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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Stephen Davis Named President-Elect of the World Stroke Organization

**GENEVA | 31 January 2012** - Stephen Davis, MD, FRCP, Edin FRACP, of Melbourne, Australia has been named president-elect of the World Stroke Organization (WSO). The Society made the announcement at its board meeting in New Orleans, USA, in the lead-up to the International Stroke Conference (ISC) being held in the same city from 1-3 February.

Professor Davis will become the third president of the association since the International Stroke Society and the World Stroke Federation merged in 2004. He will succeed Prof. Bo Norrving, of Sweden, who will step down as president of the society at the World Stroke Congress, the society's bi-annual scientific meeting which will be held in Brasilia, Brazil from 10-13 October 2012.

Stephen Davis is the inaugural Professor of Translational Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne. He is based at the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) where he is the Director of Neurosciences and Continuing Care, Director of Neurology and Director of the Melbourne Brain Centre (MBC). His major research interest involve clinical trials in stroke and the use of neuroimaging, particularly multimodal MRI, in the selection of acute stroke treatments. He is the co-principal investigator with Prof. Geoffrey Doonan, a past WSO president, of the EXTEND trial, a stroke trial aimed at extending the time window for thrombolysis using MRI in treatment selection.

Davis is the immediate past-president of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists (ANZAN) and a past-president of the Stroke Society of Australasia. An active member of the WSO, he is a board member of the organization and co-chair of the World Stroke Academy, the society's educational platform.

WSO president Bo Norrving notes *"I am delighted that Stephen Davis will be my successor on the position – being president of the WSO is a privilege. Steve has all the capabilities needed; he is a true leader, has strong visions and strategies, is a solid scientist, and has in-depth knowledge on stroke and related health policy issues. With Steve, the organization will be in very good hands."*

Asked about his vision for the world's leading anti-stroke body, Davis explains *"I am deeply honored to take on the role of President-Elect of the WSO. We are all indebted to the outstanding leadership and contributions of Bo Norrving and Geoffrey Donnan, our first two presidents. Stroke is a huge global challenge and we need to particularly focus on strategies to increase our membership and international impact as the lead organization."*



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Stephen Davis was given the M.J.Eadie Award in 2004 by the Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists for career achievements in neuroscience research, the Neurologists for Career Achievements in Neuroscience Research and the Victorian Health Minister's Award in 2008 for outstanding individual achievement, in the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards. He is the recipient of the 2011 William Feinberg Award from the American Stroke Association, a recognition that he received at this same time last year during the ISC in Los Angeles, California. In the same year, Davis was awarded the Bethlehem Griffiths Research Foundation medal.

Professor Davis received his medical training from the University of Melbourne.

There are 15 million people who have a stroke each year. According to the World Health Organization, stroke is the second leading cause of death for people above the age of 60, and the fifth leading cause in people aged 15 to 59. Stroke also attacks children, including newborns. Each year, nearly six million people die from stroke. In fact, stroke is responsible for more deaths annually than those attributed to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria put together. Stroke is also the leading cause of long-term disability irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity or country.

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**About the World Stroke Organization** – The World Stroke Organization (WSO) was established in October 2006. Its mission is to provide access to stroke care, promote research and knowledge by (1) promoting prevention and care for persons with stroke and vascular dementia; (2) fostering the best standards of practice; (3) educating, in collaboration with other international, public, and private organizations; and (4) facilitating clinical research. With individual and organizational members worldwide, WSO is the global voice for stroke. WSO is an international NGO in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). Prof. Bo Norrving, of Sweden, is the current president.