

**From:** [Mark MacDonald](#)  
**To:** [Rachel Brown](#)  
**Cc:** [Kate Holmes](#); [Mark MacDonald](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Addressing the global challenge of multimorbidity  
**Date:** 28 November 2016 13:17:24  
**Attachments:** [Advancing Care and Treatment of Vascular Dementia Call.pdf](#)  
[Vascular Dementia State of Play Final August 2015.pdf](#)  
[Vascular Dementia State of Play Lay Summary Final Aug 2015.pdf](#)

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Dear Rachel,

Further to your correspondence with my colleague Kate, please find below our evidence to contribute to your consultation.

The Stroke Association has recently partnered with British Heart Foundation and Alzheimer's Society to launch a new funding initiative into vascular dementia, a multi-morbidity that is relevant to all three funders and has been a neglected area of research to date. Vascular dementia is the second most common type of dementia and is often part of a condition of 'mixed dementia' alongside other types of dementia, the most prominent of which is Alzheimer's disease. The Stroke Association has recognised vascular dementia as a crucial area of under-funding very closely related to stroke (as a consequence, cause and multi-morbidity of stroke) and the British Heart Foundation are also interested in this as a significant co-morbidity for people with heart disease.

Following a round table in early 2015 with research and clinical experts as well as other funders in the field, we developed the State of Play review in vascular dementia (first document attached, and a lay summary of this is attached as the second document). Following this, we held a second workshop to engage lay people affected by vascular dementia and again included some researchers and other funders. This was to discuss areas of priority highlighted by the State of Play review and refine which areas were of most pertinence to the carers and families of vascular dementia patients, as well as the clinicians and research experts. We developed a consensus view which was then further developed by the three funders interested in taking this work forward (SA, BHF and AS). This resulted in the third attachment – the ACT-VAD call for proposals. We are currently in the process of reviewing the proposals for this programme and we expect to be jointly funding up to £2.2M into research in early 2017 into this critical and much neglected area of research.

This is the first programme we have initiated working in partnership with others to specifically address multi-morbidity in stroke; however, we have funded other research related to the co-morbidities and consequences of stroke as part of our response-mode funding activity.

I hope this is of use to you.

Best wishes,

Mark

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