

## Application for board member role

Full name:	Sarah Belson
Name of member stroke support organisation:	Stroke Association
Position held in member stroke support organisation:	International Lead
Country of member stroke support organisation:	UK

What contribution do you hope to make to SAFE and the stroke patient community as a member of the board?

I hope to contribute my experience and insights of working in the health, social care and community development sectors for over 25 years. This includes strategy development, monitoring and evaluation, campaigning and advocacy and engagement of people with lived experience. I will be an engaged and proactive board member ensuring decision making is guided by the organisational strategy and SAFE's governance procedures. I am currently interim chair of a UK based charity, supporting the Director and leading strategic decision making and ensuring financial oversight.

Please select any of the following where you have a specific expertise that would be useful to the board.

Accounting	
Communications	X
Education and Training	X
Fundraising	
Governance	X
Human Resources	
Public Affairs	
Research	
Strategy	X
Other	Monitoring and evaluation

What personal expertise and professional strengths will you bring to SAFE and the stroke community? Mention any relevant experience.

I will contribute my networking and relationship building strengths, having worked in and with stroke support organisations across Europe and globally. I have an understanding of these organisations capacity strengthening needs, the parameters under which they operate and strategies to increase engagement.

I will bring my experience of working with and supporting the involvement of people with lived experience of stroke, demonstrating empathy, understanding and active listening.

I will bring my knowledge and skills in outcomes focused planning, ensuring we are increasingly articulating the benefits for stroke survivors and stroke support organisations.

I will bring my attention to detail, perception and analysis to SAFE's performance, communication and administration.

How would your election to the SAFE board benefit your organisation?

Election to the SAFE board would benefit the Stroke Association by:

- Enabling us to build and strengthen our existing engagement with SAFE
- Supporting the achievement of our international strategic goals: stroke patients, survivors and their carers access the support they need through empowered SSOs across the globe; the profile of stroke is raised at the international level and across low and middle income countries and bring benefits to people affected by stroke in the UK through knowledge exchange and collaboration in Europe.

I confirm that the information contained in this application is correct, and that neither me, or my organisation, have been subject to any financial/legal or other such investigations in the past 12 months.

Signature:



Date: 28/04/23

Once completed, please return this form, along with a recent curriculum vitae to the SAFE Secretariat @ [info@safestroke.eu](mailto:info@safestroke.eu)

A letter from the board of your organisation supporting your nomination should be submitted separately to the Secretariat.

## Sarah Belson, MSc

5 Brickwharf Drive, Worcester, WR3 8BF, UK. Email: [sarah.belson@stroke.org.uk](mailto:sarah.belson@stroke.org.uk)

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Date	Institution	Achievement
January 2022	Brunel University, London UK	PhD Candidate, Department of Health Sciences
August 2020	Chartered Management Institute, UK	Diploma Leadership and Management – Distinction
June 2012	Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK	Post Graduate Diploma Community Work - Distinction
September 1999	School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK	MSc International Development Studies – Merit
June 1994	Liverpool John Moores University, UK	BA Honours Sociology – 2:1

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Date	Organisation	Role
2015 to present	Stroke Association UK/ World Stroke Organization	International Lead: facilitate international engagement & lead capacity strengthening.
2014 – 2015	Toybox Charity UK	Senior Programme Officer: managing India & Kenya programmes & lead for monitoring & evaluation.
2013 – 2014	Cornwall Council, UK	Targeted Youth Worker: leading youth work curriculum for at risk young people.
2012 – 2013	Action for Children, UK	Family Support Practitioner: supporting children in need & child protection.
2001-2011	CAFOD, UK	Programme Officer (Myanmar, Indonesia, China): managing country programmes & partnerships.
2004-2004	CAFOD, Sudan	Assistant Emergency Programme Manager: Darfur emergency response.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Publications**

1. Lindsay P., McGowan S., Nelson M., Thombs R., Belson S. (2021) SSO Global Mapping Report: World Stroke Organization.

### **Journal publications**

1. Akinyemi R, Sarfo F, Abd-Allah F, et al. Conceptual framework for establishing the African Stroke Organization. *International Journal of Stroke*. February 2020
2. Saini, M., Belson, S., Lahiff-Jenkins, C. and Sandercock, P. (2019). Top 10 global educational topics in stroke: A survey by the World Stroke Organization. *International Journal of Stroke*, 14 (8), 843-849
3. Gubitz, G., Saini, M., Belson, S., Sahathevan, R. and Sandercock, P. (2019). How can the World Stroke Organization (WSO) optimize education in stroke medicine around the world? Report of the 2018 WSO Global Stroke Stakeholder Workshop. *International Journal of Stroke*, 14 (8) 803-805

### **Congress presentations**

1. Belson S. Establishing, supporting and strengthening a global network of stroke support organizations (SSOs). World Stroke Congress. Montreal, Canada. October 19, 2018.
2. Belson S. Stroke support in the community. Chinese Stroke Association & Tiantan International Stroke Conference, Beijing, China. June 24, 2017.
3. Belson S. Establishing and Growing SSOs: Global Lessons. World Stroke Congress. Hyderabad, India. October 26, 2016.
4. Belson S. Long term models of care for stroke survivors. World Stroke Congress. Hyderabad, India. October 26, 2016.

### **Poster presentations**

1. Lindsay P., McGowan S., Nelson M., Thombs R., Belson S. SSO Global Mapping: Scale and Reach in Driving Better Stroke Outcomes. ESO – WSO Conference. Virtual, November 7-9, 2020.
2. Belson S. Establishing, supporting and strengthening a global network of stroke support organizations (SSOs). World Stroke Congress. Montreal, Canada. October 17-20, 2018.
3. Belson S. The role of the World Stroke Organization Stroke Support Organization (SSO) Committee. World Stroke Congress. Montreal, Canada. October 17-20, 2018.

Tue 02/05/2023 07:58

Juliet Bouverie (She/Her) <Juliet.Bouverie@stroke.org.uk>

RE: Board membership

To  Sarah Belson;  Sandra Jackson;  Arlene Wilkie

Cc  Rubina Ahmed

Dear Arlene and Sandra,

I support Sarah Belson's nomination for consideration as a SAFE Board member.

Best wishes.

Juliet

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Click the image above for more information.

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**Juliet Bouverie (She/Her) OBE**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Stroke House**  
**Telephone 07515 596919**

**[www.stroke.org.uk](http://www.stroke.org.uk)**

**Helpline 0303 3033 100**

**Textphone 18001 0303 3033 100**