All-Ireland Stroke Conference 2026

Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin

Monday 19th October 2026

08:15-08:50	**Registration, tea and coffee**	Networking opportunity
08:50-09:00	**Welcome to the All-Island Stroke Conference**	Chairperson introduction, Dr. Patricia Gordon
09:00-09:10	**Opening address**	Anne O'Connor, CEO, Health Service Executive
09:10-09:20	**Opening address**	Professor Sir Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland
09:20-09:30	**Welcome from the Irish Heart Foundation**	Emma Balmaine, CEO, Irish Heart Foundation
09:30-09:45	**Rebuilding and rediscovering: my journey after a stroke**	Simon Barrett, Stroke Survivor, Irish Heart Foundation Patient Champion & Volunteer
09:45-09:50	**Shared learning across the stroke pathway, setting the scene**	Chairperson introduction, Professor David Williams
09:50-10.05	**10 years of the National Thrombectomy Service, 2016-2026; trials, triumphs and tribulations**	Dr. Matt Crockett, Neurointerventional Radiologist, Beaumont Hospital
10.05-10.20	**Update from the Irish National Audit of Stroke**	Joan McCormack, Cardiovascular Programme Audit Manager, National Office of Clinical Audit / Professor Joe Harbison, Consultant Geriatrician and Stroke Physician, St. James's Hospital. Deputy Head of School of Medicine and Associate Professor of Medical Gerontology, Trinity College Dublin
10.20-10.35	**Using SSNAP data to drive quality improvement in stroke care**	Dr. Ajay Bhalla, Director of Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) within the Stroke Programme at King's College, London, Consultant Stroke Physician at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital.

10.35-10.50	**Next steps & priorities**	Panel discussion
10:50-11:15	**Tea and Coffee**	Poster viewing / trade exhibition
11:15-11:20	**Chairperson introduction**	Professor Frances Horgan
11.20-11.35	**In the end, it's not the years in your life that count…": rehabilitation and life after stroke**	Professor Avril Drummond, Professor of Rehabilitation, School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, Loughborough University. Emeritus Professor of Healthcare Research at the University of Nottingham.
11:35-11:50	**Recovery without walls: reimagining stroke care as an integrated system**	Professor Aine Carroll, Consultant Professor of Healthcare Integration and Improvement at University College Dublin, Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at the National Rehabilitation University Hospital, Dublin.
11:50-12:05	**Stroke advocacy – the challenges and opportunities**	Chris Macey, Former Director of Advocacy and Patient Support Irish Heart Foundation
12:05-12:10	**Q&A**	
12.10-12.15	***Presentation to Chris Macey***	Professor Frances Horgan
12:15-12:20	**Parallel session A** (Chairperson intro, Dr. Michael Ford)	**Parallel session B** (Chairperson intro, Dr. Tadhg Stapleton)
12:20-13:10	**A. TNF signalling and risk of stroke,** Dr. Jane Buckley, Stroke Research Fellow, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital/Specialist Lecturer & Clinical Tutor in Geriatric Medicine, University College Dublin	**A. An evaluation of the goal priorities in sub-acute stroke survivors using the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure,** Dr. Beverley Turtle, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at the School of Health Sciences, Ulster University
	B. Burden of chronic covert brain infarcts in patients with ischaemic stroke or transient ischaemic attack, Yik Yu Lee, School of Medicine, University College Dublin	**B. 'You're never over it': PSCI, work and life participation in younger stroke survivors,** Libby Cunningham, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist, Early Supported Discharge Stroke Service, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
	C. Code stroke, the dizzy patient in the ED: a quality improvement project to improve management of acute dizziness at the front door, Dr. James Dennison, Stroke Unit, Craigavon Area Hospital	**C. Evaluating StrokeCog-R: a pilot randomised controlled trial of a cognitive rehabilitation intervention for post-stroke cognitive impairment,** Dr. Catherine Nora Moran, Assistant Professor in the School of Psychology, Dublin City University

	D. Relationship between CYP2C19 and other genotypes with on-treatment platelet reactivity status on clopidogrel following TIA and ischaemic stroke, Dr. Iryna Naydonova, Research Senior House Officer in Vascular Neurology, Vascular Neurology Research Foundation, Tallaght University Hospital	**D. Patient-reported outcome measures-looking beyond the modified Rankin scale to characterise stroke impact,** Dr. Fiachra O'Meara, Basic Specialist Trainee in General Internal Medicine, Beaumont Hospital
13:10-13:50	**LUNCH**	Poster viewing / trade exhibition
13:50-13:55	**Hot topic session A** (Chairperson intro: Nicola Moran)	**Hot topic session B** (Chairperson intro: Dr. Patricia Gordon)
13:55-14:45	**A. More than just an injection; developing an MDT post stroke spasticity service,** Trish Galvin, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Stroke, University Hospital Galway and Mairéad Chawke, Senior Physiotherapist and Joint Co-ordinator of the Early Supported Discharge Service for Stroke, University Hospital Galway	**A. Real-world cerebral venous sinus thrombosis in a tertiary stroke centre: presentation, management and outcomes,** Dr. Nicole Cosgrave, Specialist Registrar in Geriatric Medicine, Beaumont Hospital
	B. Pharyngeal electrical stimulation as a treatment for post stroke dysphagia, Dr. Carolee McLaughlin, Clinical Lead Stroke Speech & Language Therapist, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	**B. Burden of intracranial atherosclerosis in an Irish Ischaemic stroke or TIA cohort: associations with stenosis severity and vascular risk factors,** Liam Moloughney, School of Medicine, University College Dublin
	C. Virtual ward and Early Supported Discharge working together, Nora Cunningham, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Acute Stroke, University Hospital Limerick	**C. Stroke knowledge in nurses twelve months after a 10-week ward base simulation programme: a cross-sectional comparison,** Lisa Donaghy, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Stroke, Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown
	D. The Rebuild programme, Dermot Brennan, Physical Activity and Exercise Lead, Croí, The West of Ireland Cardiac & Stroke Foundation	**D. Development of a 24/7 Nurse-Led stroke ambulatory bay: improving access to specialist stroke care and patient flow,** Danni McGranaghan, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Stroke Unit, Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast
14:45-14:50	**Chairperson Introduction**	Ciara Breen & Dr. Tadhg Stapleton
14:50-15:20	**All-Island quality improvement projects: snapshot of lessons learned**	Poster presentations 1-5
15:20-15:25	**Chairperson Introduction**	Dr. Niamh Kennedy

15:.25-15:40	**Northern Ireland Stroke Programme reflections & next steps**	Dr Ivan Wiggam, Consultant Stroke Physician at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast. Interim Clinical Lead for the regional Stroke Network
15:40-15:55	**Irish National Stroke Programme reflections & next steps**	Professor Rónán Collins, Consultant Physician in Geriatric and Stroke Medicine and Director of Stroke Services at Tallaght University Hospital. Former Clinical Lead for the Irish National Stroke Programme
15:55-16:00	**Q&A**	
16:00	**Close of conference**	Dr. Patricia Gordon