



### **BASP Innovation in Sustainable Stroke Care Competition**

BASP recognises that climate change poses a serious threat to human health through a variety of impacts including increased intensity and frequency of heatwaves, extreme weather events, changing patterns of infectious diseases and disruptions to food and water security<sup>1</sup>. The current system of healthcare delivery contributes to the climate crisis with the NHS contributing an estimated 5% to the carbon footprint of the UK<sup>2</sup>. The NHS has committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040 for its core activities and 2045 for emissions that it has indirect control over<sup>2</sup>. This is particularly relevant to stroke medicine for a number of reasons:-

- **Vulnerability of patient population**  
People living with comorbidities, including cardiovascular disease and stroke survivors, are more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change.
- **Impact on stroke burden of disease**  
Heatwaves lead to increased morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular events including stroke and extreme weather events may lead to disruption of care and access to essential medicines.
- **Contribution to stroke risk factors**  
High-carbon lifestyles are not only damaging to the environment but contribute to risk factors for stroke such as air pollution exposure and obesity.
- **Environmental impact of stroke care delivery**  
The delivery of stroke care is associated with considerable resource use which contributes to the carbon footprint of the NHS.

BASP are launching a competition to champion innovative ideas that can contribute to the development of greener, more sustainable stroke care. This is in line with our strategic plan 2021-2024.

<https://www.basp.org/whatwedo/>

The winner will receive a funded place to attend the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare's Sustainable Quality Improvement (SusQI) course, which would normally cost £165 + VAT.

<https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/courses>

Applications that lead to completed projects will be encouraged to submit abstracts for presentation at the UK Stroke Forum 2022.

Please see the appendix for more information about sustainable healthcare and resources to help you.

#### Who can apply?

The competition is open to all junior doctors (foundation year doctors, core trainees, GP trainees, clinical fellows, higher specialty trainees) and allied health professionals.

#### How to apply

Please complete the attached application form and send to [admin@basp.org](mailto:admin@basp.org)



Competition opens

**1<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

Competition closes

At midnight on **1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

Winner announced

15<sup>th</sup> December 2021

For any further enquiries please contact [admin@basp.org](mailto:admin@basp.org)

Appendix – sustainable healthcare

Sustainable healthcare uses resources responsibly and considers the impact on the wider population and future generations when assessing the impact of care delivery. It defines value in healthcare by balancing the outcomes for patients and populations against the ‘triple bottom line’ of financial, social and environmental impacts when making decisions<sup>3</sup>. The four principles of sustainable healthcare are:-

1. Prevention – addressing the underlying causes of disease and health inequalities
2. Patient self-care – empowering patients to take more control over managing their own health
3. Lean service delivery – efficient services with minimisation of waste
4. Low carbon alternatives – choosing treatments with lower environmental impacts if available<sup>4</sup>

Useful resources

<https://www.susqi.org/>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/>

References

1. Watts N, Amann M, Arnell N, Ayeb-Karlsson S, Beagley et al. The 2020 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: responding to converging crises. *Lancet* 2021; 397: 129-70.
2. NHS England and NHS Improvement. *Delivering a ‘net zero’ National Health Service*. NHS England and NHS Improvement. 2020
3. Mortimer F, Isherwood J, Wilkinson A, Vaux E. Sustainability in quality improvement: redefining value. *Future Healthcare Journal* 2018 5(2): 88-93
4. Mortimer F. The sustainable physician. *Clinical Medicine* 2010 10(2): 110-11