



International Geneva
Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

World Stroke Organization | WSO

<https://www.world-stroke.org/>

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

The World Stroke Organization (WSO) is the world's leading global organization in the fight against stroke. Each year 17 million people suffer stroke worldwide; of these nearly 6 million die and another 5 million are permanently disabled. Stroke is the second leading cause of death and the third leading cause of disability in lost disability-adjusted life years (DALYs). Yet, at least half of all strokes are potentially preventable with appropriate awareness and prevention. Furthermore, given the strong links between stroke and dementia, preventable dementia is also a key objective. The WSO was established in October 2006 through the merger of the International Stroke Society and the World Stroke Federation with the purpose of creating one world voice for stroke. Today, WSO's membership spans 85 countries and includes more than 2,700 individual members and over 60 society members. Its mission is to reduce the global burden of stroke through prevention, treatment and long term care by fostering the best standards of practice, increasing stroke awareness among the population and among health professionals, preventing subtle cerebrovascular disease, influencing policies for stroke prevention and improved health services, providing education, facilitating stroke research advocacy for people with stroke and fostering the development of systems and organisations for long term support of stroke survivors and their families.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Non-communicable diseases
- Stroke prevention and treatment
- Patient advocacy
- Stroke awareness and education

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Ongoing strategy is a close collaboration with WHO and the UN ECOSOC and recognition of the WSO as the lead global stroke body; involvement with the WHO Global Action Plan for Non-Communicable Disease (NCDs); implementation of a wide range of educational activities conducted around the world such as the ABC program and the on-line learning resource the World Stroke Academy; a highly successful international journal, the International Journal of Stroke, which has achieved an impact factor of 4; many thousands of people in countries across the world each year raising awareness of stroke on the annual World Stroke Day; collaborations with a wide variety of global, regional and national organisations; the launch of Global Stroke Services Guidelines and Action Plan; the Toolkit for formation of Stroke Support Societies; and very successful World Stroke Congresses which have provided a stimulus for regional policy initiatives in stroke.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

In 2018, Professor Michael Brainin took over the presidency from Professor Werner Hacke. Professor Brainin will remain president until 2020 when Professor Marc Fisher will take over. In 2018, WSO held its regular elections for WSO Board of Directors and WSO Executive Committee, which will serve until 2022. The WSO board is made up of 48 members that represent all the world's regions. They are all stroke professionals as well as representatives from Scientific Organizations and Stroke Support Organizations.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

WSO concluded 2018 financial year with a positive result of nearly USD 170.000. The results have been added to the general reserve which now stands at USD 1.540.000. In 2018, grants and donations from partners, membership dues and income from the journal were the main income streams. The main income from the congress will be received in 2019. From the USD 940.000 of expenses, USD 280.000 were for staff and administration costs, leaving the remaining part for the journal, the academy, campaigns and other expenses.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications are available at <https://www.world-stroke.org/about-wso/wso-annual-report> and <https://www.world-stroke.org/newsletter/press-releases>

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