalty	0	463
Total		958,424	813,542
Expense			
	WS Campaign	151,845	165,398
	WS Academy	99,624	139,591
	WSO Programs	52,838	68,581
	Promotion and Marketing	22,685	35,335
	Representation	44,442	38,039
	Journal Subscriptions for members	79,921	93,833
	Secretariat and management fees	177,196	221,471
	Other Program Committees	0	6,887
	Administrative expenses	16,704	11,438
	Strategy Consultant	12,603	0
	Exchange differences	20,801	31,984
	B. Johansson award expenses	463	0
Total expenses		679,122	812,557
Result		279,302	985
	General reserve		
	Balance brought forward	737,287	736,302
	Balance carried forward	1,016,590	737,287

PARTNERSHIPS

2015 was another exceptional year for partnerships by WSO joining forces at various levels, by collaborating with regional, national organisations to disseminate scientific knowledge across the world regardless of income level.

The decision was made by the WSO Board to join the NCD Alliance, adding our expertise and voice as NCDs gain increasing focus globally and thus creating exciting opportunities to reach new communities and move stroke prevention, treatment and rehabilitation forward; and last but not least, through our very own World Stroke Day, one of our largest partnerships ranging from sponsors to stroke survivors who are all lending their voice to drive change on a global scale.

Our efforts would not have been possible without the generous support of our corporate partners and their ongoing interest in collaborating with us and supporting the fight against stroke globally.

We are continuously looking for new collaborations & partnerships as we move forward and our reach and activities grow. We invite you to touch base with us to see how we can work together.

Medtronic is proud to be a partner with the World Stroke Organization and over the past year we have seen incredible traction in the fight against stroke. Through important initiatives such as World Stroke Day, the World Stroke Academy, clinical teaching courses and the Global Stroke Services Guideline, the World Stroke Organization is raising awareness that stroke is treatable and empowering clinicians and patients from across the globe with information that is potentially lifesaving.

Andrew Cormack

Vice President, Global Marketing
Medtronic Neurovascular

PLATINUM PLUS SPONSOR PARTNER

Medtronic

PLATINUM SPONSOR PARTNER



Bayer HealthCare

GOLDEN SPONSOR PARTNERS

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Together we can prevail.®



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SILVER SPONSOR PARTNER

SIEMENS

BRONZE SPONSOR PARTNERS

**Boston
Scientific**
Advancing science for life™

EVER
NEURO PHARMA

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2015, the Board agreed to make a minimal change to our current By Laws, which allowed the confirmation of two Presidents-elect who wished to share the 4-year term of office from 2016-2020.

We're pleased to announce that the nominations received by Werner Hacke and Michael Brainin for WSO presidency were accepted and Werner Hacke will serve as the next President of WSO from October 2016 to 2018 and then Michael Brainin will take over as President from October 2018 to 2020.



WSO Board members met in Kuala Lumpur to embark on a strategic planning process and develop a clear plan of where they see WSO in 5 years' time as an organization. The final strategy plan will be presented in May 2016

This is an outstanding result for the WSO, with superb leadership guaranteed for the next 4 years to continue implementing WSO mission & aims. Both Werner and Michael have experience of running major societies and have been highly effective in leadership roles for WSO since 2006. Congratulations to both.

WSO will elect a new Board in 2016 and Board members elected in 2012 have the option of standing for re-election. The online election will take place in May 2016 with official approval of the new Board at the General Assembly taking place at the World Stroke Congress in Hyderabad in October 2016.

Executive Committee and Board of Directors

WSO is fortunate to have a world renowned Board of Directors. The members represent a balance of all world regions and include individual stroke professionals as well as representatives from both Scientific Stroke Organizations and Stroke Support Committees.

Current members are listed below:

MEMBERS OF THE WSO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President - Steve Davis (Australia)
President-Elect - Werner Hacke (Germany)
President-Elect - Michael Brainin (Austria)
Vice-President - Natan Bornstein (Israel)
Immediate Past-president - Bo Norrving (Sweden)
Treasurer - Bernard Yan (Australia)
Co-Treasurer - Marc Fisher (USA)
Secretary - Ka Sing Lawrence Wong
 (Hong Kong S.A.R.)
Member at large - Erin Lalor (Australia)
Member at large - Sheila Martins (Brazil)
Member at large - Shinichiro Uchiyama (Japan)
Ex Officio Member - Marc Fisher, Co-Treasurer
 for the US Accounts
Ex Officio Member - Geoffrey Donnan, Editor of IJS

MEMBERS OF THE WSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Individual members

**Sub-Sahara Africa, Middle
East/East Mediterranean**
Foad Abd-Allah | Egypt
Gloria Ekend | Nigeria
Mehdi Farhoudi | Iran
Waleed Khoja | Saudi Arabia

Americas

Marc Fisher | USA
Karen L. Furie | USA
Vladimir Hachinski | Canada
J. David Spence | Canada

Europe

Michael Brainin | Austria
Werner Hacke | Germany
Bo Norrving | Sweden
Peter Sandercock | UK

Asia/Oceania

Julie Bernhardt | Australia
Christopher Chen | Singapore
Stephen Davis | Australia (President)
Valery Feigin | New Zealand
Graeme J. Hankey | Australia
Masayasu Matsumoto | Japan
Shinichiro Uchiyama | Japan
 (Member at Large)
Lawrence Ka Sing Wong | Hong Kong
 S.A.R. (Secretary)

Scientific Societies

Craig Anderson | Asia Pacific Stroke Organization
Hanne Christensen | Danish Stroke Organization
Vida Demarin | Central and Eastern European Stroke Society
Matthias Endres | German Stroke Society
Dongsheng Fan | Beijing Stroke Organization
Akira Ogawa | Japanese Stroke Society
Gabriel Rodriguez de Freitas | Brazilian Stroke Organization
Disya Ratanakorn | Thai Stroke Society
Ralph Sacco | American Stroke Association
Bernard Yan | Stroke Society of Australasia

Stroke Societies

Jon Barrick | The Stroke Association
Natan Bornstein | The Neeman Association for Stroke Survivors
Amy Edmunds | YoungStroke.Inc
Sandra Levy | SAFE
Erin Lalor | National Stroke Foundation (Member at Large)
Patrice Lindsay | Heart and Stroke Foundation
Daria Lisichenko | Russian Stroke Foundation
Sheila Cristina Ouriques Martins | Brazilian Stroke Network
 (Member at Large)
Kazuo Minematsu | Japan Stroke Association
Risto O. Roine | Finnish Brain Association

Ex Officio Members

Geoffrey Donnan | Editor of International Journal of Stroke
 (Ex Officio EC member)
Ate Meretoja | Young Stroke Professionals

JOIN US
IN THE
FIGHT
AGAINST
STROKE
NOW

If we reflect that worldwide

1 in 6

will suffer a stroke -

that's

17 million strokes per year

and

6 million lives lost -

**then the WSO needs you to join the fight
against stroke too!**



Enter the '**Global Stroke Bill of Rights**' this is a landmark document, developed in partnership with stroke survivors and caregivers, that sets out what people with experience of stroke think is most important to the survival and optimal recovery of ALL stroke survivors across the world.

For the first time in WSO's history, stroke specialists, stroke survivors, neurologists, leading medical professionals and advocates came together to celebrate the official launch of the Global Stroke Bill of Rights at the World Stroke Congress in Istanbul, Turkey in October 2014. Since then the Global Stroke Bill of Rights was launched during World Stroke Day and disseminated via social media.

To keep the ball rolling and make it easy for people to show their support, WSO created the '**Global Stroke Bill of Rights**' Toolkit. You can help our campaign and get the word out about the Global Stroke Bill of Rights.

Use our resources such as the Posters, e-Mail Signature Banner and web banners to raise the profile of the campaign in your communications.

And if you haven't signed the petition yet – it's not too late – click [here](#) to sign and join us and many other in the fight against stroke.

one voice
One World Voice for Stroke



**World Stroke
Organization**

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