

Dear Colleague:

This is a very exciting time in the field of cerebrovascular disease. The rate of discovery of new diagnostic and therapeutics for stroke has never been greater. Our program emphasizes basic, clinical and translational sciences as they evolve toward a better understanding of stroke pathophysiology with the goal of developing more effective therapies. Stroke systems of care, quality and outcomes are also key parts of the conference.

The International Stroke Conference 2018 provides unique opportunities to meet and network with colleagues from around the world with wide-ranging research interests and expertise in stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. For 2018, we anticipate more than 4,500 professional attendees, as well as exhibitors displaying new stroke products and services. We are truly dedicated to the international nature of this conference with attendees, presenters and faculty coming from all corners of the world.

The 2018 program offers three specialized pre-conference symposia: the State-of-the-Science Stroke Nursing Symposium; the ISC Pre-Conference Symposium I: Stroke in the Real World: There Will Be Blood: Management and Treatment of ICH which will focus on the management and treatment of intracerebral hemorrhage; and the ISC Pre-Conference Symposium II: Stroke in the Lab World: Reversing Stroke Translational Research - Bedside-to-Bench and Back Again. The main days of the ISC include invited symposia; debates; oral scientific abstract presentations; scientific abstract posters; and special lectures on recent advances and state-of-the-science technologies.

The Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing has planned another extraordinary pre-conference symposium. The 2018 symposium program will include topics in: the integration of Mission Lifeline severity-based stroke triage algorithm into stroke systems of care; stroke bundled payment for care improvement at three organizations; evidence-based strategies for preventing stroke and stroke complications; advances in clinical research, practice and quality improvement; and how to facilitate admission, progression and discharge for stroke.

The ISC 2018 Pre-Conference Symposium I: Stroke in the Real World: There Will Be Blood: Management and Treatment of ICH highlights scientific advances in cerebrovascular disease while emphasizing their application in the real world. This year's symposium will focus on the management and treatment of intracerebral hemorrhage including: pre-hospital diagnosis and treatment of ICH; ED stabilization and triage of the ICH patient; toxic clot constituents and cytotoxicity; a debate on minimally invasive surgery; ICU controversies; how to investigate and image vascular lesions in ICH; does size matter in ICH expansion; and amyloid angiopathy and microbleeds. There will also be a series of challenging breakout sessions.

The ISC 2018 Pre-Conference Symposium II: Stroke in the Lab World: Reversing Stroke Translational Research - Bedside-to-Bench and Back Again will explore a new translational research paradigm representing a shift from benchside-to-bedside, to reverse translation - bedside-to-bench. This pre-conference event is designed to address challenges facing traditional "forward-translation" stroke research. This half-day symposium brings together leading researchers who have successfully achieved reverse translation, starting with human samples, and applying cutting-edge big data techniques to identify genes/proteins of relevance. Though reverse translation assures relevance to human disease, how can we leverage traditional bench approaches to truly understand the significance of these findings? We will further explore examples of next steps needed to understand molecular mechanisms implicated by the genes/proteins identified by these new "omic" techniques.

The main days of ISC will have more than 1,500 presentations of exhilarating special symposia, compelling debates and stimulating abstract presentations which will focus on numerous topics from 21 stroke-related categories. Sessions in clinical categories will center on community risk factors; emergency care; acute neuroimaging; acute endovascular and acute nonendovascular treatment; diagnosis of stroke etiology; cerebral large artery disease; in-hospital treatment; clinical rehabilitation and recovery; and health services, quality improvement, and patient-centered outcomes. Sessions in basic science categories focus on vascular biology in health and disease; basic and preclinical neuroscience of stroke recovery; and experimental mechanisms and models. Further specialized topics include pediatric stroke; intracerebral hemorrhage; nursing; preventive strategies; vascular cognitive impairment; aneurysms; subarachnoid hemorrhage; neurocritical care; vascular malformations; and ongoing clinical trials.

This year, not only will you have the opportunity to experience exceptional education and network with more than 4,500 cerebrovascular research and practice experts from around the globe, you will also have the chance to experience the excitement and lively hot spots of Lost Angeles, California!

Thank you for joining us for this exceptional and illuminating event. For the most current conference and programming information, please download the ISC Mobile Meeting Guide app or visit [strokeconference.org](http://strokeconference.org) and the online program planner. And don't forget to mark your calendar for ISC 2019, February 6 – 8, 2019 in beautiful Honolulu, Hawaii!

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*Chair, International Stroke Conference 2018 Program Committee*