

European Stroke Organisation (ESO) Department-to-Department Visit Programme Report

Report from Raffaele Ornello, from the University of L'Aquila, Italy, visiting the Department of Neurology at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

My Department-to-Department visit has a long history. After getting the award in 2021, my visit was postponed until 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At last, I was able to visit the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh, Scotland, in June 2023.

During my stay, I had the opportunity to visit a centre of excellence for the care of stroke and particularly of intracerebral haemorrhage. I was able to participate in all the activities of this centre and see its integration across clinics, the ward, and the University.

The centre opened me its doors and I could participate in the clinical case discussions, see the management of routine and urgencies during the stroke outreach run in the morning. During the afternoon, I had the opportunity of taking part in the TIA clinics and to interdisciplinary meetings with all the professional profiles involved in stroke care, as well as to the research meetings and to one of the M&M meetings. I got very useful experiences for my professional growth, especially for team building, planning research, and running clinics. I knew all the great healthcare workers of the Unit with their diverse roles and styles.

I had the opportunity to see a really different way of taking care of stroke, very focused on clinics and outpatient research and less hospital-centred than the system in which I usually work.

The city welcomed me with lovely sunny days which I would not have expected from Scotland. I took my time to get around and admire the beautiful landscapes of Edinburgh and its surroundings.



I would like to thank professor Rustam Al-Shahi Salman and all his clinical, administrative, and research team for their warm welcome. I really felt at home.



I am grateful for the support given by ESO within the Department-to-Department Visit Programme. I took back at home a refreshing experience, an opportunity for networking, and a load of suggestions to bring back home. I warmly recommend participating in such an activity to every young physician interested in stroke.