

# 2026 Stroke Symposium: Presented by UPMC Stroke Institute



**Date: April 17, 2025**

**Location: UPMC Mercy Pavilion Conference Center and Virtual option**

**Time: 7:45am – 4:00pm**

## **Introduction:**

The 2026 Stroke Symposium, presented by the UPMC Stroke Institute, is meticulously crafted to disseminate the most up-to-date advancements in stroke care to all healthcare providers who serve stroke patients throughout their clinical journey. This event is specifically designed to augment the educational requirements of healthcare professionals affiliated with certified stroke centers, thereby equipping them with the latest knowledge and skills to effectively manage stroke patients.

## **Objectives:**

1. Enhance comprehension of pre-hospital stroke care and the paramount significance of effective communication.
2. Acquire a thorough understanding of in hospital complication and prevention
3. Engage in discussion on hot topics in management of large vessel occlusion in acute ischemic
4. Gain insight into after stroke recoveries impact on patient families
5. Familiarize oneself with unique risk factors and treatments for stroke in women
6. Participate in a discussion on unique and rare cause of acute ischemic stroke
7. Become proficient in decision-making regarding secondary stroke prevention tools

## **Continuing Education Credit:**



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™  
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, the University of Pittsburgh is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

### **Physician (CME)**

The University of Pittsburgh designates this live activity for a maximum of **6.75AMA PRA Category 1 Credit[s]™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity

### **Nursing (CNE)**

The maximum number of hours awarded for this Continuing Nursing Education activity is **6.75 contact hours**.

### **Physician Assistant (AAPA)**

The University of Pittsburgh has been authorized by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) to award AAPA Category 1 CME credit for activities planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for **6.75 AAPA Category 1 CME credits**. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

**Other Healthcare Professionals:** Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

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## Who Should Attend:

This conference is geared towards physicians, nurses, advanced practice providers, physical/occupational, and speech language therapists in addition to all other health care professionals who are affiliated with neurology, neurosurgery, emergency medicine, and are working with patients through their pre-, intra-, and post-acute stroke care.

## Course Directors:

**Elissa Ortolani, MD**

Assistant Professor of Neurology & Pediatrics

**Stephanie Henry, RN, MSN**

Program Director, UPMC Stroke Institute

**Nicole Marks, PA-C**

UPMC Stroke Institute

## Co-course Directors:

**Alhamza Al-Bayati, MD, FSVIN**

Associate Professor of Neurology & Neurosurgery

## Course Faculty:

<p><b>Alhamza Al-Bayati, MD</b> Associate Professor of Neurology &amp; Neurosurgery, UPMC Stroke Institute Associate Director, Neuroendovascular &amp; Stroke Fellowships Director, Pediatric Neuroendovascular Surgery Co-Director, Pediatric Neurovascular Center of Excellence</p>	<p><b>Elissa Ortolani, MD</b> Assistant Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics Clinical Director of Outpatient Services, UPMC Stroke Institute Co-Director of UPMC Pediatric Stroke Program</p>
<p><b>Stephanie Henry, MSN, RN</b> Program Director, UPMC Stroke Institute</p>	<p><b>Nicole Marks, PA-C</b> Physician Assistant, UPMC Stroke Institute – Mercy</p>
<p><b>Justin Beal, BS, PHRN, CFRN, FP-C</b> Education Coordinator/Flight Nurse STAT MedEvac</p>	<p><b>Rebecca Patterson, MSN, FNP-BC, ANVP-BC, CCRN</b> Nurse Practitioner, UPMC Stroke Institute - Presbyterian</p>
<p><b>Bradley Gross, MD</b> Associate Professor of Neurosurgery Director of Endovascular Neurosurgery and Endovascular Fellowship</p>	<p><b>Steve Zanders DO FCCP</b> Medical Director, Neurocritical, Neuroendovascular, and Stroke Care Associate Medical Director, Critical Care Services UPMC-Central (Pinnacle) University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Central Neurocritical Care Section Member UPMC Executive advisory board-Pittsburgh</p>
<p><b>Cynthia Kenmuir, MD, PhD, FSVIN, FAHA</b> Associate Professor of Neurology &amp; Neurosurgery, University of Pittsburgh Chief of Neurology, UPMC Altoona Director of the Stroke Program, UPMC Altoona Director of the Neurointerventional Program, UPMC Altoona</p>	<p><b>Alexis Steinberg, MD, MS</b> Assistant Professor Department of Neurology, Critical Care Medicine, and Emergency Medicine UPMC/ University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine</p>

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<p><b>Raul Nogueira, MD, FAHA, FSVIN</b> Endowed Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery Director, UPMC Stroke Institute Division Chief, Cerebrovascular Medicine</p>	<p><b>Kathryn Krobot, M.A. CCC-SLP</b> Manager, Speech Language Pathology UPMC Presbyterian and Montefiore</p>
<p><b>Ashley Ayres</b> Director, Infection Prevention, UPMC Presbyterian</p>	<p><b>Daria Damico, PT, DPT, GCS</b> Supervisor, Rehab Services Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist Site Coordinator of Clinical Education University of Pittsburgh Adjunct Professor UPMC Rehabilitation Institute</p>
<p><b>Meaghan Hansen, PharmD, BCPS, DPLA</b> Clinical Pharmacy Manager, UPMC Presbyterian</p>	<p><b>Billie Reese, RN, BSN</b> Professional Staff Nurse, UPMC Stroke Institute – Mercy</p>
<p><b>Eliza Miller, MD, MS</b> Associate Professor of Neurology Chief, Division of Women’s Neurology Chief of Neurology, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital UPMC Endowed Chair in Women’s Brain Health</p>	<p><b>Rebecca Pollard, MD</b> Assistant Professor of Neurology, UPMC Stroke Institute Associate Program Director, Neurology Residency, UPMC/Pitt</p>
<p><b>Meghana Gaekwad, MD</b> Assistant Professor of Neurology, UPMC Stroke Institute</p>	<p><b>Aryan Aiyer, MD</b> Assistant Professor of Medicine University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Director, Inpatient Cardiology Consult Service, UPMC Presbyterian Director, Lipid Clinic</p>
<p><b>Pooja Deepak Amarapurkar, MD</b> Director of Onco-Nephrology, UPMC Assistant Professor of Medicine Renal and Electrolyte Division University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine University of Pittsburgh Medical Center</p>	<p><b>Joanna Fong-Isariyawongse, MD FAES, FAAN</b> Associate Professor of Neurology Epilepsy &amp; Sleep Specialist</p>

**Disclaimer Statement:**

The information presented at this program represents the views and opinions of the individual presenters, and does not constitute the opinion or endorsement of, or promotion by, the UPMC Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences, UPMC / University of Pittsburgh Medical Center or Affiliates and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Reasonable efforts have been made for educational subject matter to be presented in a balanced, unbiased fashion and in compliance with regulatory requirements. However, each program attendee must always use his/her own personal and professional judgment when considering further application of this information, particularly as it may relate to patient diagnostic or treatment decisions including, without limitation, FDA-approved uses and any off-label uses

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## Schedule:

7:45 – 8:00	<i>Opening</i>
8:00 – 8:30	<b>HANDS ON DEMO: Front Line Stroke Recognition: Tools for early Detection</b> Justin Beal, BS, PHRN, CFRN, FP-C Rebecca Patterson, MSN, FNP-BC, ANVP-BC, CCRN
8:30 – 9:30	<b>DEBATE: Mechanical Thrombectomy in 2026: Expanding Patient Selection</b> Raul Nogueira, MD, FAHA, FSVIN Steven Zanders, DO, FCCP Bradley Gross, MD Cynthia Kenmuir, MD, PhD, FSVIN, FAHA Alexis Steinberg, MD, MS
9:30 – 9:45	<i>Break – 15 mins</i>
9:45 – 10:45	<b>Complication of Stroke in the Hospital: Preventing the Preventable</b> Kathryn Krobot, MA, CCC-SLP Ashley Ayres Daria Damico, PT, DPT, GCS Meaghan Hansen, PharmD, BCPS, DPLA
10:45 – 11:30	<b>Patient Spotlight</b> Patient/Caregiver Billie Reese, RN, BSN
11:30 – 12:30	<i>Lunch 1 hour</i>
12:30 – 1:30	<b>KEYNOTE: Prevention and Treatment of Stroke in Pregnancy and Postpartum</b> Eliza Miller, MD, MS
1:30 – 2:00	<b>An Apple a Day Keeps the Stroke Doctor Away: Stroke and Nutrition</b> Rebecca Pollard, MD
2:00 – 2:15	<i>Break 15 mins</i>
2:15 – 3:15	<b>Stopping the Next Stroke: A Multispecialty Approach</b> Meghana Gaekwad, MD Aryan Aiyer, MD Pooja Amarapurkar, MD Joanna Fong-Isariyawongse, MD, FAES, FAAN
3:15 – 3:30	<b>Stroke Awards</b> Stephanie Henry, RN, MSN
3:30 – 3:45	<i>Closing Remarks</i>
3:45 – 4:00	<i>Adjournment</i>

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## Registration Information

Early Bird Physician Reg (Jan 1 – Feb 28) - \$70.00  
Early Bird Nurse & Other Healthcare Professionals Reg (Jan 1 – Feb 28) - \$45.00  
Physician Reg - \$75.00  
Nurse & Other Healthcare Professionals Reg – \$50.00  
Online Registration - \$45.00

Registration Closes April 10, 2025

\*\*No onsite registration

**Participants:** UPMC and non-UPMC employees

**Cancellation:** All cancellations must be in writing and sent to us via email, or fax. Tuition for cancellations postmarked or date stamped before **April 13, 2026** will be completely refunded. No refunds will be made *after April 13, 2026*. Cancellation requests can be made to:

### Megan Kennedy

UPMC Stroke Institute

Fax: (412) 647-8445 Email: [strokeconf@upmc.edu](mailto:strokeconf@upmc.edu)

## How to Register Online

1. Visit our online registration site at [2026 Stroke Symposium: Presented by UPMC Stroke Institute | UPMC - Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences](#)
2. Click the Register tab
3. Click Register/Complete Course
4. You will receive an email confirmation
5. Print the emailed confirmation for your records