

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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For patients presenting with signs and symptoms of acute stroke, the window for diagnosis and intervention is narrow and treatment options are often limited. This program is designed to address the challenges in management of acute stroke and to provide the attendees with the essential set of skills for rapid clinical decision-making that is based on the latest advances in cerebrovascular disease. Critical milestones in the management timeline of acute stroke and resources necessary to deliver best practices in stroke care will be outlined. This program will utilize an Audience Response System.

## **Upon completion of the program:**

Participants should be familiar with the latest advances in medical management of acute stroke including the: (a) best practices in selecting patients for thrombolytic and antithrombotic agent use; (b) management of fluctuating neurological exam and hyperacute stroke complications; (c) referral for early endovascular and surgical interventions; and (d) resource utilization (such as TeleStroke and advanced neuroimaging) to guide precision-diagnosis and management options that are known to improve stroke outcomes.

**Current Practice:** For patients presenting with signs and symptoms of acute stroke, the window for diagnosis and intervention is narrow, and treatment options are often limited.

**Best Practice:** In addition to the gold standard therapies, every neurologist must develop an essential skill set for rapid clinical decision-making in acute stroke based on the current explosion of options for diagnosis and treatment in cerebrovascular emergencies, including availability of technical resources such as Telestroke and advanced neuroimaging.

## **Resulting Gaps**

1. Lack of knowledge of appropriate diagnostic testing and treatment options in the acute stage of stroke.
2. Insufficient skill set to incorporate the technical resources and expanding medical management options to prevent early neurological deterioration and to facilitate recovery.
3. Lack of interdisciplinary care integration for optimal acute stroke care.

**Source:** Jauch EC et al. Guidelines for the early management of patients with acute ischemic stroke: a guideline for healthcare professionals from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. *Stroke* 2013; 44(3): 870-947.

Identified barrier: Access to the specialized vascular neurology and stroke care expertise

**Strategy to address barrier:** Education as to maximize the access to expert vascular neurology care and to optimize an essential skill set for rapid clinical decision-making in acute stroke will be provided.