

Letter of Thanks to Professor Martin James

Clinical Director, Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP), 2019–2025

The Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) and the wider stroke community would like to express our sincere gratitude to Professor Martin James as he concludes his tenure as Clinical Director after six years of exceptional leadership and service.

A Consultant Stroke Physician at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Honorary Clinical Professor at the University of Exeter Medical School, and Visiting Professor at King's College London, Professor James has devoted his career to advancing stroke care, research, and education across the UK.

Since becoming SSNAP Clinical Director in 2019, Professor James has provided visionary clinical leadership to the national stroke audit, guiding its evolution to reflect the entire stroke pathway—from emergency response to community rehabilitation. Under his direction, SSNAP has strengthened its role as an essential driver of quality improvement and data-driven excellence in stroke services across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Professor James has also played a central role in developing and implementing the National Clinical Guideline for Stroke (2016 and 2023), and has served in numerous national leadership positions, including President and Honorary Secretary of the British Association of Stroke Physicians (BASP), Chair of the Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party, and Trustee of the Stroke Association.

An internationally respected academic and clinician, Professor James has co-authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications, contributed to landmark national studies on thrombolysis, thrombectomy, and stroke systems of care, and has led or collaborated on over £12million of stroke research funding from the NIHR, Stroke Association, and British Heart Foundation. His work has consistently bridged research and real-world service delivery, improving care quality, accessibility, and outcomes for people affected by stroke.

Throughout his time with SSNAP, Professor James has been a passionate advocate for patient-centred, equitable, and data-informed improvement in stroke services. His insight, scientific rigour, and collaborative leadership have left an enduring mark on the audit and on national stroke care.

On behalf of everyone at SSNAP, King's College London, and our many contributors across the NHS and the stroke community, we extend our deepest thanks to Professor Martin James for his extraordinary contribution and lasting legacy.

We wish him every success in his ongoing clinical, academic, and leadership roles, and look forward to his continued influence on stroke care improvement in the UK and beyond.

With many thanks and best wishes,

The SSNAP Team

Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (www.strokeaudit.org)