

Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland

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Dr Rustam Al-Shahi Salman
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Department of Clinical Neurosciences
Western General Hospital
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Tuesday, 9 October 2007

Dear Dr Salman,

The Scottish Intracranial Vascular Malformation Study (SIVMS)

Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland is the national charity funding stroke research and providing patient services in Scotland. As a key stakeholder, the Charity endorses and supports the Scottish Intracranial Vascular Malformation Study (SIVMS) as a unique nationwide audit project.

No-one else in the world is running such a prospective nationwide disease register for all of these conditions, which are an important cause of intracranial haemorrhage, epilepsy, and chronic disability. The register's findings have had, and will have even more national and international impact (especially with 20-30 years' follow-up), and SIVMS is unique in collecting annual GP-rated functional outcome data on every patient, rather than relying on hospital episode statistics.

The register describes not only research questions about the frequency and prognosis of these conditions, but also evaluate who gets seen at a neuroscience centre and who does not (and why not), who gets treated with what of the several alternatives and who does not (and why not), and what the outcome is according to these parameters. In other words, this is a very high class national audit as well as a research project. Both aspects are in the interest of patients with strokes due to intracranial vascular malformations.

As you know, Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland have supported the study through travel grants, and we are happy to endorse this unique and valuable disease register as a nationwide audit project.

Yours sincerely

David H. Clark
Chief Executive

Patron Her Majesty the Queen

Chairman of Council Professor Charles D Forbes MD Dsc FRCP (Glas Edin Lon) FRSE **Chief Executive** David Clark MA
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