Educating healthcare professionals about stroke: a 20-year milestone

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Stroke is the leading cause of death in Portugal, greatly surpassing ischaemic heart disease. Largely ignored in the past, stroke has been the subject of intense research in the last decades, which led to the development of integrated care pathways with great impact on patients’ mortality and morbidity.

Raising awareness for acute and chronic management of stroke has been one of the focuses of the Cerebrovascular Diseases Study Group of the Faculty of Medicine of Porto and Hospital de São João. This group has regularly organised courses to discuss recent developments in stroke management and, in 2016, celebrates its 20th anniversary with the publication of this supplement. It also joyfully celebrates the first year the meeting bears the name of the recently created Porto University Centre of Medicine.

This joint venture of the Faculty of Medicine of Porto and Hospital de São João will certainly help further our goals of fostering research, education and improved care in the area of stroke.

Mainly intended for General Practitioners, Internists, Neurologists and Physiatrists, the course also welcomes all healthcare professionals whose scope of care inevitably includes stroke patients. With a remarkably practical approach, it covers most aspects of the preventive and therapeutic management of cerebrovascular disorders.

In this supplement, you will find the abstracts from the lectures and also from the oral presentations of young physicians who elected to discuss their work during the course, and whose interest in the area of stroke we applaud.