

# Northern Ireland Stroke Professionals Conference

Thursday 25 September 2025  
Crowne Plaza, Belfast

Supported by



The Stroke Association is proud to host our Northern Ireland Stroke Professionals conference bringing together individuals and organisations to improve the experiences of local stroke survivors.

We are delighted to have you join us to hear the experience of patients alongside professionals from Northern Ireland and further afield sharing current information, emerging research and the latest procedures.

In Northern Ireland, over 4,000 people are admitted to hospital with stroke each year and the number of stroke survivors is now just over 40,000.

We work with government and local health leaders to ensure the Stroke Action Plan delivers for people affected by stroke and that stroke is the priority it needs to be in Northern Ireland. We also provide services in partnership with all five Health and Social Care Trusts.

Our Emotional Support Service provides counselling to those affected by stroke as they come to terms with what has happened to them.

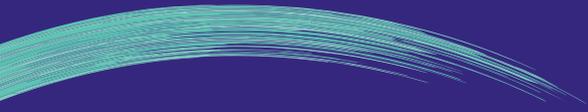
Our Communication Support Service offers support for stroke survivors who have developed a communication difficulty as a result of a stroke.



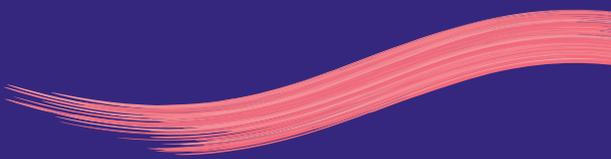
Our Stroke Support Helpline is here to support anyone affected by stroke in NI. Helpline staff can provide information, guidance, and support on practical problems like fatigue, finances, getting back to work, driving and more. Call us on **0303 3033 100**.

# Our agenda for the day

9.00am	Arrival and registration	
9.30am	<b>Welcome from Stroke Association and NIMAST</b> Alasdair O'Hara, Associate Director Northern Ireland Stroke Association and Dr Patricia Gordon, Chair of NIMAST	
9.40am	<b>Plenary one: Progress of improving stroke care</b> Chairs – Alasdair O'Hara and Dr Patricia Gordon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>An update on the Stroke Action Plan:</b> Fiona Quigg</li> <li>• <b>My Stroke Reset - The Lesson Plan Life Didn't Hand Me:</b> Michael Poots</li> <li>• <b>SSNAP overview:</b> Louise Clark</li> <li>• <b>Trust Updates:</b> NHSCT – Ruth McMullan; WHSCT – Ann-Marie McIlmoyle; BHSCT – Jessica Elder; SEHSCT – Emma Graham and Hannah Pert; SHSCT – James Gilpin</li> </ul>	
11.00am	Refreshment break	
11.30am	<b>Grand Ballroom</b> <b>Current stroke challenges</b> Chair – Dr Patricia Gordon and Dr Michael Ford <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Platelet Reactivity and Pharmacogenetics:</b> Prof Dominick McCabe</li> <li>• <b>Paediatric stroke:</b> Dr Sandya Tirupathi</li> <li>• <b>Learnings from working across five nations on thrombectomy:</b> Prof Deb Lowe and Alasdair O'Hara</li> </ul>	<b>Birch Room</b> <b>How to develop spasticity services; Learning from Northern Ireland, London and Newcastle</b> Chair – Nicola Moran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Development of spasticity services in NI:</b> Nicola Moran</li> <li>• <b>Role of the Occupational Therapist:</b> Lynsay Duke</li> <li>• <b>Development of spasticity services in community:</b> Claire Ward</li> </ul>
12.30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm	<b>Grand Ballroom</b> <b>Innovations in acute stroke care</b> Chair – Dr Patricia Gordon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PFO Closure:</b> Dr Colum Owens</li> <li>• <b>Stroke triage in ED – a SHSCT project:</b> Dr David McShane</li> <li>• <b>CT perfusion – benefits and pitfalls:</b> Dr Sean O'Reilly</li> <li>• <b>Frailty and imaging:</b> Dr Daniel McKernan</li> </ul>	<b>Birch Room</b> <b>Supporting stroke survivors and innovations in rehab</b> Chair – Dr Niamh Kennedy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Post stroke impact and unmet needs following young stroke:</b> Dr Oisín Cleary</li> <li>• <b>Learnings from Lurgan Hospital Stroke Survivors Buddy Scheme:</b> Arjay Juan, Lauren Jones, Ciara McConnell, Bernie Fox, Gillian McKnight</li> <li>• <b>Phagenesis:</b> Carolee McLaughlin</li> <li>• <b>Virtual reality:</b> Emma Dunn</li> </ul>
2.30pm	Refreshment break	
3.00pm	<b>Plenary two:</b> Chairs: Nicola Moran and Alasdair O'Hara <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Progress on stroke improvement across the UK:</b> Prof Deb Lowe</li> <li>• <b>Stroke Rehabilitation - The Size of the Prize:</b> Michelle Long</li> </ul> <b>Q&amp;A</b>	
4.10pm	<b>Closing remarks from Stroke Association and NIMAST</b> Alasdair O'Hara and Nicola Moran	
4.30pm	Depart	
5.00-5.30pm	NIMAST AGM – all members welcome <b>Grand Ballroom</b>	



The Stroke Association is the only stroke-specific charity in NI providing lifelong support for all stroke survivors and their families.



If you would like to talk to us more about our work across Northern Ireland please email [ni@stroke.org.uk](mailto:ni@stroke.org.uk)

## Contact us

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We're here for you. Contact us for expert information and support by phone, email and online.

Stroke Support Helpline: **0303 3033 100**

From a textphone: **18001 0303 3033 100**

Email: [helpline@stroke.org.uk](mailto:helpline@stroke.org.uk)

Website: [stroke.org.uk](http://stroke.org.uk)

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**Stroke**  
Association

Finding **strength** through **support**

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The Stroke Association is registered as a charity in England and Wales (No 211015) and in Scotland (SC037789). Also registered in the Isle of Man (No. 945) and Jersey (No. 221), and operating as a charity in Northern Ireland.