

# The Brazilian Society of Cerebrovascular Diseases – history

## Sociedade Brasileira de Doenças Cerebrovasculares – histórico

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### ABSTRACT

The present article provides the historical background of the *Sociedade Brasileira de Doenças Cerebrovasculares* (Brazilian Society for Cerebrovascular Diseases), including details on its function, structure, challenges and main achievements.

**Keywords:** Stroke; history; societies, scientific; neurology.

### RESUMO

O presente texto apresenta um relato histórico da Sociedade Brasileira de Doenças Cerebrovasculares, incluindo detalhes da sua fundação, estruturação, dificuldades e principais realizações.

**Palavras-chave:** Acidente vascular cerebral; história; sociedades científicas; neurologia.

The *Sociedade Brasileira de Doenças Cerebrovasculares* (SBDCV) encompasses the Scientific Department of Cerebrovascular Diseases of the Brazilian Academy of Neurology (ABN), and is, therefore, the body that represents specialists in cerebrovascular diseases in Brazil.

The SBDCV was spawned from the Working Group in Cerebrovascular Pathology of the ABN, the name formerly used by the ABN to group scholars of different subspecialties. These working groups are now referred to as Scientific Departments, whose mission it is to foster scientific development and help organize Brazilian Neurology meetings.

### BEGINNINGS

The Cerebrovascular Diseases Working Group was set up in 1982, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Roberto Melaragno Filho, an eminent neurologist deeply involved with cerebrovascular diseases. Professor Melaragno was tasked with the initial structuring of the group of neurologists interested in cerebrovascular diseases. This working group had the following coordinators, with two-year tenures:

1982-1984 Roberto Melaragno Filho

1984-1986 Sylvio Saraiva

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<sup>5</sup>Universidade Federal Fluminense, Instituto D'Or de Pesquisa e Ensino (IDOR), Departamento de Neurologia, Rio de Janeiro RJ, Brasil;

<sup>6</sup>Universidade Federal da Bahia, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências da Saúde, Salvador BA, Brasil;

<sup>7</sup>Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre e Hospital Moinhos de Vento, Porto Alegre RS, Brasil;

<sup>8</sup>Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Hospital Moinhos de Vento, Porto Alegre RS, Brasil;

<sup>9</sup>Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Disciplina de Neurologia, São Paulo SP, Brasil;

<sup>10</sup>Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, Programa Integrado de Neurologia, São Paulo SP, Brasil;

<sup>11</sup>Universidade de São Paulo, Faculdade de Medicina de Ribeirão Preto, Departamento de Neurociências e Ciências do Comportamento, Ribeirão Preto SP, Brasil.

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1986-1988 Sylvio Saraiva  
1988-1990 Roberto Melaragno Filho  
1990-1992 José Ivan Cipoli Ribeiro  
1992-1994 Rubens José Gagliardi

The working group was active but the need for greater involvement of specialists became clear. Few neurologists were interested in cerebrovascular diseases and the level of communication and tasks was lower than we wished. We recognized the need to solidify studies of cerebrovascular

diseases; we needed to be more connected and to encourage neurologists to join our working group.

### Creation of the SBDCV

Early in 1994, the board of the working group established new directions, widening the scope of the working group, and proposed setting up the SBDCV to address the above-mentioned challenges. Initially, all members of the ABN were sent a letter (Figure 1) about the creation of the SBDCV, informing them that this would be part of the Cerebrovascular Diseases

## SOCIEDADE BRASILEIRA DE DOENÇAS CÉREBRO-VASCULARES

Prezado colega,

O Grupo de Trabalho em Patologia Vascular Cerebral da Academia Brasileira de Neurologia, visando melhor definição de seus propósitos e maior facilidade de comunicação entre os neurologistas brasileiros e as entidades congêneres internacionais, optou por assumir nova identidade, passando a ser chamada de Sociedade Brasileira de Doenças Cérebro-Vascular.

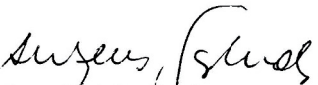
Esta nova Sociedade terá como objetivos prioritários agregar os colegas que se interessam pelo estudo destas doenças, facilitar e agilizar o intercâmbio de informações nesta área da neurologia, divulgar pesquisas, apoiar estudos multicêntricos e manter contato com as principais sociedades internacionais de "stroke". Isto permitirá melhor conhecimento do trabalho que está sendo desenvolvido em nosso meio e das nossas necessidades e/ou deficiências. Permitirá também acesso mais rápido às pesquisas estrangeiras e abrirá um canal que poderá facilitar a participação de trabalhos brasileiros em publicações ou congressos do setor.

A Sociedade Brasileira de Doenças Cérebro-Vasculares será o grupo de trabalho de Patologia Vascular Cerebral, um órgão da Academia Brasileira de Neurologia que acompanhará as determinações e normas comuns aos grupos de trabalho. Com isto, ficará mais fácil o contato com todos os neurologistas e a divulgação conjunta de informações. Pretenderá editar periodicamente boletins, ("newsletter") acompanhando uma tendência das congêneres internacionais, onde se dará ênfase as pesquisas em andamento, programações científicas, textos de ordem genérica e assuntos gerais pertinentes à área. Realizará ou patrocinará simpósios ou "meetings", para atualização e reciclagem.

Caso o colega se interesse pela área e queira pertencer ativamente à Sociedade, escreva para a Academia Brasileira de Neurologia, (Al. Raja Gabaglia, 235 CEP 04551-000 São Paulo, SP). A/C da SBDCV, solicitando a sua inscrição provisória e nós remeteremos uma cópia dos estatutos e maiores informações. Enviem também sugestões, que serão muito bem vindas e estudadas.

Esperamos que esta Sociedade venha a ocupar o espaço que lhe é reservado e cumpra os seus propósitos. O seu futuro depende de todos nós.

Abraços.



Rubens José Gagliardi.

co-ordenador do grupo de trabalho de patologia vascular cerebral

Figure 1. Letter to the members of Brazilian Academy of Neurology.

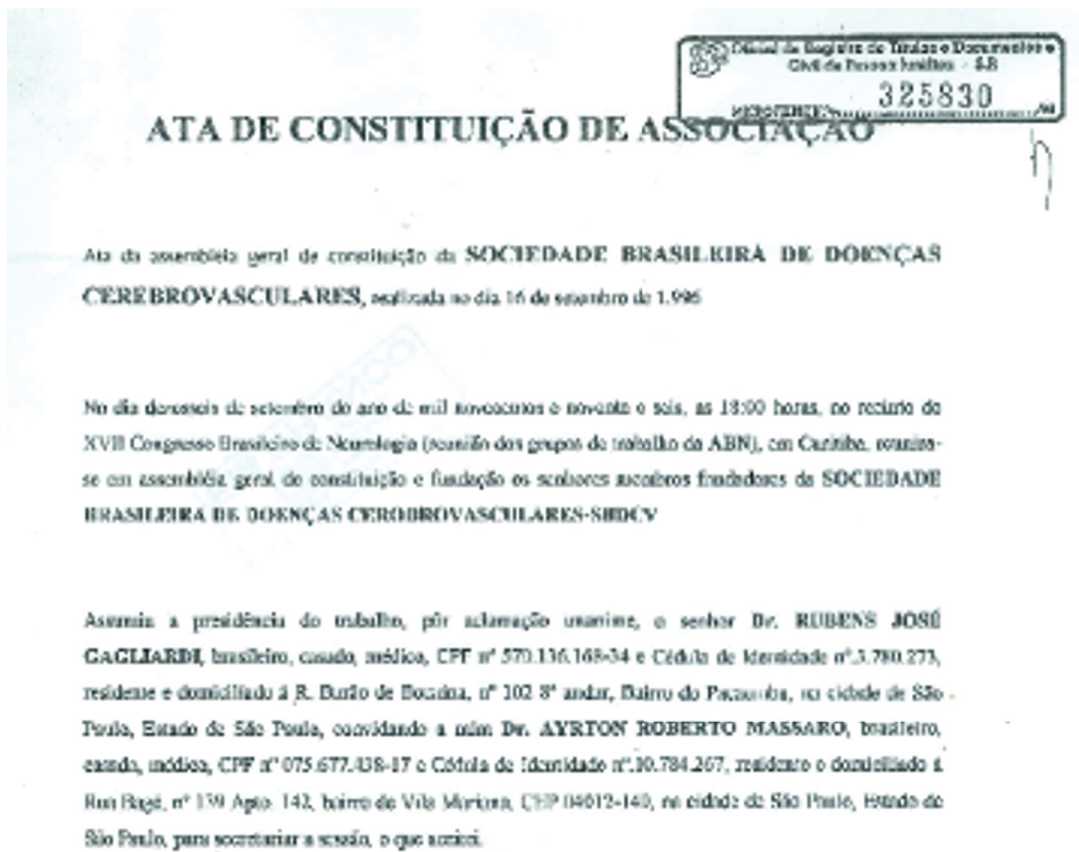


Figure 2. Registry of constitution.

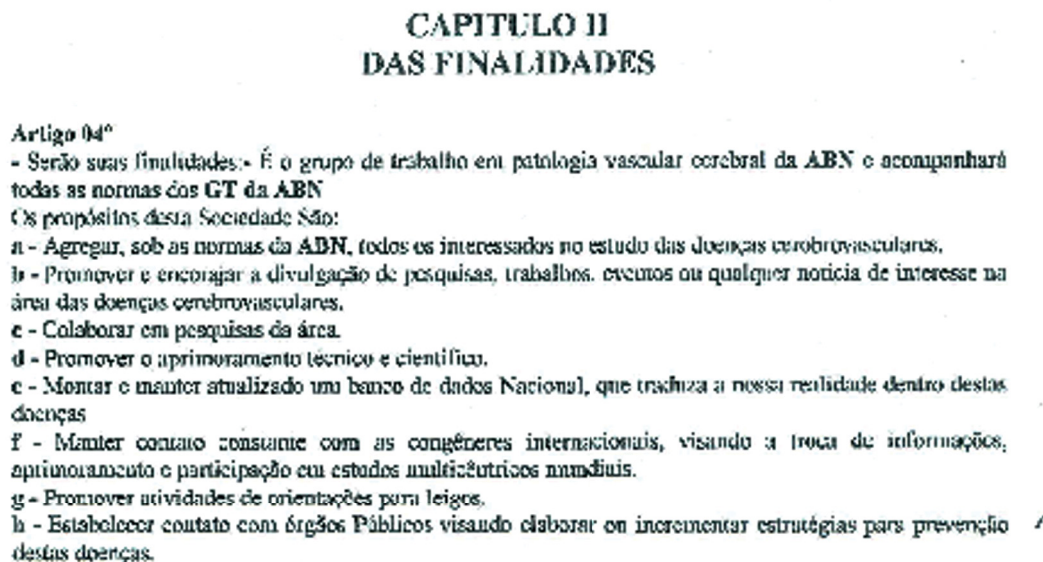


Figure 3. Proposal.

Working Group, contribute to the ABN and comply with all regulatory rules. The beginning of 1994 marked the actual founding date of the SBDCV, while the society was formally instituted on the September 16, 1996, following its registration at the notary public office (Figure 2) and approval of the decision on

its constitution at the Annual General Meeting of the working group held in Curitiba during the XVIII Brazilian Congress of Neurology. At this time, a call to all ABN members was made. At the AGM, the articles of incorporation, and the setting out of the main objectives of the SBDCV, were approved (Figure 3).

Another important discussion at the meeting was the analysis of the best name for the disease, since some advocated “encephalic vascular accident” as opposed to “cerebrovascular accident”; the meeting elected the best terminology to be: “cerebrovascular accident”, as this was more widely recognized and used.

### Challenges and support

Although the articles of incorporation state that the SBDCV would be the working group of the ABN, abide by its regulations and would evolve within the ABN, there were reservations on the part of the ABN involving concerns over separate growth of the SBDCV and its consequent distancing from the ABN. This was not the intention of the new society, yet this concern almost led to the demise of this fledgling association. At the time, there was pivotal support from Professor Antonio Spina-França Neto, a former president of the ABN and one of the most respected neurologists, who backed the continuation of this idea. Professor Sérgio Novis then also supported the idea of setting up the SBDCV, which took shape little by little.

### Directors of the SBDCV

The management boards of the SBDCV, from its founding to the present day, have had the following presidents:

- 1996-2000 Rubens José Gagliardi
- 2000-2004 Cesar Noronha Raffin
- 2004-2006 Jorge El Kadum Noujaim
- 2006-2008 Aroldo Luiz S. Bacellar
- 2008-2010 Gabriel Rodriguez de Freitas
- 2010-2012 Jamary Oliveira-Filho
- 2012-2104 Sheila Cristina O. Martins
- 2014-2016 Gisele Sampaio Silva
- 2016-2018 Octávio Marques Pontes-Neto

### Main actions of the SBDCV

The SBDCV has carried out a range of activities, with key actions including: national consensus, congresses, teaching books, collaborative national and international studies, and the heading of campaigns on awareness, prevention and rehabilitation of stroke in Brazil.

The first communication disseminated by the SBDCV was the publication in the form of a four-monthly information release called the “Newsletter”, starting in January 2004, and containing abstracts of studies and research, local and international news, congresses, opinions of colleagues, etc. This initial milestone was fundamental for the ABN and SBDCV and prompted other publications, including those in other neurology subspecialties.

A number of book titles were released, under the SBDCV, on topics such as: cardiovascular diseases, management approaches; approaches in the acute phase of stroke, and Stroke Brazil.

### Congresses of the SBDCV

The Annual General Meeting of the ABN in Curitiba (1996) approved the holding of the biannual Brazilian Congress on Cerebrovascular Diseases. It was decided to hold the first congress in São Paulo, November 13-15, 1997, in which 426 delegates took part, including eight overseas invitees. This represented a strong foundation and provided encouragement for further events, which have been held regularly ever since. To date, the following congresses have been held:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Congress, 1997: São Paulo (SP)  
Chair: Rubens José Gagliardi
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 1999: Caldas Novas (GO)  
Chair: Sebastião Eurico Melo-Souza
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2001: Rio de Janeiro (RJ)  
Chair: Jorge El-Kadum Noujaim
- 4<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2003: Porto Alegre (RS)  
Chair: Sérgio Roberto Haussen
- 5<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2005: Salvador (BA)  
Chair: Aroldo Luiz S. Bacellar
- 6<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2007: Joinville (SC)  
Chair: Alexandre Luiz Longo
- 7<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2009: Vitoria (ES)  
Chair: Cesar Noronha Raffin
- 8<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2011: Gramado (RS)  
Chair: Maurício Friedrich
- 9<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2013: Fortaleza (CE)  
Chair João José Freitas de Carvalho
- 10<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2015: Belo Horizonte (MG)  
Chair: Romeu Vale Sant’Anna
- 11<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2017: Salvador (BA)  
Chair: Bruno Bacellar Pedreira

These congresses have contributed greatly to the increase in study of cerebrovascular diseases in Brazil, promoting education on stroke, information exchange, the dissemination of studies and awards, recognition and elucidation of the current situation in Brazil, contribution of guidelines, among other positive outcomes. In this segment of activities, another major event promoted by the SBDCV was the securing of the World Stroke Congress for Brazil in 2012. This represented a concerted effort by a group of colleagues. The congress was held in Brasilia on October 10-13, 2012. It was chaired by Dr. Ayrton Massaro (Brazil) and Dr. Bo Norving (Sweden), and the local organizing committee comprised the following specialists: Elza Dias Tosta, Sheila Cristina O. Martins, Cesar Noronha Raffin, Linamara Rizzo Batistela and Rubens José Gagliardi. This event, besides technical advancement, allowed the dissemination of information about our society at an international level.

### Consensus and guidelines of the SBDCV

Another highly-important activity performed by the SBDCV is the devising of “Consensus” and “Guidelines”.



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B. Bonita, Stroke Foundation New Zealand Inc  
A. Bryer, Southern African Stroke Foundation

Dr Sheila Martins  
Dr Jamary Filho Oliveira  
Dr Gabriel Freitas  
Brazilian Stroke Society/Brazilian Stroke Network/Brazilian Academy of Neurology/  
Brazilian Stroke Association  
Rua Itororo, 211 Sala 307  
Brazil

Geneva, 15 December 2011

Dear Sheila, Jamary and Gabriel,

On behalf of the World Stroke Organization (WSO), we would like to congratulate you for being selected as the **First Place/Gold Prize** recipient of the **World Stroke Day 2011 Awards**. We were impressed with how you were able to mobilize communities through education and media. In particular, we would like to commend you for the innovative partnerships that you were able to cultivate with the Ministry of Health and with local soccer teams.

A certificate of recognition will be given to you at the Opening Ceremony of the World Stroke Congress in Brasilia on the evening of 10 October 2012. In this regard, we would be grateful if there could be someone who can accept the WSO prize on behalf of your association. Moreover, the International Journal of Stroke (IJS) may also want to have a phone interview with you in the coming months. The interview may be featured in one of the upcoming IJS issues. For your information, the other World Stroke Day 2011 laureates are:

- Second Place/Silver Award
  - Neeman Association for Stroke Survivors - Israel
- Third Place/Bronze Award
  - Mongolian Stroke Association

Should you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to get in contact with JJ Divino, Senior Campaigns Officer, at WSO Secretariat in Geneva.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to fighting stroke and your continued innovation in stroke awareness.

Yours sincerely,

Bo Norrving, MD, PhD  
President  
World Stroke Organization

Markku Kaste, MD, PhD, FAHA, FESO  
Chairperson, World Stroke Campaign  
World Stroke Organization

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Website: www.world-stroke.org

Figure 4. Letter of World Stroke Organization.

So far, a total of eight consensus and guidelines have been produced and published in the journal *Arquivos de Neuro-Psiquiatria*<sup>1-8</sup>:

- Treatment of the acute phase of ischemic stroke – 2001<sup>1</sup>
- Thrombolysis in stroke – 2002<sup>2</sup>
- Neuroprotection in stroke – 2005<sup>3</sup>

Treating carotid disease in the acute phase of stroke – 2005<sup>4</sup>  
Management of the acute phase of hemorrhagic stroke – 2009<sup>5</sup>

- Treatment of the acute phase of ischemic stroke. Part I – 2012<sup>6</sup>
- Treatment of the acute phase of ischemic stroke. Part II – 2012<sup>7</sup>

## Stroke prevention programs

One of the purposes of the SBDCV is to raise the awareness in the lay public of the importance of recognizing a stroke, risks of having a stroke, how to prevent it and how to proceed in the event of a stroke. This has been achieved via talks for the public and publications, but mainly through participation in the “World Stroke Day” campaign<sup>9</sup>. This is an international activity coordinated by the World Stroke Organization, in which the SBDCV is engaged and coordinates nationally. This has been held annually, uninterrupted, since 2005, in different cities in Brazil. The campaign in Brazil has proven to be a huge success. In 2011, the SBDCV-ABN won first place in the World Stroke Day Awards and ranked second in 2009, 2012 and 2015. The letter sent by Dr. Stephen Davis, President of the World Stroke Organization to Dr. Sheila Martins, who headed the national campaign in 2011, can be seen in Figure 4.

## Contributions to the Brazilian Ministry of Health and to the Federal Board of Medicine

Given its main objectives of prevention and proper treatment of stroke in Brazil, since its founding, the SBDCV has worked with the Brazilian government to collaborate in the implementation of regulations and actions on this front. We were involved in the drafting of numerous important regulations, including those on guidelines for diagnosing brain death<sup>10</sup>, line of care in stroke<sup>11</sup>, rulings 664 and 665 on thrombosis, and on the establishment of stroke units<sup>12,13</sup>. Another conquest was the inclusion of neurologists in the group of interventionists.

In parallel, the SBDCV has played an active role in lobbying for improved public healthcare for stroke patients in Brazil<sup>14</sup>.

## Other activities

There are several groups that have been working on providing new data on the epidemiology of stroke in Brazil. Dr. Norberto Cabral is one of the leading members of this group, with important contributions. His papers have contributed to a better understanding of the social disparities of our stroke patients, and the alerting of the International Stroke Society.

The relationship with the Ministry of Health began in 2008, with Dr. Sheila Cristina O. Martins as the lead person. She has made major contributions to improving stroke awareness among politicians and the Brazilian population, as well as fostering the inclusion of tPA as treatment of acute ischemic stroke by the National Healthcare System of Brazil.

Transcranial Doppler ultrasonography has a leading person in the country. Dr. Viviane Zétola has made several contributions, including the certification of neurologists to perform the technique.

The inclusion of intensive care as an area closely connected to cerebrovascular diseases in the Society has been an important achievement. Drs. Jamily Oliveira-Filho and Gisele Sampaio Silva are two major leaders who have helped in this approach.

## FINAL COMMENTS

This article outlines some of the SBDCV’s activities and its path to success, which have contributed to further studying of cerebrovascular diseases in Brazil, and consolidated our position in relation to international organizations. The journey of the SBDCV will be long-lasting and ongoing, given the collaboration of renowned colleagues and the new values they bring to the Society. The SBDCV shall continue to grow, while maintaining its important role in national and international Neurology.

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