## Wake Forest Baptist Health Named as Newest StrokeNet Site



Dr. Bushnell



Dr. Duncan



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Drs. Cheryl Bushnell, Pamela Duncan, and Stacey Wolfe are excited to announce that Wake Forest has been named the newest U24 Regional Clinical Center for StrokeNet, a program funded by National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). StrokeNet is a network of 25 regional stroke centers working with nearby satellite facilities that span the country. The program's primary goal is to have teams of researchers representing every medical specialty needed for stroke care and to maximize efficiencies to develop, promote and conduct high-quality, multi-site clinical trials focused on key interventions in stroke prevention, treatment and recovery.

Wake Forest Baptist Health has partnered with 3 sites to develop the Western North Carolina (NC) StrokeNet. Our network includes 4 of the 6 comprehensive stroke centers in NC, the heart of the Stroke Belt: Wake Forest Baptist Health (RCC). Novant Forsyth Medical Center, Novant Presbyterian, and Mission Health. The referral and telestroke outreach of our network includes the Piedmont region and nearly all of NC west of the Piedmont, and part of southern Virginia, over 4 million individuals, 16,800 square miles, and over 4,000 stroke patients admitted to these hospitals per year.

The aims of the WFBH StrokeNet are 1) successfully implement StrokeNet trials in the Piedmont Triad and Western NC and design new stroke treatment trials: 2) Implement a novel approach for recruitment, retention, and outcome ascertainment through 2a) existing telemedicine networks for recruitment and outcome ascertainment; and 2b) Creating the Western NC Advocacy Committee that will include patient advocates, patients, EMS providers, and clinicians to establish best strategies for community engagement; and 3) Develop community outreach programs to engage rural and urban communities in our referral region in StrokeNet trials.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ WFBH Named StrokeNet Site
- > In the News
- Achievements
- ▶ Announcements
- Funding and Awards
- Events and Speaking Engagements
- Publications

