The Ninth World Stroke Congress was held in Istanbul, October 2014, attended by 2500 delegates. Highlights included our World Stroke Organization (WSO) Award Lectures, joint sessions with major partners (World Health Organization, World Federation of Neurology, European Stroke Organization, American Stroke Association, Asian Pacific Stroke Organization, International Federation of Neurorehabilitation, and the World Hypertension League) and presentation of major scientific results, including the first positive large randomized trial of mechanical thrombectomy.

Dr Norrving received the WSO leadership in Stroke Medicine Award, recognizing his outstanding leadership and advocacy for stroke at a global level. Leonardo Cohen received the B B Johansson award in stroke recovery, recognizing his seminal research on brain plasticity and translational research of new treatment modalities. Valery Feigin received the WSO President’s award for Contributions to Clinical Stroke Research for his leading work on stroke epidemiology, underscoring the challenge of the escalating burden in low- and middle-income countries. Peter Langhorne received the WSO President’s award for Services to Stroke, recognizing his work proving the benefits of organized stroke care, regardless of the socioeconomic setting.

Two major activities were launched in Istanbul. The WSO Global Stroke Bill of Rights was developed by a core group of stroke survivors and caregivers from each region of the world. This unique work was facilitated by Dr Lalor and supported by a larger group of survivors and caregivers from many different countries, varied cultures, and languages. It is aimed at defining the fundamental rights of persons anywhere in the World who have experienced a stroke, promoting equitable access to stroke care, resulting in better diagnosis, treatment, and support. We launched our WSO Global Stroke Services Guidelines and Action Plan, led by Dr Patrice Lindsay, using evidence-based approaches for stroke prevention, acute care, and recovery. This strategic plan identifies key elements of organized stroke care across a continuum of health models, defining minimal, essential, and advanced services. Even in resource-poor settings, actions can be taken to improve stroke outcomes. The aim is to progressively move services from the minimal to the essential level and then, where needed, to the advanced care level. The action plan is intended for all providers of stroke care, but especially targeted at low- and middle-income countries.

In 2014, World Stroke Day (October 29) involved activities in Turkey and simultaneously many thousands of people in virtually every major country and region. In 2014, the new WSO campaign theme is I am Woman. This campaign emphasizes the higher stroke mortality in women, accounting for 6 in 10 of all stroke deaths. One in 5 women will have a stroke in their lifetime. It will focus on the risk factors and stroke subtypes that are more prevalent in women.

Education is another core WSO activity. In June 2014, Peter Sandercock represented WSO at the Sixth Regional Neurology Training Course in Sub-Saharan Africa, at Lusaka, Zambia. A consortium of international, European Scientific Societies, and the Zambian Government supported this meeting, covering a range of neurological topics, including stroke. Stephen Davis was a guest of the Welsh Stroke Society at their annual conference in Cardiff, with Michael Brainin and Craig Anderson. This was an excellent multidisciplinary meeting, illustrating progress in acute stroke organization in Wales. WSO Board members attended the 2014 Tiantan Stroke meeting in Beijing. This conference attracted ≈10000 delegates and illustrated the impressive progress being made in China, which has the greatest stroke burden in the World. A WSO stroke teaching program is planned for the 2015 Tiantan meeting. The WSO has endorsed the first European Stroke Organization Conference, Glasgow, April 17 to 19, 2015.

In July 2014, Dr Norrving represented the WSO at a high-level meeting at the UN to review the progress achieved in the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) since the UN High-Level meeting on NCDs held 2011. The outcome document called for upscaling the efforts toward reducing the burden of NCDs, with the development of national NCD targets and multisectoral plans by 2015, as well as implementation of policies and interventions to reduce NCD risk factors.

We were delighted to hear that the 2013 Impact Factor for the International Journal of Stroke (IJS) is 4.029. This is an impressive increase on the previous impact factor of 2.748 and IJS is now the second highest impact stroke journal (second only to Stroke), reflecting the superb leadership of Editor in Chief Geoffrey Donnan, supported by the innovative work of the Managing Editor, Carmen Lahiff-Jenkins.

With new partnership agreements with regional stroke societies, WSO is growing. We now have ≈2700 financial...
members. We again invite you to join the WSO at http://www.world-stroke.org. As a financial member, you will receive the IJS online, reduced congress registration fees, regular newsletters, the right to apply for WSO travel fellowships and awards, and eligibility to vote, be nominated, or elected to the Board of Directors. Most importantly you will be directly contributing to our goal of reducing the global burden of stroke through prevention, treatment, and long-term care.

Disclosures
None.

Reference

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Stephen Davis and Bo Norrving

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