Chairperson’s Introduction

Stroke is one of the two frequently fatal cardiovascular diseases along with myocardial infarction. Despite significant progress in prevention and treatment of stroke in recent years mortality and morbidity stroke remained extremely high.

To address this major cardiovascular burden, the ESC Council on Stroke was founded in 2016. From the start the interest in this novel scientific body within the ESC academic family was strong. By now the membership grow to more than 2000 doctors, scientists, nurses, technicians and included doctors and health care professionals from all fields of cardiology who share an interest the clinical and pathophysiological aspects of the interaction of the heart and stroke. An outstanding feature of the Council is its true interdisciplinary concept to reach out for all other specialties involved in stroke care. Therefore, the nucleus as the board and the academic program include scientist and clinicians from neurology, neuroradiology, vascular surgery, and others.

The aim of the Council is to improve education in prevention and treatment of stroke, diminish inequalities in clinical standards across Europe, and encourage research. It provides a platform for academic exchange across specialties.

A wide range of academic activities are included in the program of the Council such as webinars, position papers, the ESC cardiovascular round table on stroke, joint sessions within the ESC and with partnering societies and the initiative to form a network with national heart & stroke groups and initiatives across Europe and beyond.

The key activity is the interdisciplinary conference “ESC Heart & Stroke” which was implemented in 2017 on an annual basis, looking forward to the 4th Conference in Budapest in 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a challenge to the Council’s academic work but has not diminished the activities nor the enthusiasm of the Council to continue its work.

Prof. Wolfram Doehner, FESC
Chairperson of the Council on Stroke 2018-2020
Highlights from 2019-2020

- Membership grown to over 2000 members from multiple disciplines.
- Annual Heart & Stroke Conference with over 300 delegates
- Joint sessions with European Stroke Organisation and European Society for Vascular Surgery
- Development of Facebook group to encourage dissemination of stroke-related discussions and news.
- Three Scientific Documents developed and published
- One webinar developed
- Developed a network of 24 National Contact Representatives of the Council with national groups of heart / stroke
Council on Stroke Nucleus
2018-2020

Wolfram Doehner
Chairperson

Jan Kovac
Chairperson-Elect

Petr Widimsky
Past Chairperson

Isabelle van Gelder
Secretary/Treasurer

Mikael Mazighi
Education & Scientific Programme Coordinator

Markus Schwerzmann
Communications & Young Community Officer

Alison Halliday
National Contacts Coordinator
Membership

In March 2020, the Council on Stroke counted more than 2000 members. It is composed of multidisciplinary physicians and specialists including neurologists, vascular specialists, neurosurgeons, radiologists and interventional cardiologists.

The Council has also developed a Facebook Group dedicated to help share relevant stroke-related discussions and news.

Members of the Council were invited to submit session proposals for the ESC Congress Scientific Programme via the Council’s pre-scope.
Members are also entitled to reduced registration fees are the annual Heart & Stroke Conference.
Congresses

In January 2020, the Council organised its third international conference: ESC Heart & Stroke. The conference was designed to stimulate a multidisciplinary approach to stroke prevention and treatment and to educate cardiologists. Endorsed by the European Stroke Organisation, a total of 312 participants from 63 countries took part. The scientific programme was delivered by a faculty of 30 experts.
The keynote lecture was given by Prof. Hans-Christoph Diener, who critically analysed the ESUS (embolic stroke of undetermined source) concept.

Three Poster Sessions were organised and young presenters were eligible to apply for Council on Stroke Travel Grants.

Joint Sessions


The Council participated in the ESC Congress 2019 scientific programme including a joint session with the European Stroke Organisation.
Research

The Council on Stroke is involved in the Educational programme / interventional study on stroke prevention and rhythm control (STEEER-AF).

Advocacy

The Board of the Council includes representatives from other ESC Constituent Bodies and external societies (stroke, neurological, neurosurgical, vascular surgical, neuroradiological).

The Council continues to work on how to simplify the neuro-specific training requirements for interventional cardiologists.

Education

Scientific Documents

In 2019 the Council developed the following Position Paper: Cardiovascular care of patients with stroke and high risk of stroke: The need for interdisciplinary action: A consensus report from the European Society of Cardiology Cardiovascular Round Table

The Council has also contributed to the Consensus Documents entitled: ‘Oral Anticoagulation in patients with atrial fibrillation and a CHA2DS2-VASc score of 1’, led by the Working Group on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy, and developed an article in the e-Journal of Cardiology Practice: “Stroke as interdisciplinary disease: what the practising cardiologist can do”
Webinars
In 2019, the Council developed the following webinar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>Implantable Loop Recording to prevent Stroke</td>
<td>Jesper Hastrup Svendsen</td>
<td>Paulus Kirchhof</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Martin Köhrmann</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Implantable Loop Recording to prevent Stroke