



Date: Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th September 2019

Location: Manchester

Arranged under the auspices of the NIHR CRN Stroke Speciality.

Supported by The Stroke Association, the British Association of Stroke Physicians
and NIHR Clinical Research Network Greater Manchester

MEETING REPORT

The third NIHR UK Stroke Research Workshop was held in Chancellor's Hotel and Conference Centre at the University of Manchester, on 11th & 12th September 2019, with the local hosts being the University of Manchester Stroke Group. This was our best attended workshop to date with 133 registrants, or 117 when invited speakers were excluded. Of these attendees 59 were trainees and 12 medical students.

There was an excellent programme of sessions covering a wide variety of areas of stroke research, each beginning with 2 or 3 invited lectures followed by a number of submitted abstracts relevant to that theme. Specific themes this year were intracerebral haemorrhage, psychological and cognitive consequences of stroke, stroke prevention, the blood brain barrier and cerebral small vessel disease, and stroke recovery. The meeting closed with a plenary lecture from Arthur Liesz from LMU Munich who presented exciting data on the potential role of the microbiome in stroke risk and recovery.

A major focus this year was on encouraging medical students to become inspired by stroke research. Thanks to help from David Henshall, our medical student representative on the steering committee, and others, we had 19 applications from medical students for the student bursary, and were able to offer 10 fully funded bursary places. In addition a number of medical students submitted abstracts so that we had at least 12 medical student attendees. The Jane White medical student prizes for the highest rated submitted abstracts were awarded to Fraser Glass from the University of Glasgow and Sam Moore from the University of Cambridge. There were also a large number of abstracts presented primarily from trainees. Nine abstracts were presented as oral presentations and 34 in a poster round. Prizes for the best oral presentations were awarded to Annabel Sorby-Adams from Adelaide and

Charlotte Hickman (medical student) from Edinburgh. Best poster prizes were awarded to Raymond Wong from Manchester and Adam Gittins (medical student) from Birmingham.

We are very grateful for significant financial support from the NIHR Stroke Specialty Group, NIHR Clinical Research Network Greater Manchester, British Association of Stroke Physicians, and the Stroke Association. This allowed us to offer a very cheap registration and accommodation rate for trainees. We are also grateful to the Jane White Fund, Natalie Kate Moss Trust, and Marney Williams for allowing us to support so many medical student bursaries. We are also very grateful to Stuart Allan and Mary Hargreaves in the Manchester Stroke group for hosting the meeting.

Formal feedback was excellent. Of 41 respondents 40 found the workshop interesting and informative. Of those trainees responding 16 felt the workshop would attract them to a career in stroke research, 3 did not, and 3 were unsure. Each session was rated on a 5 point scale with excellent being the highest. For all sessions the most common rating was excellent, and overall feedback on all sessions was very good. The poster session was felt to be a little short and hurried, partly reflecting the large number of posters we had this year, and this will be lengthened next year.

After the success of this year's conference the workshop will be repeated in 2020. It will be held on Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd September 2020 in College Court at the University of Leicester. This provides a dedicated conference accommodation centre where all delegates can stay together and mix for the conference which will be held on the same site.



The best oral and poster prize-winner from left to right ; Raymond Wong, Adam Gittins, Charlotte Hickman, Annabel Sorby-Adams with the Stuart Allan the local organiser and Hugh Markus Chair of the meeting committee.