

**AUT NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
STROKE AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCES**

# Newsletter

ISSUE 9, March 2019

**WELCOME TO THE 9TH NEWSLETTER OF THE RIBURST  
STUDY (REDUCING THE INTERNATIONAL BURDEN OF  
STROKE USING MOBILE TECHNOLOGY)**

## **PROGRESS OF THE STUDY**

The study is progressing well with more than 14,000 participants.

### **New collaborators**

- Dr. Albertino Damasceno, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique

## *What's inside*

**PROGRESS OF  
THE STUDY  
PAGE 1**

**RESEARCHER  
PROFILES  
PAGE 2**

**TRANSLATED  
VERSIONS OF THE  
APP  
PAGE 3**

**RELEASES AND  
APP UPDATES  
PAGE 4**

**MEDIA RELEASES  
AND NEWS  
PAGE 5**

# Researcher profiles



Professor Wenzhi Wang  
Beijing Neurosurgical Institute  
Beijing  
China

Prof. Wang is a neuroepidemiologist at Beijing Neurosurgical Institute (BNI), Beijing, China. Since 1995 he has been Head of BNI's Neuroepidemiology Department, and PhD supervisor of Beijing Capital Medical University. Since 1988, he has been Head of the National Office for CVD Prevention and Control at the Chinese Ministry of Health and has conducted neuroepidemiology research over 36 years, focusing on cerebrovascular disease, epilepsy, and dementia etc. He has been responsible for major projects of China's National Science and Technology Bureau, and international collaborative projects. He publishes widely in international and national medical journals and is the chief editor/editor of 8 books. He is the deputy chair of the cerebrovascular group of the China Medical Association Neurology Branch, member of Beijing Hypertension Control Society, member of Beijing Cerebrovascular Control Society, executive council member of China Association Against Epilepsy, and editorial board member of 15 national medical journals.

Since 1981, Prof. Wang has been engaged in research on neuroepidemiology at Beijing Neurosurgical Institute. His study direction has been focused on risk factors of the main neurological disorders, especially on exploring the effective measures in community level to prevent and control stroke, epilepsy, dementia etc. He has received several honours and awards from government and the Ministry of Health for research achievements on community control of epilepsy in rural China, population-based managements of hypertension and stroke. In recent years, Prof. Wang has published over 100 papers in English and Chinese medical journals.

Prof. Wang helped the AUT team to translate and improve the Chinese version of the Stroke Riskometer and has promoted applications of it in China in recent years. He also takes an active part in the RIBURST study as the PI for China.

Dr Alexander Merkin  
National Institute for Stroke and Applied  
Neurosciences  
Auckland University of Technology  
Auckland  
New Zealand



Dr Merkin has a background as a psychiatrist and a lecturer. He completed his PhD in the area of old age psychiatry, and since then has conducted a number of studies devoted to clinical and non-clinical aspects in psychiatry and psychogeriatrics. He is a Research Fellow / Lecturer at AUT University and an Associate Professor at the Department of Psychiatry at the Academy for Postgraduate Studies (Russia).

He is an editorial board member of several psychiatric and neurological journals and publishes in international and national journals focusing on cerebrovascular disease and dementia. Dr Merkin is the author of a book on psychopathology and treatment of delirium in older age, and the author and co-author of several training programmes in psychiatry. His research direction has been focused on risk factors and prevention of dementia and stroke.

Since 2015 Dr Merkin has been engaged in research and development of English and Russian versions of the Stroke Riskometer mobile application, and has been supporting the translation and improvement of the app.

## Translated versions of the app

Please refer to the NISAN website to see details of the current translations available.

- iOS version: <https://nisan.aut.ac.nz/Stroke-Riskometer/available-languages>
- Pro version: <https://nisan.aut.ac.nz/Stroke-Riskometer/stroke-riskometer-pro-version>

Translations of the app into the Croatian, Bulgarian and Czech languages is almost complete.

Permission has been given for the translation of the app into Swedish.

There are discussions underway for a Bahasa Indonesian translation.



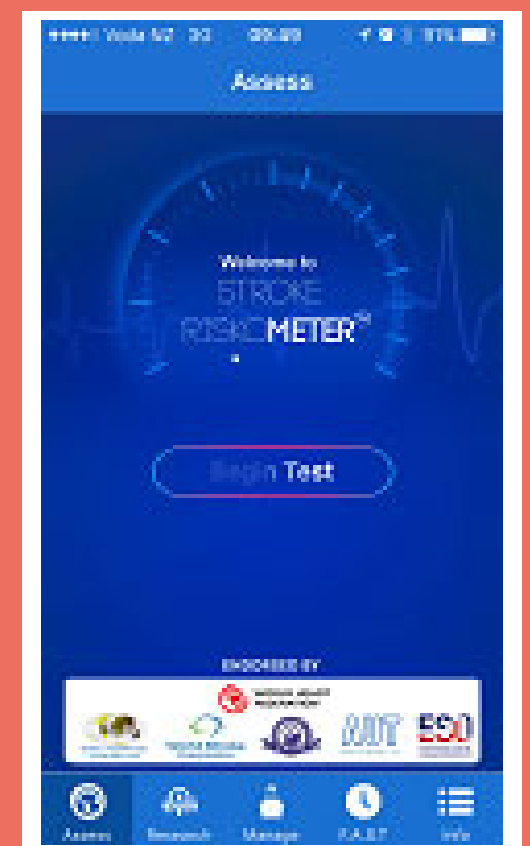
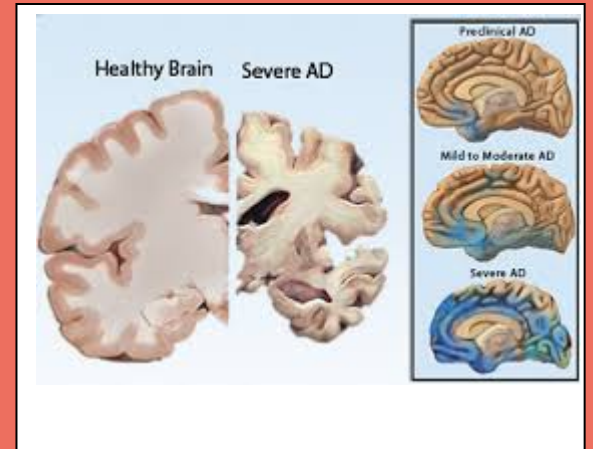
# Releases and app updates

## Success stories of the use/implementation of the app

We invite RIBURST members to submit details of their 'success stories' to [bvangils@aut.ac.nz](mailto:bvangils@aut.ac.nz), for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter and sharing with the entire group.

The online version of the Stroke Riskometer is being prepared at present, and implementation of the app into the Brazilian eMedical system is currently underway.

There are negotiations currently underway with European authorities and insurance companies, regarding the inclusion of the app into their packages.



# Media releases and news

## Editable advertising posters

There are advertising posters available for download in English, French and Russian, for you and for recruitment of study participants in your area. Please see: <https://nisan.aut.ac.nz/Stroke-Riskometer/downloadable-posters>. You can modify these as you see fit, e.g. by adding the QR of the app in your language and adding local details.

## New articles mentioning the Stroke Riskometer

Wardlaw, J.M. & Bath, P.M. (2019). Stroke research in 2018: Extended time windows, refined benefit, and lifestyle prevention targets. *The Lancet Neurology*, 18, pp 2-3.

Krishnamurthi, R., Hale, L., Barker-Collo, S., Theadom, A., Bhattacharjee, R., George, A., Parmar, P., . . . Feigin, V. (2018). Mobile technology for primary stroke prevention. *Stroke*, 50, 196-198. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1161/STROKEAHA.118.023058>

## NISAN Stroke Riskometer webpage

Remember, the NISAN Stroke Riskometer webpage contains a lot of relevant information. See: <https://nisan.aut.ac.nz/Stroke-Riskometer>.



## Contact information

RIBURST project manager:  
Rohit Bhattacharjee  
T: +64 9 921 9999 ext. 7126  
E: [rbhattac@aut.ac.nz](mailto:rbhattac@aut.ac.nz)

Dr. Rita Krishnamurthi  
T: +64 9 921 9999 ext. 7809  
E: [rkrishna@aut.ac.nz](mailto:rkrishna@aut.ac.nz)

NISAN (National Institute for  
Stroke and Applied Neuroscience)  
secretariat:  
Brigitte van Gils  
T: +64 9 921 9174  
E: [bvangils@aut.ac.nz](mailto:bvangils@aut.ac.nz)

Visit the NISAN website:  
<https://nisan.aut.ac.nz>