

## AuSCR Research Task Group approved projects

<b>Title</b>	<b>Emerging Treatments for Stroke Survey</b>
<b>Principle investigator</b>	Professor Jane Mathias
<b>Institute</b>	University of Adelaide
<b>Co-investigators</b>	Mr David Unsworth, Dr Diana Dorstyn, Professor Simon Koblar
<b>Submission date</b>	21 October 2016
<b>AuSCR role</b>	Survey
<b>Approved</b>	15 March 2017
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Summary</b>	Australian stroke survivors were surveyed to: (1) measure treatment and service-related satisfaction; (2) explore their perceptions and attitudes (e.g., level of interest, perceived risks/benefits, preferred cell/procedure types, desired outcomes, areas of concern, main sources of information, need for additional information) toward cell therapies; and (3) examine whether factors relating to treatment satisfaction, disability severity (e.g., physical/cognitive/psychological, disease duration), social support, attitudes towards cell therapies, and demographics (e.g., age, sex) increase the likelihood that they will consider having these experimental treatments.
<b>Outcomes</b>	AuSCR mailed 500 paper-based surveys to members, from which 69 responses were received (13.8% response rate). Eight Australian stroke advocacy organisations (e.g. Stroke Foundation) and stroke support groups (e.g. Young Stroke Group) also promoted the survey among their members, which resulted in a further 114 responses (N=183). The results of the survey indicated that the majority of respondents were happy with the inpatient and outpatient services they had received for their strokes. In terms of stem cell treatments, most respondents were unsure about the safety/effectiveness and accessibility/affordability of stem cell treatments (SCTs), but despite this, 25% (n=46) of respondents were still considering having these experimental treatments. Specifically, participants with positive SCT attitudes (odds ratio [OR]=1.22), longer post-stroke intervals (OR=1.08), perceived caregiver burden (OR=1.07), poorer physical independence (OR=.95) and younger ages (OR=.96) were most likely to be considering SCTs. Therefore, it is recommended that clinicians working with stroke survivors remain mindful of these factors when discussing treatment options.
<b>Publications</b>	Unsworth DJ, Mathias JM, Dorstyn DS, Koblar SA. <b>Stroke survivor attitudes toward, and motivations for, considering experimental stem cell treatments.</b> <i>Disability and Rehabilitation</i> 2020 42(8): 1122-1130 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2018.1517193">https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2018.1517193</a>