Preface

Stroke services are developing all around Europe, in connexion with a better understanding of the burden of stroke to patients, family and community. The editors of this supplement are to be congratulated for setting up a satellite symposium on stroke services at the 11th European Stroke Conference, in Geneva, on May 28, 2002. The present supplement is a very thorough and useful summary of these debates, which are presented in a very international perspective. It is obvious that practices and policies vary greatly from country to country, and that a European consensus is needed to try and unify unnecessary differences. The present set of articles is a step forward towards harmonization and will serve as a preliminary 'état des lieux' for upcoming updates and initiatives on stroke services, the next one being already planned at the 12th European Stroke Conference in Valencia, May 2003.

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