



**British & Irish Association  
of Stroke Physicians**  
*Advancing stroke medicine*



## TRAINEES' MEETING 2026

Holland House Hotel, Cardiff

12th - 13th March

External CPD Approval



[biasp.org](https://biasp.org)



British & Irish Association of Stroke Physicians

**Registration is OPEN**

[CLICK HERE](#)

December 2025

**BIASP Exec Message**



Dr Louise Shaw  
BIASP President

Following on from David Werring's final post as President last month, it's hello from me in December as I step up into this exciting role for the next 2 years. Some of our membership may not be aware, but we run with a trio of Presidents rather like the Ghosts in A Christmas Carol, which means we each benefit from the wisdom and experience of those who have gone before. During my time on the BIASP executive committee I have gained so much from the guidance and support of Rustam Al-Shahi Salman, Gillian Mead and David Werring. I am also delighted that our Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come is Liz Warburton.

I am conscious that I am in the midst of many of our leading stroke academics but hope I can add something different in the mix and be a voice for the many of us working hard every day in frontline stroke medicine in District General Hospitals, with interests in Quality Improvement, Education and Teaching, whilst still advocating for the importance of growing our future research community as well.

Across the many different roles I have filled during my career, I think many of my most enjoyable and rewarding moments (beside patient and family interactions of course) have been within my BIASP roles, and that is because it is such a supportive and enabling community. Where much of my time elsewhere is spent "fighting" for resources and expending vast amounts of energy for every small change for the better, I've been able to make a real difference through BIASP, ably aided by the Fitwise support. It is also a great opportunity to build your network beyond your own hospital or region and expand your horizons.

Therefore, I would like to strongly encourage each of you to consider standing for one of our current vacancies, or to encourage someone else to apply. These vacant posts have been advertised in the bulletin so there is something for everyone:

Executive Committee - Honorary Treasurer

Subcommittees: Clinical Standards, Scientific and Sustainability

We look forward to receiving your nominations!

Finally, as this is the last bulletin of 2025, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas, some time to rest and recharge, and a very successful and healthy 2026 ahead.

## BIASP Executive and Subcommittee Vacant Posts

**Current vacant posts - Call for Nominations is OPEN:**

**Closing date midnight 22 January 2026**

Executive Committee - **Honorary Treasurer**

Subcommittees:

**Clinical Standards, Scientific, Sustainability**

[CLICK HERE](#) for information

[CLICK HERE](#) for the nomination form

## BIASP Social Media

BIASP have a brand-new account over on BlueSky! We'd love for you to join us there & keep up to date with the latest BIASP & stroke-related news!

The BIASP BlueSky handle is @biasp.org

Here is the link to the profile: <https://bsky.app/profile/biasp.org>

## BIASP Careers Page - FAQ's



**Considering a career in stroke?**

**BIASP have produced a response to FAQs to guide you in your career choice.**

[CLICK HERE](#) for information on:

Why should I consider career in stroke?

How do I become a stroke physician?

Who can apply for stroke sub-specialty training?

What does a typical training pathway look like for a stroke physician?

Careers for stroke physicians

Specialty and specialist doctors (SAS) career information

In October 2024 BIASP and NANSIG collaborated to run a half day webinar on

**Stroke Careers: Shaping the Stroke Clinicians of the Future**

[CLICK HERE](#) to view

## UK & ROI Acute Stroke Simulation Course



### UK and ROI Acute Stroke Simulation Course – 2025 Update

2025 has been another highly successful year for the UK and ROI Acute Stroke Simulation Course. Over the past year, we delivered 12 courses across England, Wales and Ireland, training 125 healthcare professionals. A particular highlight was the delivery of our first Irish stroke simulation course, held in Waterford in May. We are now working closely with colleagues in both Wales and Ireland to develop a strategy that will support the expansion of further courses in both countries.

Feedback from participants continues to be extremely positive. One recent attendee commented:

*"I thought this was wonderful. It has been massively helpful to me and improved my perspective and confidence. This kind of multidisciplinary course, with participants at*

*varying levels of seniority, is exactly what's needed to develop emergency and on-call stroke skills. I was very nervous beforehand as I wasn't sure what to expect, but that wasn't necessary at all. The faculty were incredibly welcoming and skilled at facilitating feedback and discussion — you would think they had been delivering this course for years. Thank you to them all."*

Dates for our 2026 courses have now been released, with several already fully booked. We are also hopeful that 2026 will see the delivery of our first Scottish Acute Stroke Simulation Course.

**2026 course dates, information and registration links are on the website.**

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

The course is multidisciplinary and open to anyone involved in acute stroke care.

We are also keen to support centres interested in delivering the course locally. If you would like to observe a course or become involved, please contact us at

**[ukstrokesimulation@gmail.com](mailto:ukstrokesimulation@gmail.com)**.

Finally, we are currently seeking regional representatives for the following areas and would welcome expressions of interest:

- East of England
- London
- North West of England
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland



## BIASP Medical Student Essay Prize 2026



Have you personally seen or been involved with a patient who has suffered a stroke that has an inspirational story or important message about stroke for all?

If so, please consider writing a short essay.

We need 250 words or less before

**27 January 2026.**

### The prize for the winner/s is:

- Free attendance at the BIASP Trainees' Meeting with the opportunity to present their case
- A bursary of £300 to help with travel and accommodation to attend the Trainees' Meeting

[CLICK HERE](#) for information

[CLICK HERE](#) for the application form

**Is your member profile up to date?**





You can now access the new and enhanced BIASP membership system. This allows us to know and understand our membership better to tailor the benefits we can deliver.

**Please check and update your details, ticking all options which are relevant to you, particularly any other organisations you may also be a member of.**

**With regards to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion please do complete these fields within your profile.**

**This will only take a few minutes.**

[CLICK HERE](#) to login to the members area.

## Member Benefits & Discounts

### **Benefit for Associate members moving to Full membership**

We value your support as a member of BIASP and would like to offer **20% discount** for the first year of Full membership.

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### **Benefit for Current and New Members - LTFT 20% Discount**

This benefit is for members who work less than full time, if you work 8 PAs or less, when membership is due for renewal or when a new member joins.



Current members should send in their job plan to [admin@biasp.org](mailto:admin@biasp.org) at least one month before their renewal date.

The 20% discount will be applied upon review of the job plan.

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Other Association discounts available for BIASP Members

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information



ASSOCIATION  
OF BRITISH  
NEUROLOGISTS

**NEW** Reciprocal 20% Membership

Discount from 1 Feb 2025

Use code **BIASP20**

[CLICK HERE](#) for information, fees and to  
join

Types of membership applicable to BIASP members are:

- Affiliate members (if a consultant or GP)
- Junior member (if a junior hospital doctor)
- Allied Health Professional membership (if a nurse, physician associate or other allied health professional)
- Ordinary and Associate membership are for Neurologists only

**BIASP Mentorship Programme**





**We are now going live with the new BIASP mentorship scheme.  
CPD approved, 3 points**

Many of you have volunteered to become mentors, or have requested to become a Mentee.

As part of this scheme we have developed online training materials which may be of interest also to those of you who have not yet volunteered to Mentor, and are free of charge for all members to complete. CPD points on completion of mentor training.

**If you already have experience of being a mentor and/or have completed an equivalent course**, and wish to become a BIASP mentor, then please email [admin@biasp.org](mailto:admin@biasp.org) to register your interest

[CLICK HERE](#) for the flyer  
[CLICK HERE](#) to access the training materials

**Are you interested in being mentored?**

We are also looking for mentees to participate in this programme. This opportunity is open to those enrolled in early specialty training, including IMT3, in a stroke parent specialty.

Register your interest by completing the form via the link [HERE](#)

## Research Updates & Opportunities



If you have any research opportunities you would like us to promote please email [admin@biasp.org](mailto:admin@biasp.org)

### Updates

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### Research

#### TIMELESS TNT Trial

The TIMELESS TNT trial has been funded in France to randomise **late window thrombectomy eligible patients at primary centres**, who have already been accepted for transfer to a comprehensive centre, to receive standard care (no thrombolysis) or Tenecteplase. The trial team are seeking support from other countries, and so we would be grateful for views about randomising this group in a future trial. Please use the link below to give your opinion on two case scenarios, which will take less than 5 minutes to complete.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the link  
**Closing Date 5 January 2026**

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NIHR's flagship '[Be Part of Research](#)' campaign

**Share your study with thousands of research-ready volunteers**

The NIHR Be Part of Research service has over 600,000 research-ready volunteers waiting to take part in research studies. Our free online service matches volunteers to health and care studies taking place across the UK.

The service supports a broad range of research - from lifestyle questionnaires to clinical trials - taking place at local hospitals, GP surgeries, in care or community settings or at home.

Be Part of Research can identify suitable volunteers for your study through a wide range of data including age, ethnic group, sex, location and condition. We can help you find potential participants quickly and effectively - accelerating study recruitment.

Take the hard work out of your recruitment and [add your study to the Be Part of Research service](#)

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## **Surveys**

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### **Role of Immunomodulation in thrombotic and microvascular primary antiphospholipid syndrome**

Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) is an autoimmune antibody-mediated prothrombotic disease causing stroke, and increasing evidence suggests that thrombo-inflammation plays a major role in the pathogenesis of thrombosis. However, anticoagulation, mainly with vitamin K antagonists (VKA), is currently the main treatment modality to prevent recurrent thrombosis. Despite treatment with VKA, patients with thrombotic APS may develop recurrent thrombosis.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

[CLICK HERE](#) for the survey

**Closing date 31 December 2025**

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**INTERACT - INvestigating inTERactions between AI and Clinicians in Tech-supported reporting of imaging**

The Academic Centre for Surgery (ACeS) at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is supporting Dr Maya Jafari, Consultant MSK Radiologist, in disseminating a voluntary survey exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in medical imaging.

The survey is open to **all imaging professionals** worldwide including, radiologists, radiographers, nuclear medicine physicians, sonographers, cardiologists, and any other professionals involved in imaging reporting.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the survey  
**Closing Date 31 January 2026**

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### **Blood pressure >185/110 mmHg in otherwise IVT eligible patients: survey for a trial**

Guidelines recommend that high blood pressure should be lowered prior to administration of intravenous thrombolysis, e.g. to <185/110 mmHg. However, they do not tell us how to.

The recently published TRUTH non-randomised study from the Netherlands compared centres that followed guideline advice (using iv labetalol) with those that waited for blood pressure to fall spontaneously before administering IVT. Waiting for the BP to fall was associated with a non-significantly better functional outcome, i.e. lowering BP proactively might actually be bad.

A group are considering how to best design a trial to formally test this question but need guidance on what might be acceptable to recruiting sites.

If you are willing to complete the questionnaire, [CLICK HERE](#)  
**Closing Date 31 January 2026**

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### **Survey to help planning a head positioning and thrombectomy trial**

We would be grateful if you would consider completing a questionnaire on head positioning pre-thrombectomy available via the link below. It shouldn't take more than 5 minutes to complete. There are no right or wrong answers; we are simply canvassing practice and individuals will not be identified.

A recent small trial compared lying flat vs. sitting up in patients prior to mechanical thrombectomy but was stopped early and was under-powered. We hope this questionnaire will be helpful for us to understand current clinical practice and whether a further trial is appropriate to pursue.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the survey  
**Closing Date 31 January 2026**

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### **Anosognosia After Stroke - Study Recruitment Support**

 Calling all stroke clinicians and researchers!

I am now recruiting participants for my thesis research as part of my Doctorate in Clinical Psychology with The University of Exeter.

The study will explore how anosognosia after stroke is conceptualised and assessed in clinical practice and research.

If you have experience working with stroke patients or have published stroke-related research, I'd love to hear from you!

 Participate in 3 short online questionnaire rounds (20–30 mins each)  
 £5 will be donated to The Stroke Association for each person who completes all 3 rounds

Your expertise will help shape future clinical assessment and intervention in the field long-term.

Scan the QR code on the poster, [CLICK HERE](#)  
Or for the link [CLICK HERE](#)

**Georgia Williams**  
Trainee Clinical Psychologist  
University of Exeter | Somerset Foundation Trust

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**Funding**

**The Stroke Association - Research  
Funding Opportunities**

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information



**NIHR Local Authority Academic Fellowship Programme and Associated  
Opportunities**

New opportunities from NIHR for people working in local authorities, social care setting and 3rd sector. There are a range of funding opportunities from short placement up to PhD and advanced.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information

## National Clinical Impact Awards 2026

National Clinical Impact Awards (NCIAs) will open on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2026. Early next year there will be information and resources for the 2026 award round which will be shared with members.

## Clean Air Night 2026

**Clean Air Night is on 22 January 2026**

As the colder weather returns and the nights are drawing in, another wood burning season is beginning across the UK.

Recent research from **Global Action Plan, Hertfordshire County Council and Ricardo** revealed that each year, air pollution from burning in UK homes contributes to nearly



2,500 premature deaths. Across the population, this adds up to over 27,000 life years lost to early death.

Wood burning produces fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5), which enters your bloodstream when inhaled and can cause heart and lung disease, as well as increasing your risk of diabetes and dementia.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the report  
[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the recent webinar

## Neurological Alliance



# THE NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE

The Neurological Alliance, of which BIASP is a member, has recently done a survey of the needs of people with a range of neurological diagnoses. There were over 200 people with either TIA or stroke who responded. Pain, problems with movement, fatigue, mood problems, sleep, memory, sexual function and vision were all common. These responses are consistent with other studies that have reported the long-term needs of people after stroke, and demonstrates the importance of life after stroke as an area for service development and research.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the findings of the **My Neuro Survey** for adults and carers (including people caring for children) in England in a policy report

BIASP are a member of the Neurological alliance, which has been very busy campaigning for patients with neurological problems including stroke.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the website

The UK Neuro Forum is being established following the #BackThe1in6 campaign, which was supported by 19,000 people and 100 organisations, including BIASP. The forum is proof that when we work together, we can achieve real change.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about this landmark initiative

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Together with over 30 leading organisations, we're calling for urgent action to fix the neuro workforce crisis and make it fit for the future.

Ahead of the **10-Year Workforce Plan**, we have endorsed The Neurological Alliance's consensus statement.

The statement brings together professional bodies and national health charities with a united call to strengthen the clinical neuroscience workforce. It sets out solutions to today's challenges and actions needed to secure a workforce fit for the future. Crucially, expanding the workforce is essential to improve services, care and outcomes for people with neurological conditions.

Learn more here: [www.neural.org.uk/workforce](http://www.neural.org.uk/workforce)

## Different Strokes



**Different Strokes have new services and events coming up in the next few weeks**

NEW service - Carers support virtual meetings, [CLICK HERE](#) for information and dates

Recently redesigned and developed children's resources FREE to order for survivors and healthcare professionals, [CLICK HERE](#)

Different Strokes Charity for younger stroke survivors have a series of webinars every fortnight to engage with beneficiaries and health care professionals.  
Webinars are accessible for all to see, [CLICK HERE](#)

Bursary fund for private physiotherapy and rehabilitation, [CLICK HERE](#)

### 'Rehab Reset'

Exercise sessions are now all online; here are over 100 stroke-specific exercise videos designed to help stroke survivors at every stage of recovery.

They are suitable for all ability levels, from seated exercises to advanced strength training, and have been developed by stroke professionals and survivors.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

## The Stroke Association - New Stroke Support Pack for Hospitals



### New Stroke Support Pack for hospitals

Created with stroke survivors and health professionals, the new pack consists of a 'hello' folder, handy wallet sized card, and two health information guides - one for people who have had a stroke, and one for the people supporting them. The Stroke Association is encouraging those working in hospitals in the UK to [order the packs](#) (free of charge) and give them out before discharge.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full order link

## Stroke Association, Saving Brains Campaign



Thrombectomy saves brains, saves money and changes lives. It's one of the most effective medical interventions ever discovered. But most people who need this treatment don't get it. It's subject to availability.

Find out about the Stroke Association's campaign across the UK nations by clicking on the report for each nation:

Saving Brains in [England](#)

Saving Brains in [Northern Ireland](#)

Saving Brains in [Scotland](#)

Saving Brains in [Wales](#), [Welsh version](#)

Thrombectomy in Republic of Ireland:

[Republic of Ireland](#)--the National Stroke Strategy 2020-2025 Endovascular thrombectomy p.27

## Virtual Learning Hub



BIASP are hosting monthly 1-hour webinar sessions with the opportunity to ask the presenters questions at the end of each session. The live webinars will also be uploaded to the Virtual Learning Hub in the BIASP Members-only section for you to watch any time afterwards.

Each webinar is **free** to attend, you must register in advance for each live session. A certificate will be issued for those who attend more than 75% of the session, and complete a short evaluation that appears on the screen directly after the session.

Click [HERE](#) to view past webinars on the BIASP Virtual Learning Hub.

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### **BIASP Webinar 43**

**Topic:** The stroke physician in the stroke rehabilitation MDT

**Date:** 21 January 2026

**Time:** 17:30 - 18:30

**Speaker:** Dr Jess Beavan

[CLICK HERE](#) to Register



Dr Jess Beavan, Stroke Consultant Physician.

Graduated in Birmingham in 1997, completed an Msc in Geriatric Medicine and a DM in stroke and nutrition in Nottingham. I've been a stroke consultant since 2008 working in Taunton, Somerset and then Derby. My drive to do stroke medicine came from the lack of specialist rehabilitation offered in many communities to the commonest cause of neurological disability.

I work throughout the whole of the stroke pathway but my main focus is working with our expert inpatient stroke rehabilitation team and our ESSD teams.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Be aware of why medical input continues to be important along the stroke journey
2. Recognising that both short and long term complications impact on survivor recovery
3. Why advocacy is an important medical role

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**Dates for your diary, further details will follow:**

#### **Upcoming 2026 Webinars**

**Webinar 44:** 25/02/2026, SAS Doctors-career pathways & opportunities,  
Sohaa Jamil & Liz Dex

**Webinar 45:** 18/03/2026, CNS vasculitis as a cause for stroke, Claire Rice

**Webinar 46:** 21/04/2026, CYP2C testing in Stroke, Kailash Krishnan

**Webinar 47:** 20/05/2026, Paediatric Stroke, Saras Sabanathan

**Education**



## Stroke MSc Programme at UCL

We are excited to be looking for applicants from all disciplines ( nursing, medicine, therapies) for the **2026 Stroke Medicine MSc programme at UCL**.

There is a fees only bursary of £5000 available which will be competitively allocated. The course can be taken full or part time ( over two years).

Applications are now open for 2026.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access this link

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### **Neurotorium, Neurobehavioral Consequences of Stroke (NBCS) is now online**

Five educational slide decks have been published (the 6<sup>th</sup> deck, stroke syndromes, is being developed at the moment), illustrations, an article on post-stroke language impairments, and the educational expert videos are available, [CLICK HERE](#)

These educational materials are free

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## Events

Upcoming events will be listed here in future, if you have an event you wish to promote please contact [admin@biasp.org](mailto:admin@biasp.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Registration is OPEN - [CLICK HERE](#)**



**TRAINEES' MEETING 2026**  
Holland House Hotel, Cardiff  
12th - 13th March  
External CPD Approval





biasp.org  
@biasp.org  
British & Irish Association of Stroke Physicians

The programme is **NOW AVAILABLE** for the BIASP Trainees Meeting 2026 taking place at **Holland House, Cardiff on the 12th & 13th March 2026.**

The topics are catered to the trainee curriculum; however, the meeting still provides an excellent resource for consultants, nurses, physician's associates, and other allied health professionals involved in stroke care.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the programme

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### **Basics in Stroke and Neurology Course 2026**

Practical and interactive one-day course will help to build knowledge and confidence in stroke and neurorehabilitation. Attendees will explore the theory, evidence, and lived experience of stroke care while developing hands-on strategies to enhance their clinical practice.

**Date:** 2 February 2026

**Location:** Guy's and St Thomas' Education Centre, London

[CLICK HERE](#) for information and to register

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### **2026 European Life After Stroke Forum**

**Date(s):** 9-10 March 2026

**Location:** Stockholm

Early Bird closes 14 February 2026

The fourth in-person European Life After Stroke Forum will take place in Stockholm on 9-10 March 2026. The Forum is a unique event where healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers and those affected by stroke can come together to address the issues of life after stroke. The 2026 programme will be filled with the latest research, best practice and shared insights with the voices of people with lived experience at its heart.

[CLICK HERE](#) for information and registration

Abstracts closed

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### **ESOC 2026**

**Date(s):** 6-8 May 2026

**Location:** Maastricht, Netherlands

Early Bird closes 18 March 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) for registration and information

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## **Career Opportunities**

BIASP lists NHS jobs on their website free of charge, to list your advert contact [admin@biasp.org](mailto:admin@biasp.org)

Here are the latest adverts for NHS stroke jobs. Click below for further information.

[Consultant in Stroke Medicine](#), Exeter, closes 6 January

[Consultant in Healthcare for Older People and Stroke Medicine](#), Barnstaple, closes 6 January  
[Locum Consultant in Stroke Medicine](#), Carlisle, closes 7 January  
[Consultant- Stroke Physician](#) (from any previous background), Truro, closes 1 February  
[Locum Stroke Consultant](#), Hackney, closes 26 February

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## HEE Podcast

### **New podcast - Health Education England (HEE) releases podcast discussing stroke careers**

The HEE Stroke Careers Podcast series takes an in depth look into stroke medicine careers including real life experiences, the career pathway and how we deliver care across the country.

This episode is jointly hosted by Dr Deborah Lowe, National Clinical Director for Stroke Medicine at NHS England and Dr Jon Cooper, Stroke Consultant in Yorkshire and the Humber and Postgraduate Dean at Health Education England. They discuss their career pathways, the benefits of a career in stroke, and opportunities for the future workforce.

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen to this podcast.

If you would like to learn more about Health Education England's work around stroke you can email: [ltcp@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:ltcp@hee.nhs.uk) or visit the [stroke page on the HEE website](#).

## Training Opportunities

To find information on training resources [CLICK HERE](#)

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Excellent and **free online stroke brain imaging training resources** at the University of Edinburgh:

- Acute cerebral CT evaluation of Stroke Study (ACCESS)
- BASP CT training lecture
- Acute CTA for thrombectomy in Stroke (ACTATS)

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the training

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### **Free Neurology/Stroke Learning Resource**

Neuropodcases is a free, podcast learning resource on clinical neurology and stroke, suitable for students, trainees, consultants and allied health professionals. These have been created by a team of Neurology trainees and consultants.

Podcasts are available to download on Apple/Spotify or via the website

<https://www.neuropodcases.co.uk/>

@NPodcases

If you have any suggestions please get in touch with us [contact@neuropodcases.co.uk](mailto:contact@neuropodcases.co.uk)

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### **Online training 'Hyperacute Stroke Treatments Including Thrombolysis & Thrombectomy' - STARS Advancing Module**

[CLICK HERE](#) to access this resource for free. A certificate is awarded on successful completion of both the module and the module test.

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Registered charity number: 1134589

To update your details or change your subscription preferences, please click [here](#)

