

8th Annual Stroke and Neurocritical Care Symposium

Advanced Management of Neurological and Neurosurgical Emergencies and Critical Care

Friday, September 18, 2026

CE Accredited Live Activity Provided Jointly by
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Departments of Neurology and Neurological Surgery
and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Overview

Stroke and neurological emergencies continue to represent some of the most time-sensitive and complex conditions encountered across emergency departments, intensive care units, stroke centers, and neurosurgical services. Rapid advances have transformed treatment paradigms and created new opportunities to improve patient outcomes. At the same time, clinicians face increasing challenges in incorporating evolving evidence, guideline updates, emerging technologies, and multidisciplinary approaches into everyday clinical practice. Recent advances continue to reshape standards of care and require ongoing education and clinical adaptation. Recent literature highlights the rapidly evolving nature of stroke and neurocritical care practice and the need for continued education to optimize evidence-based management and outcomes.

This multidisciplinary educational program is designed to address these critical professional practice gaps through expert-led presentations, case-based discussions, debates, and interactive learning focused on the diagnosis, treatment, and critical care management of patients with acute neurological and neurosurgical emergencies. Participants will gain practical strategies for implementing contemporary evidence, improving clinical decision-making in complex and controversial scenarios, enhancing multidisciplinary collaboration, and translating advances in stroke and neurocritical care into improved patient care. This program will provide a comprehensive update on current concepts, emerging research, and best practices across the continuum of stroke and neurocritical care management.

Target Audience

This activity is designed for general and consult neurologists, stroke neurologists, neuro-intensivists, general, vascular, spine and trauma neurosurgeons, pulmonary critical care medicine physicians, cardiologist and cardiac surgeons, surgical critical care and general/trauma surgeons, anesthesiology critical care medicine physicians, emergency medicine physicians, critical care registered nurses, neuroscience nurses, acute care nurse practitioners, physician assistants/associates, EMTs and paramedics, pharmacists, and physicians and surgeons in training.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this activity, participants should be better able to:

- Apply contemporary evidence, imaging criteria, and guideline recommendations to identify appropriate candidates for reperfusion therapies.
- Evaluate emerging evidence on thrombectomy to optimize treatment decisions for complex stroke presentations.
- Integrate current evidence regarding blood pressure management, anticoagulation reversal, neurosurgical intervention, and minimally invasive hematoma evacuation into the treatment of patients with intracerebral hemorrhage.
- Incorporate evidence-based neurocritical care strategies into the management of patients with acute neurological and neurosurgical emergencies.
- Develop individualized secondary stroke prevention strategies based on current evidence for intracranial atherosclerotic disease, carotid disease, and other cerebrovascular risk factors.
- Assess evidence-based diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for stroke associated with antiphospholipid syndrome and other hypercoagulable disorders to optimize long-term management and recurrence prevention.
- Recognize clinical presentations, diagnostic considerations, and treatment approaches for pediatric stroke and other cerebrovascular emergencies requiring specialized evaluation and intervention.
- Apply current consensus recommendations and institutional standards when performing neurologic determination of death evaluations.
- Employ effective interdisciplinary communication and team-based care strategies that improve recognition, escalation, treatment, and coordination of care for patients with neurological emergencies.
- Analyze complex stroke and neurocritical care cases using current evidence, expert consensus, and patient-specific factors to support individualized clinical decision-making.
- Identify early signs of neurologic deterioration and implement appropriate escalation pathways for patients with acute stroke and neurocritical care conditions.
- Implement evidence-based nursing and advanced practice strategies that support optimal patient outcomes, multidisciplinary collaboration, and quality improvement within stroke and neurocritical care programs.

Accreditation



In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences 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.

Physicians: Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences designates this live activity for a maximum of 7.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses: This activity is awarded 7.5 ANCC contact hours. Nurses should only claim those contact hours actually spent participating in the activity.



Physician Assistants: Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences 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 7.5 AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

Method of Participation

In order to meet the learning objectives and receive continuing education credits, participants are expected to check in at the registration desk, attend the program and complete an online evaluation form at the conclusion of the activity. A CE certificate will be emailed to participants upon completion of the online evaluation.

Planning Committee

Roger C. Cheng, MD
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Gaurav Gupta, MD

Kimberly Hollender, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC, ANVP, APN
Deviyani Mehta, MD
Emad Nourollah-Zadeh, MD
Igor Rybinnik, MD

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this activity are those of the faculty. It should not be inferred or assumed that they are expressing the views of any manufacturer of pharmaceuticals or devices, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, or Rutgers Health.

It should be noted that the recommendations made herein with regard to the use of therapeutic agents, varying disease states, and assessments of risk, are based upon a combination of clinical trials, current guidelines, and the clinical practice experience of the participating presenters. The drug selection and dosage information presented in this activity are believed to be accurate. However, participants are urged to consult all available data on products or procedures before using them in clinical practice.

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For questions or concerns regarding this activity, please contact CCOE at ccoe@rbhs.rutgers.edu

Guest Faculty

Michael J. Rivkin, MD, Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School; Director, Multidisciplinary Cerebrovascular Disorders and Stroke Program, Boston Children's Hospital

Rutgers Health and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Faculty

Justin W. Ady, MD, RPVI, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Medical Director, Non-Invasive Vascular Laboratory, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Roger C. Cheng, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology, Division of Stroke and Neurocritical Care, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Florence Chukwuneke, RN, AGPCNP-BC, CNRN, NVRN-BC, Stroke Nurse Practitioner, Comprehensive Stroke Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick

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Gaurav Gupta, MD, Professor of Neurology, Chief, Cerebrovascular and Endovascular Neurosurgery, Department of Neurosurgery. Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Aaron Kaplan, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology, Division of Stroke and Neurocritical Care, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Michael Lindsay, MD, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Deviyani Mehta, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology, Program Director, Neurology Residency, Director of Vascular Neurology Fellowship, Division of Stroke and Neurocritical Care, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Danielle Nascondiglio, DO, Vascular Neurology Fellow, Department of Neurology. Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Emad Nourollah-Zadeh, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology, Division of Stroke and Neurocritical Care, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Jennifer O'Leary, BSN, RN, Emergency Department Stroke Champion, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Javicia Peterson-Cole, DNP, RN, APN, NP-C, SCRNP, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Alexandra Reilly, MS CCC-SLP, Speech Pathologist, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Igor Rybinnik, MD, Associate Professor, Clerkship Director, Division of Stroke and Neurocritical Care, Department of Neurology, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Verdane Simeon-Bennett, BSN, RN, CCRN, Neurocritical Care, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Ashwin Sridharan, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Hematology, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Srihari Sundararajan, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Radiology, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Neuro-Interventional Radiologist, University Radiology

Kristie Varghese, PA-C, Physician Associate, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Bennett Wacaster, BSN, RN, CEN, Department of Radiology, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Agenda

- 7:00 am *Registration/Continental Breakfast/Exhibits*
- 7:50 am Welcome
- 8:00 am **The Bleeding Edge: ICH Management in 2026** Igor Rybinnik, MD
- 8:30 am **The Timing Question: Minimally Invasive ICH Evacuation Revisited** Gaurav Gupta, MD
- 9:00 am **ICAD Reloaded: Revisiting an Old Enemy** Srihari Sundararajan, MD
- 9:30 am **EVT 2.0: Distal Vessels and Lytics Post Thrombectomy** Emad Nourollah-Zadeh, MD
- 10:00 am Panel Discussion; Audience Q&A
- 10:15 am *Refreshment Break/Exhibits*
- 10:30 am **Debate: Sticky Business: Anticoagulation in APLS Stroke**
- Con Ashwin Sridharan, MD
- Pro Danielle Nascondiglio, DO
- 11:00 am **Keynote Presentation**
- Code Stroke, Size Small: Advances in Pediatric Stroke Care**..... Michael Rivkin, MD
- 11:45 am Panel Discussion; Audience Q&A
- 12:00 pm *Lunch/Exhibits*
- 12:50 pm Excellence in Neuroscience Award Presentation
-Adam Ganzman, MSN, RN, APN-BC, ANVP-BC, SCRn, EMT-B

MINI-FELLOWSHIPS

Track A: Physicians and Advanced Practice Providers

- 1:00 pm **Interactive Case Presentations**
- Gray Zones: Where Guidelines End and Clinical Judgement Begins**
- Roger C. Cheng, MD, Ram C. Gowda, MD, Aaron Kaplan, MD
- Deviyani Mehta, MD, Danielle Nascondiglio, DO, Igor Rybinnik, MD

Track B: Nurses

- 1:00 pm **Interactive Case Presentations**
- Frontline Stroke: Recognition, Response, Rescue**
- Florence Chukwuneke, RN, AGPCNP-BC, CNRN, NVRN-BC,
- Cathrine Galgano, BSN, RN, CCRN, Jennifer O'Leary, BSN, RN,
- Javicia Peterson-Cole, DNP, RN, APN, NP-C, SCRn,
- Alexandra Reilly, MEd, CCC-SLP, Verdane Simeon-Bennett, BSN, RN, CCRN
- Kristie Varghese, PA-C, Bennett Wacaster, RN

- 3:00 pm *Refreshment Break/Exhibits*

3:15 pm	The Final Diagnosis: Death by Neurological Criteria	Aaron Kaplan, MD
3:45 pm	Beyond Platelets: The Next Chapter in Stroke Prevention	Michael Lindsay, MD
4:15 pm	Debate: Cut, Stent, or Wait? CREST-2 and the Modern Asymptomatic Carotid Dilemma	
	Con	Emad Nourollah-Zadeh, MD
	Pro	Justin Ady, MD
4:45 pm	Panel Discussion; Audience Q&A	
5:00 pm	Concluding Remarks.....	Adam Ganzman, MSN, RN, APN-BC, ANVP-BC SCR.N, EMT-B
5:15 pm	<i>Adjourn</i>	

Peer Review

In order to help ensure content objectivity, independence, and fair balance, and to ensure that the content is aligned with the interest of the public, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) has resolved all potential and real conflicts of interest through content review by non-conflicted, qualified reviewers. This activity was peer-reviewed for relevance, accuracy of content, and balance of presentation by:

Tiffany Eden, MS, PA-C

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Gaurav Gupta, MD

Emad Nourollah-Zadeh, MD

Igor Rybinnik, MD

Disclosure Declarations

In accordance with the disclosure policies of RBHS and to conform with Joint Accreditation requirements and FDA guidelines, individuals in a position to control the content of this educational activity are required to disclose to the activity participants: 1) the existence of any relevant financial relationship with any ineligible company, i.e., a company whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients, within the past 24 months; and 2) the identification of a commercial product/device that is unlabeled for use or an investigational use of a product/device not yet approved. All of the relevant financial relationships listed have been mitigated.

Planners, Faculty and Reviewers

The following planners, faculty and reviewers have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose:

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Rutgers Health Center for Continuing and Outreach Education Staff

Patrick Dwyer, Director, Continuing Medical Education, and Keisha Ferguson, Program Support Coordinator, have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed have been mitigated.

Off-Label/Investigational Use

Speakers are required to disclose discussion of off-label/investigational uses of commercial products/devices in their presentation. These disclosures will be made to the audience at the time of the activity.

WiFi

Network: **SNCC2026** Password: **RWJUHNeuro**

Audience Handouts

There will be no handouts provided at the activity. Speaker slide presentations are available online at:

<https://sites.rutgers.edu/ccoe/27MR05/>

**Evaluation and CE Certificates**

Following the program, we ask that you take a few moments to complete the on-line evaluation to assist us in assessing the effectiveness of this activity and to make recommendations for future educational offerings. Your response will help ensure that future programs are informative and meet the educational needs of all participants.

In order to obtain a CE certificate, you must complete the on-line evaluation. The evaluation and certificates are ONLY available online.

An email will be sent to you no later than Wednesday, September 23, 2026 with instructions for accessing the evaluation and obtaining your CE certificate.

Parking

Self-parking is complimentary is available at the Hyatt. **Due to construction, please enter the parking deck using the back entrance of the hotel from Bennett Street.** Please present your parking ticket to the registration desk for validation before retrieving your car. Valet parking will be charged at the Hyatt's customary rates.

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Supporter

This activity is supported in part by an educational grant from

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Exhibitors

We wish to thank our exhibitors for their participation.

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