

Western NC StrokeNet Fellow Goals and Milestones

The Western NC StrokeNet is committed to training the next generation of stroke researchers. Therefore, we provide mentorship, research education, and clinical research opportunities within StrokeNet to enhance, prepare, and ultimately help launch the stroke research careers of each WFBMC StrokeNet fellow. This opportunity is open for trainees and early faculty who will be able to devote greater than 50% effort for one year to cerebrovascular/stroke clinical trials research and plan to pursue clinical trials research as part of their career.

Educational Objectives:

- Develop knowledge and skills to become a successful leader in stroke clinical trials
- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of different trial designs
- Recognize potential biases and pitfalls in clinical trials, and design an effective clinical trial
- Develop a protocol, consent, monitoring plan and data collection plan for clinical trials
- Understand the basic biostatistics required to plan and evaluate a clinical trial
- Review and critique manuscripts presenting the results of clinical trials using CONSORT guidelines
- Develop effective scientific writing and presentation skills. Write an effective grant and manuscript. Present a compelling scientific abstract.
- Explain the key ethical principles regarding the design, conduct, recruitment, and analysis of clinical trials

Key components of the training program:

- Close mentorship from members of the training program committee
- Clinical trial participation, recruitment and study visit involvement of stroke clinical trials, including prevention, acute and recovery phase studies
- Completion of the StrokeNet Clinical Trials Curriculum
- Completion of the IHI Quality Improvement training course
- Apply for the NINDS Clinical Trials Methodology course
- Attendance at the WFBMC stroke section meetings, stroke conferences, neurovascular conferences, and stroke journal clubs
- Attendance at the Western NC StrokeNet regional conferences
- Attendance at national StrokeNet meetings and grand rounds webinars
- Attendance at individual trial start-up and monitoring visits

Milestones:

- Present two Stroke Conference lectures per year at WFBMC
- Design and implementation of at least one research project. Resources are available from the CTSA (Translational Scholar Academy), the StrokeNet, and guidance from the fellowship mentor.

- Submission of at least 2 first-author abstracts during the fellowship year, to national or international conferences, such as the International Stroke Conference, AHA Quality of Care and Outcomes Research, American Academy of Neurology, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, etc.
- Submission of two first-author grant proposals (at least one extramural)

Training Site:

- Wake Forest is a comprehensive stroke center with 6 stroke neurologists and 6 neurocritical care faculty to serve a 21 center Telestroke network, treating over 800 stroke patients annually. We have 3 full time neurointerventional faculty (2 dual-trained neurosurgeons/neurointerventionalists and a neurointerventional radiologist), a dedicated cerebrovascular surgeon, as part of a 12 member neurosurgical faculty. We have 2 neurointerventional biplanar rooms, and a dedicated 20 bed neurointensive care unit.

Didactics:

- The StrokeNet fellow will participate in a wide variety of didactic conferences and lectures. They will be responsible for completing the StrokeNet Curriculum and presenting two didactic lectures on stroke-related topics to the neurology and neurosurgery departments annually.

Conferences:

- Neurovascular Conference (Stroke neurology/Neurosurgery/Neurocritical Care)- monthly
- Stroke Executive Committee- monthly
- Stroke Section Meeting- monthly
- Carotid Case review (Stroke neurology/Neurosurgery/Vascular surgery)- quarterly
- Neurovascular Research meeting- monthly
- Research Statistics lecture- quarterly

Evaluation:

- The StrokeNet fellowship director has primary responsibility for monitoring the competence, research, and academic progress, and milestone accomplishment of the fellow, with close assistance from the Wake Forest Western NC StrokeNet PI. Feedback is provided from neurology and neurosurgery stroke faculty and offered informally throughout the fellowship year. Additionally, formal oral and written performance evaluations are performed semi-annually by and shared with the fellow by the fellowship director.