

Year 3 (July 2019 - July 2020) Research | Innovation | Education

‘Bringing together Wales’ stroke experts to use evidence-based care, research innovation and education to help prevent and reduce the debilitating impact of stroke’.

Stroke is one of the top causes of death and a leading cause of adult disability. In Wales there are approximately, 7500 people who will suffer either a stroke, TIA or a stroke mimic each year and there are almost 70,000 stroke survivors in Wales.

Stroke research, innovation and education is therefore a critical enabler in the health of our nation, contributing to the effective delivery of evidence-based medicine in our NHS, attracting investment and high-quality research talent and is vital for laying the foundation for the next phase of health and social care delivery in Wales.

Stroke Hub Wales (SHW) was launched on the 9th of November 2017 and is a Welsh Government funded initiative. Our vision is to achieve a step-change in high impact stroke research for the benefit of the health, wellbeing and prosperity of the people in Wales.

Our aims

Our aims are to:

- Drive a research agenda and funding streams
- Build an infrastructure able to deliver a stronger portfolio of research
- Create a sustainable research environment



Selected Year 3 Achievements

- Expanded the SHW network so that it has now gained enormous traction and has built a reputation across UK and beyond. SHW has established close international collaborative ties with the University of the Western Cape (South Africa), the University of Zimbabwe, and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (Australia) and the Multicultural Health Institute (Sarasota, Florida).
- Coordinated the research half day and the poster presentations at the annual Welsh Stroke Conference. WSC 2019 included >40 poster presentations, 4 case study presentations, and eight oral presentations. This will be a constant feature at all future WSCs.
- Completed an all-Wales mapping exercise online as a resource for all, encompassing stroke research, innovation and education portfolio studies, projects, programme grants and publications amongst our Welsh Higher Education Institutions, Health Boards and partners (see www.stroke.wales for more details).
- Set up the SHW Stroke Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Committee. The membership comprises >30 stroke survivors, carers, healthcare professionals and academics and has advised/commented on >18 projects to date.
- SHW supported the submission of a HCRW and BHF grant
- Established 8 Design for Real/Life projects with Professor Wendy Keay-Bright and BA Graphic Communication students (Cardiff School of Art and Design, Cardiff Metropolitan University) in collaboration with NHS, stroke consultants and AHPs in the fields of atrial fibrillation, hemianopia and childhood stroke.
- 5 poster presentations at (3) Welsh Stroke Conference, Cardiff 2019 and (2) UK Stroke Assembly, UKSF, Telford 2019
- Contributed towards the Welsh Government cross-party group review of the outcomes of the current Stroke Delivery Plan (2017-2020).
- Presented at and facilitated two Stroke Research, Innovation, Education and Care Symposia – 27.11.19 and 02.03.2020, with over 130 attendees.

The Future

- SHW aims to actively support the role of the Research Lead for Stroke in Wales.
- Support the research session and poster presentations at the annual Welsh Stroke Conference (WSC) 2021 and beyond.
- Develop the stroke-specific PPI group for use by research and innovation stroke projects across Wales.
- Coordinate the Public Engagement Stroke Seminar series “Improving Health through Education and Research” across Wales via virtual platforms.
- Assist in grant submissions with partner universities and HEIs nationally and internationally.
- Encourage development of research, innovation, education in several areas including childhood stroke and end of life care in stroke.
- Recruit two Allied Health Professionals to apply for funded PhD programmes from the British Heart Foundation “Career Development Research Fellowship for Nurses and AHPs”.
- Capacity building with industry to develop high-quality commercial stroke research and innovation for the health and wealth of Wales.
- Update SHW Terms of Reference and refresh our Advisory Group.
- Facilitate innovative health hacks for 2020 onwards in collaboration with Bayer.
- Scope for a Masters degree in Stroke Care.
- Further develop research and educational collaboration opportunities with other UK and international HEIs.
- Deliver a rolling programme of workshops, seminars and mentoring schemes to support early researchers.

References

1. Quality and Outcomes Framework - Wales
2. 2017 – 2020 Stroke Delivery Plan <https://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/170209stroke-dplan1720en.pdf>