



## Introducing myself as the new NSNF Deputy Chair **Dr Alison Mcloughlin**

I am the Clinical Research Development Lead at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (ELHT). I am a nurse with specialist knowledge, training and skills in stroke care and research. I have been involved in multiple aspects of stroke since I began my training in 2001. I have experience in community, secondary care and am passionate about increasing the voice and recognition of nursing across the whole pathway. Throughout my career I have kept my nursing clinical knowledge and skills updated through employment and/or training including a master's in advanced stroke practice and the Neurovascular Education and Training: Stroke Management and Acute Reperfusion Therapy (NETSMART) Advanced Practitioner Course. A Florence Nightingale Travel Scholarship allowed me to go to three sites in America to undertake my clinical validation and develop an international awareness of acute stroke nurse roles.



I possess specialist research knowledge and experience having worked as a stroke research nurse on a range of clinical trials and research studies. This role developed and evolved into an academic research nurse with an overall aim of increasing research capacity and capability. I was holding a joint Stroke Specialist Nurse and Academic Research role when I was successful in obtaining a NIHR Doctoral Research Fellowship (DRF) and completed my PhD (Evaluation of current evidence and practice to inform development of a Standardised Neurological Observation Schedule for Stroke (SNOBSS)). The continued focus for my research came directly from my clinical work and the lack of evidence to support important elements of care. My driving force continues to be reducing variation and improving outcomes for stroke patients.

I currently hold a NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) SCPR (Senior Clinical and Practitioner Research Award). This award is supporting the continuation of my own research but also to support development of nursing infrastructure to support nursing research and evidence based practice. I am so proud to have become the deputy chair for the National Stroke Nursing Forum (NSNF) Committee. I am looking forward to working with you the membership, our chair Jo and the rest of the committee with key partners (e.g. the SSNF and the WSNF) to ensure UK wide representation of stroke nurses within appropriate forums and agendas. I have been a NSNF member for more years than I care to remember and joined the committee because I wanted to make a bigger difference and help sustain this forum. We need to build on what we have already achieved to increase awareness and membership to achieve our aim of improving the quality of stroke care across the pathway. Our voice needs to be recognised in the development of stroke health policy and service delivery. I truly believe that research is needed to advance the discipline of stroke nursing and want to support others in that journey. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months please feel free to get in touch [alison.mcloughlin@elht.nhs.uk](mailto:alison.mcloughlin@elht.nhs.uk) or come and say hello at the UKSF in Aberdeen later this year.



## Current NSNF projects

**SSNAP**

**Sentinel Stroke National  
Audit Programme**

- How do we audit nurses' input in stroke care?
- What is measured and what is missed?
- What do stroke nurses do all day?

We are working with SSNAP to understand how we record nursing input into the stroke pathway.

Data drives change – how do we demonstrate our worth?

### Staffing levels

Members tell us that they feel the staffing levels in all areas of practice do not reflect the acuity and dependency of our patients.

We need your help to tell us if you feel the Safer Staffing tool reflects the needs of your area of work.

★ Look out for a survey from us soon ★






## Weekly webinars in October



Every Thursday at 2:00 PM (UK time)



Online

-  October 2
-  October 9
-  October 16
-  October 23
-  October 30

**ONLINE  
WEBINAR**



Programme details coming soon!

