

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF STROKE PHYSICIANS

ADVANCING STROKE MEDICINE

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1134589



Dear Colleague

**We are writing to invite you to join the British Association of Stroke Physicians (BASP),** which is committed to advancing stroke medicine, and needs your help to do so.

**The need for your support is made all the more urgent by the SARS-Cov-2 pandemic,** which is resulting in stroke doctors' redeployment, dramatic changes to stroke services, and large reductions in hospital attendances for TIA and stroke. So far, BASP has responded to the pandemic by:

- Leading a weekly meeting of all UK national stroke service leads and The Stroke Association.
- Setting up an online COVID-19 Resource Hub on [www.BASP.ac.uk](http://www.BASP.ac.uk).
- Initiating a monthly survey of how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting stroke services.
- Coordinating weekly ascertainment of stroke associated with suspected/confirmed COVID-19 to support national public health surveillance.

**But great opportunities lie ahead.** Never before have there been so many exciting advances in how we can improve outcome for our patients, yet such a shortage in the workforce. First, the good news is that stroke is high on the national policy agenda throughout the UK, driven partly by the availability of life-changing treatments including intravenous thrombolysis and mechanical thrombectomy, but also by the increasing appreciation of the long-term impact of stroke. Second, sadly we face a growing workforce crisis: at least 40% of hospitals providing stroke care have an unfilled consultant stroke physician post. And third, there are opportunities to address both of these issues with the major changes ahead in how stroke specialists will be trained and integrated with medicine of the elderly, neurology, general medicine and other specialties.

**BASP represents all UK clinicians involved in caring for stroke patients,** with a mission to advance stroke medicine throughout the UK. We aim to achieve this by:

- Developing and influencing local and national policy
- Providing an expert voice on all aspects of stroke
- Leading on clinical standards
- Promoting and disseminating research
- Improving stroke medicine education and training

**BASP is already rapidly increasing its professionalism and effectiveness** following a change in the secretariat that manages the association's affairs in late 2019:

- We are changing our email and website domain to ensure reliable communication.
- We have overhauled our monthly email newsletter.
- We are moving our membership database to a new platform, so we can appreciate the completeness, representativeness, and members' interests, and manage subscriptions reliably.
- The secretariat has improved the organisation and documentation of the Executive Committee's business to allow us to focus on important matters, e.g. responding to consultations about stroke care, quantifying and campaigning about the workforce crisis, campaigning about thrombectomy, and investing in the next generation of stroke physicians with educational events and the new Take Up Stroke fellows.
- We used a new platform for elections to ensure that all eligible members in the database can vote and influence the future of the association.

*The British Association of Stroke Physicians is a registered charity (no. 1134589) promoting the advancement of Stroke Medicine in the UK*

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- We appointed a new External Engagement member of the BASP Executive to improve our communications with our members, other professional organisations, the media, and the public.

**There are many benefits of joining BASP**, listed below. These are not only financial (e.g. discounted registration for the UK Stroke Forum and other conferences), but also include access to key news, information and educational resources and, most importantly, a voice in shaping our professional association to have real influence in improving stroke care.

Benefits	Full Members	Associate Members	Retired Members
Influence BASP strategy	✓	✓	✓
Vote on and be elected to BASP committees	✓	✓	✓
Discounted registration to UK Stroke Forum Up to 12%	✓	✓	✓
Discounted membership of ESO & WSO ESO €50 discount and WSO - 20% discount	✓	✓	✓
Electronic newsletter	✓	✓	✓
Access to BASP website (and all key documents including reports, guidelines)	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to attend AGM	✓	✓	✓
Work in Partnership with other organisations (e.g. special interest groups)	✓	✓	✓
Eligible for the BASP Warlow prize	✗	✓	✗
Voting rights in BASP elections	✓	✗	✗

**There has never been a better time to join BASP** to strengthen the present and future of stroke medicine in the UK. Please join us by visiting <https://basp.ac.uk/registration-page/>

Professor Rustam Al-Shahi Salman  
BASP President

Professor David Werring  
BASP Honorary Secretary

Ganesh Subramanian  
BASP Deputy Secretary

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