

# SMALL VESSEL DISEASE NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME

Welcome to the spring issue of the Row Fogo Centre newsletter. We're excited to share with you recent advances in our understanding of cerebral small vessel disease, celebrate the successes of our colleagues, and update you on upcoming events, deadlines, and opportunities.



## Edinburgh Neuroscience Day 2025

In late April, the Row Fogo Centre took part in Edinburgh Neuroscience Day, a much-anticipated event which welcomed around 350 attendees from across the University, spanning numerous schools, centres, and career stages—from undergraduates to senior academics. Science Communications Officer Gillian Joyce organised a table where visitors could learn all about the fantastic research conducted by members of the Row Fogo Centre.

The day featured diverse insights on topics including: brain-based models of real-world visual cognition; epigenetic effects of early-life inflammation on cognition; neural coding and episodic memory; and retinal degeneration in ageing.



February 11 2025

## International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Get involved in research as early as you can—say yes to opportunities, big or small, because every experience counts. You don't need a medical degree to work in medical research—there are many different paths to explore.

*Dr Carmen Arteaga-Reyes  
Clinical Research Fellow*



In February, we celebrated International Day of Women and Girls in Science—a global celebration of the achievements of women in research and an opportunity to inspire the next generation of female scientists.

Dr Yulu Shi, Clinical Research Fellow in Small Vessel Diseases, Stroke, and Dementia, encouraged young women to embrace opportunities in research: "Say yes to opportunities, even if they seem daunting. Connect with like-minded researchers, ask for advice, and don't be afraid to fail—every setback is a learning experience. Most importantly, stay passionate about the questions that excite you, because that's what will keep you going."

[Read more about some of the amazing women working at the Row Fogo Centre.](#)

## Key Papers



[Click here to view all recent publications](#)

### Brain Changes Linked to Cognitive Decline and Recovery in Stroke Patients

A new study published recently in *Neurology* sheds light on how changes in white matter hyperintensities (WMH)—brain abnormalities commonly linked to cerebral small vessel disease (SVD)—affect cognitive health after stroke.

Researchers from the Row Fogo Centre for Research into Ageing and the Brain found that the regression of WMH might be associated with improved executive function (the ability to use cognitive skills to manage daily tasks) and preserved overall cognition, while the progression of WMH correlates with cognitive decline. [Read more here.](#)

### Study links MRI findings of secondary brain damage to worse outcomes in patients with lacunar stroke

New research has shed light on the clinical significance of a specific type of brain imaging change—known as “caps” and “tracks”—observed in patients who have experienced a lacunar stroke, a type of small vessel ischaemic stroke.

Led by a team of researchers from the Row Fogo Centre for Research into Ageing and the Brain, the study suggests that these imaging markers are associated with worse functional outcomes and a higher risk of recurrent strokes. Published in the *Annals of Neurology*, this study offers valuable insights into the progression of cerebral small vessel disease (SVD). [Read more here.](#)

## Meet Your Colleagues: The Comms Team

Hello, we are Gillian and Jean, your Science Communications Officers at the Row Fogo Centre. Our job involves helping researchers share their incredible work with wider audiences—be it writing news stories, managing social media, or developing strategies to reach people from all walks of life. We love finding creative and accessible ways to communicate complex science, and we're especially passionate about making research feel human, relevant, and inspiring.

**Gillian:** Over the years, I've built up a varied background across different sectors, starting with a role in Public Information at the Scottish Parliament. I then moved into heritage communications, working on an HLF-funded scheme supporting Conservators. After that, I managed the production of surgical and dental examination papers at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. In 2019, I joined the University of Edinburgh as a Research Project Coordinator, where I've been supporting BHF-funded work in both the Centre for Vascular Regeneration and the Centre for Research Excellence.

**Jean:** Before joining the Row Fogo team, I worked at the University of Oxford in science communications and trial recruitment for the Clinical Trials Unit, leading comms for large national studies like PANORAMIC and PRINCIPLE. I've also worked on events and outreach for The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) and supported suicide prevention efforts with the Life Matters Trust. I studied English Literature and History of Art, and I'm currently finishing up my second Master's at Oxford—this time in Global and Imperial History. Outside of work, you'll usually find me reading (anything by Margaret Atwood or Salman Rushdie), writing columns for *The Otago Daily Times*, painting, or playing the piano (although I am currently very rusty).



Last year, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) hosted a remarkable evening at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh as part of its Alumni Voices series, featuring a conversation between two of the UK's leading medical researchers: Professor Joanna Wardlaw CBE and Professor James Leiper.

You can listen to the full discussion here on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).

## In Case You Missed It!

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines



## VasCog 2025: Submit Your Abstract Now!

**15th – 18th September, 2025 | St Mary’s Stadium, Southampton**  
**Deadline for Abstracts: Tuesday July 15 2025**



Join distinguished researchers, clinicians and experts in vascular behavioural and cognitive disorders at VasCog 2025 to discuss current developments in the field, network with like minded professionals, and explore opportunities to accelerate your research and elevate your career. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## UK Stroke Forum 2025: Submit Your Abstract Now!

**25 to 27 November 2025, Aberdeen**  
**Deadline for Abstracts: Tuesday 20 May 2025**



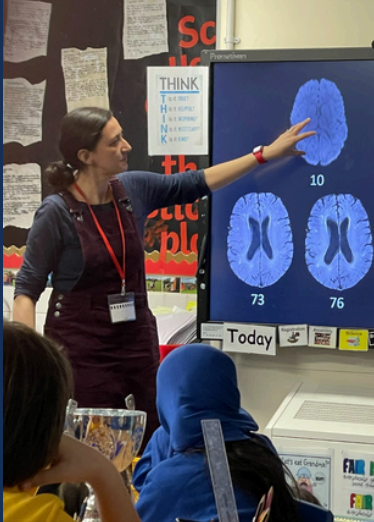
The UK Stroke Forum is the UK’s largest multidisciplinary conference for stroke care professionals. Authors interested in submitting an abstract for UKSF 2025 can choose from a wide range of topics. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## Upcoming Awareness Days

We’re approaching several key awareness days and campaigns relevant to our work at the Row Fogo Centre:

- May – Action on Stroke Month
- May 31 – World No Tobacco Day
- June – Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month

If you’re planning activity around any of these, have ideas for raising awareness, or would like to contribute to a campaign, we’d love to hear from you. Please get in touch with the comms team to discuss how we can support and amplify your efforts.



## BBSRC New Investigator Award



This scheme is designed primarily to assist newly employed university lecturers, researchers (at a level equivalent to lecturer) in research council institutes, and fellows (at a level equivalent to lecturer) to secure their first major element of research support funding. The full economic cost (FEC) of your project can be up to £2 million. Funding is available for up to five years. BBSRC will fund 80% of the FEC.

**Deadline for applications: 24 September 2025.**

## Nominations are open for the Eric Kandel Young Neuroscientists Prize 2025

The prize recognises outstanding work by young researchers in any field of neuroscience. It includes:

- Award money of €50,000.00 for personal use,
- Research funding of €50,000.00,
- The Eric Kandel Prize Lecture at the FENS Forum 2026 in Barcelona, Spain.

**The deadline for nominations is 24 July 2025.**

Nominations must be submitted by email to [GrychtolikAF@ghst.de](mailto:GrychtolikAF@ghst.de).

## MICCAI Challenge 2025: Register Now!

The 28th International Conference on Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention (MICCAI 2025) will be held from Tuesday September 23rd to Saturday September 27th 2025 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. [Learn more and register here.](#)



## Patient and Public Involvement in Research (PPI) Summer School

**June 10 - 13 2025**

This summer school will provide you with the confidence and skills in PPI to enable you to undertake your first PPI activity or improve your current practice.

[Learn more and register here.](#)



## Brainbox Initiative Awards



### Research Challenge Award

The Brainbox Initiative's annual Research Challenge award provides a unique opportunity for early-career neuroscientists with the most ambitious study ideas and proposals to gain invaluable research experience working with state-of-the-art equipment to complete their research goals.

**Submission Deadline: June 1 2025.** [Learn more and apply here.](#)

### Young Investigator Award

The Brainbox Initiative Young Investigator Award aims to stimulate and reward the very best, most novel neuroscience research being carried out by early-career academics. **Submission Deadline: June 1 2025.**

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

### John Rothwell Award

The prestigious John Rothwell Award has been created by the Brainbox Initiative to acknowledge and reward excellence in non-invasive brain stimulation research that stimulates further work at a higher scientific level. **Submission Deadline: June 1 2025.** [Learn more and apply here.](#)



## Edinburgh Career Development Scheme (CMVM)

This fund will support postdoctoral researchers who require bridging funding in order to apply for external fellowships. The aim is to support the careers of researchers who are normally on fixed term contracts or an open ended contract which is reliant on funding, to provide additional time to prepare for and apply to external fellowship schemes.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

**Deadline for applications: Thursday 29 May 2025**

**[Learn more and apply here.](#)**

## IBRO Neuroscience Training Grants

Specialised teaching and hands-on training experiences are crucial for the career development of neuroscience researchers. IBRO Neuroscience Training Grants are designed to support essential opportunities, covering costs directly associated with the attendance of a neuroscience training course, such as course fees, travel and accommodation. Applications are open to PhD students and early-career postdoctoral fellows who are within 5 years of starting their first postdoctoral fellowship.

INTERNATIONAL BRAIN



RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

**Deadline for applications:  
31 May 2025**

**[Learn more and apply here.](#)**

## NIHR Better Methods Better Research Programme

The BMBR Programme is a collaboration between MRC and NIHR. It aims to ensure that optimal research methods are used to advance biomedical, health and care research, policy and delivery.

Project proposals would typically be valued up to £625,000.



Medical  
Research  
Council

**NIHR** | National Institute for  
Health and Care Research

**Deadline for applications:  
Tuesday 1 July**

**[Learn more and apply here.](#)**

## UK Stroke Research Workshop 2025

- 3 to 4 September 2025
- Newcastle University
- [Register](#) to attend.

The event has a clinical and scientific programme with national and international speakers, targeted at all levels of clinical and research training. Due to support from BIASP, the Stroke Association and NIHR, registration is only £80, and CPD credits will be available. Abstracts relating to any aspect of stroke research should be submitted Friday 13 June 2025; there are 9 slots for oral presentation as well as posters.



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

**Deadline for abstracts:  
Friday 13 June**

**[Learn more and apply here.](#)**

