

# THE AWARDS 2020

## International Collaboration of the Year

<b>Institution name</b>	Universities of Edinburgh, Western Australia, New South Wales, Uppsala; and the Karolinska Institutet Sweden
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	The fluoxetine trilogy: an international collaboration between Scotland, England, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam and Sweden
<b>Nominee/key personnel</b>	Professor Gillian Mead; Professor Martin Dennis; Associate Professor Erik Lundström; Professor Graeme Hankey; Professor Maree Hackett
<b>URL</b>	<a href="http://www.focustrial.org.uk/default.html">http://www.focustrial.org.uk/default.html</a> <a href="https://www.affinitytrial.org/">https://www.affinitytrial.org/</a> <a href="http://www.effects.se/">http://www.effects.se/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>Stroke is the second leading cause of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) lost, globally.</p> <p>In 2012 investigators in the United Kingdom, Australia and Sweden collaborated to conduct three sister randomised controlled trials of the antidepressant fluoxetine in people with stroke. These separate trials, funded by three governments, with shared protocols and analysis plans, recruited 5907 participants between 2012 and 2019, from 181 hospitals across six countries.</p> <p>The trials showed that fluoxetine did not reduce disability, it increased bone fractures, but did reduce depression. We published our results in highly influential medical journals (Lancet and Lancet Neurology). We overcame multiple challenges through the generous sharing of expertise. Our research means that stroke patients don't need to be subjected to the risks and potential side effects of a drug that won't improve their recovery.</p> <p>This work has raised the profile of our universities and laid the foundations for further world-leading medical research.</p>