



PRESTIGE-AF

PREVENTION OF STROKE IN INTRACEREBRAL HAEMORRHAGE
SURVIVORS WITH ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Inaugural newsletter | June 2019

A MESSAGE FROM PROF ROLAND VELTKAMP

Welcome to the first issue of the PREvention of Stroke in Intracerebral haemorrhage survivors with Atrial Fibrillation (PRESTIGE-AF) newsletter. This will be a 6-monthly issue providing updates on the PRESTIGE-AF research studies and activities. We hope these newsletters prove useful for our consortium partners, our clinicians, our patients and of course, stroke survivors, carers and the wider population in keeping up to date with our work, achievements, and impact.

Financed by the European Commission, PRESTIGE-AF is a 6.9 million Euro European collaborative research project aimed to reduce the risk of further stroke for intracerebral haemorrhage (ICH) survivors with atrial fibrillation (a heart condition that causes an irregular and often abnormally fast heart rate). PRESTIGE-AF has partner institutions from the UK, Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Italy, and Denmark.

Why is this project important? Stroke is one of the largest public health challenges around the world. It is the most common cause of adult-acquired

disability, the second leading cause of death globally and the second most frequent cause of dementia. In addition, as stroke is a disease of the elderly, its impact is expected to further increase in the coming decades due to the ageing population.

At the core of the PRESTIGE-AF project is a clinical trial gathering evidence around recommended medication for stroke prevention in ICH patients with atrial fibrillation. Sub-studies will explore individual predictive risk modelling using brain imaging, genetic testing and other biological markers. Other aspects of the project will include exploring cognitive and psychological factors and drug adherence in these patients.

Overall, PRESTIGE-AF will generate new tools to tailor prevention that will enhance patient quality of life and life expectancy along with wider economical and societal impacts including reducing healthcare costs.

In this issue we provide an overview of the project, what the PRESTIGE-AF



team are currently working on, an update of our annual meetings and a profile on one of our partners, SAFE. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and subsequent issues and we encourage you to share and tweet to keep more people in the know with PRESTIGE-AF.

*-Professor Roland Veltkamp
(coordinating investigator of PRESTIGE-AF consortium)*

Sign-up to the PRESTIGE-AF newsletter. Send your name and email address to
hello@prestige-af.org



PRESTIGE-AF – Overview

PRESTIGE-AF addresses an important unmet need for developing individualised prevention concepts in a highly vulnerable group of stroke patients, namely those with intracerebral haemorrhage (ICH) and atrial fibrillation (AF).

ICH is a severe stroke subtype causing higher mortality and more disability than other strokes. 20% of ICH survivors have AF, a major cause of ischemic stroke (IS). While IS in AF patients is generally prevented by oral anticoagulants (OAC), their use in ICH survivors is uncertain due to increased bleeding risk. No evidence from randomised controlled trials (RCT) is available addressing this dilemma. Personalised risk prediction is desirable to balance benefits of OAC against bleeding risk for individualised prevention.

The key objectives are:

1. To perform the first sufficiently powered RCT in ICH survivors with AF testing if direct OA Care superior for ischaemic stroke prevention and non-inferior regarding ICH recurrence versus antiplatelet or no antithrombotic therapy;
 2. To personalise antithrombotic prevention by multidimensional risk modelling;
 3. To estimate population impact of trial outputs on health economic consequences and generalisability to European population;
 4. To explore patient-centred aspects including adherence, attitudes towards antithrombotic therapy and gender imbalances in trial enrolment.
- To do this, the PRESTIGE-AF team will perform a prospective, open randomised controlled trial in 654 patients. The trial will recruit in 70 centres in 6 countries over 2 years. In addition, clinical characteristics, MRI, blood-biomarkers and genetics will be characterised at baseline to model a new personalised risk prediction tool.

What we are up to

The first patient has been randomised into PRESTIGE-AF at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust who are the first site to open. We now have two teams recruiting in the UK with another 7 almost ready to begin.

Austria and Germany are close to receiving ethical approval and will soon be joining the UK in opening their first sites.

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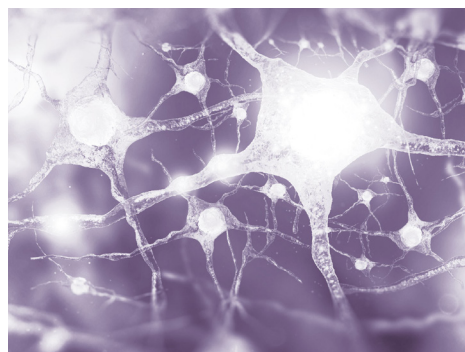
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PRESTIGE-AF Highlights

- PRESTIGE-AF website launched
- First patient recruited for study
- PRESTIGE-AF team present at the largest stroke conference in Europe, ESOC.





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Kick-off meeting



Following the successful bid for funding from the European Commission, the PRESTIGE-AF Consortium members came together for the project's kick-off meeting on December 6th, 2017 at Imperial College London.

Professor Roland Veltkamp said: "Prevention of stroke is challenging in vulnerable stroke patients with multiple disorders and interacting risks. It's this complexity that makes it difficult to work out the best individual preventive strategy for a particular patient. Working with our international

partners through the PRESTIGE-AF initiative we hope to tackle some of the unmet needs of these patients and develop more personalised treatments. Prevention is key, and ultimately we aim to prevent stroke and the impact it has on patients' lives."

Held at the historic Royal Geographical Society, some of the world's leading experts began discussions centred on the research design and the first steps to deliver the project goals.

"Prevention is key, and ultimately we aim to prevent stroke and the impact it has on patients' lives."

- Prof. Roland Veltkamp

Website launch

After extensive preparation, the PRESTIGE-AF website is live! This is a space for the latest news on PRESTIGE-AF activities and outcomes. As well as hosting broader information on the project, objectives and consortium partners, the website includes relevant information specifically for stroke survivors and their carers. This is a way to provide a platform of reliable information for our primary stakeholders.

Visit us at

www.prestige-af.org

ESOC

The PRESTIGE-AF team went to the European Stroke Organisation Conference (ESOC) 2019 in Milan. Several members of the team presented and showcased. Alongside the main conference, the PRESTIGE-AF local investigators were invited to a meeting specific to PRESTIGE-AF activities and project status.

PRESTIGE-AF Twitter

You can also connect with us by following PRESTIGE-AF on Twitter. This is where we will closely engage with our partners such as SAFE, and stroke allies such as the Stroke Association.

Follow us [@PRESTIGE_AF2020](https://twitter.com/PRESTIGE_AF2020)





First annual meeting



On December 14th 2018, members of the PRESTIGE-AF Consortium travelled from across Europe to our year one annual meeting, held in the majestic 170 Queen's Gate in the grounds of Imperial College London.

Amongst the usual administrative, legal, financial and operational updates brought forth by PRESTIGE-AF partners, we also welcomed two members of the Expert External Advisory Board (EEAB).

The day was a great success which allowed collaborative learning and exchange of information. Plans have already begun for our year two annual meeting, scheduled to take place at the end of 2019.



Partner Profile Stroke Alliance for Europe (SAFE)

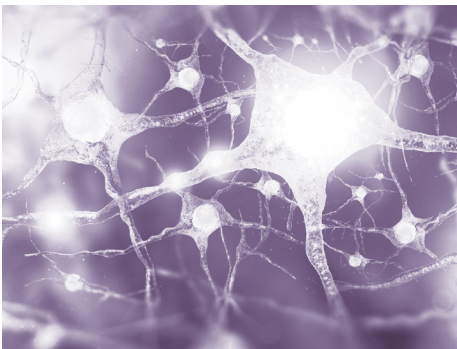


SAFE is the leading European network of stroke support organisations. SAFE is a non-profit making organisation and has 34 member organisations spread over 25 countries. It represents a range of patient groups whose mutual goals include driving stroke prevention up the European political agenda, supporting stroke research and the prevention of stroke through improved education.

SAFE is actively engaged in campaigning, education and research, all of which contribute to the advancement of stroke prevention, acute treatment, and the improvement of the quality of life of stroke survivors, their families and caretakers.

Role in the project

SAFE will contribute to work package (WP) 11 Dissemination, Health Policies, Stakeholder Engagement and Exploitation in which it will primarily have responsibility for multi-channel communication of the project via outreach to all patient representative bodies and the relevant wider public in the European stroke community.



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