The journal’s 40th anniversary has provided us with an opportunity to not only celebrate the past, but to help shape the future.

In anticipation of the anniversary, 7 working groups were struck to develop 3 main recommendations in their respective areas. This was initially accomplished by e-mail and conference calls, all in preparation for a synergium (a word that I coined to describe a forum for working synergistically together), which took place on February 22 and 23, 2010.

The event began with the reflections of 2 former Editors-in-Chief of Stroke, Henry Barnett1 and Mark Dyken,2 speaking on the progress in the field of stroke over the past 40 years. This was followed by Valentin Fuster’s “A cardiologist looks at stroke”3 and Yulun Wang discussing the potential of technology and robotics for multiplying the effectiveness of health professionals and empowering patients to do more for themselves.4

The next day, the groups met face to face for the first time; joined by registrants, they divided themselves among the groups. In the afternoon, each group presented its main recommendations followed by vigorous discussions. The groups refined what they had to recommend based on the audience’s contributions and additional input obtained during the preparation of the manuscript.5

The identified areas of priority give flesh to the generic recommendations of the World Stroke Day Proclamation6 and invite working groups to advocate specific initiatives.

Stroke is a huge problem but still a small field, in which most leaders know each other and are committed to build on and accelerate the unprecedented advances that our field has experienced in the past 4 decades.

We have progressed from helplessness and nihilism to action and hope.

Disclosures
None.

References

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Stroke Turns 40
Vladimir Hachinski

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