

## **Top UM Neurologist Dr. Ralph L. Sacco Named Editor of the AHA's Prestigious *Stroke* Journal**

*Announcement coincided with the recent International Stroke Conference (ISC) 2020 where several University of Miami stroke experts contributed to dozens of scientific sessions*

Fifty years ago, the American Heart Association's (AHA) journal *Stroke* was conceived as the most comprehensive publication in cerebrovascular disease. Now, it's the premier journal in the field focused on stroke and cerebrovascular health.

A luminary stroke neurologist and researcher, Ralph L. Sacco, M.D., M.S., professor and chair of neurology and the Olemberg Family Chair of Neurological Disorders at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, has been named as incoming editor-in-chief of *Stroke*. The announcement coincided with the recent International Stroke Conference (ISC) held February 19-21, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, where Dr. Sacco and other UM/Miller School stroke experts played a prominent role.

As the new editor-elect for *Stroke*, Dr. Sacco expressed his excitement to take the reins in mid-2020. "I am honored and excited to succeed Marc's (Dr. Fisher's) incredible tenure as editor-in-chief. We have an outstanding foundation to build upon to move *Stroke* into the next decade," said Dr. Sacco. "Our mission will be to drive innovative interdisciplinary research, influence patient care and enhance our understanding of disorders of the cerebral circulation while striving to be an indispensable, inspiring and trusted source of high-quality scientific knowledge for all disciplines. We are expanding the editorial team and have many ideas for broadening the impact of *Stroke* on our field."

The latest version of *Stroke* celebrates the journal's 50<sup>th</sup> year with five special manuscripts, including Dr. Sacco's detailed vision as editor-in-chief, "[Stroke Vision 2020: Creating a Roadmap for the Next Decade.](#)" Additional resources on this topic can be found [here](#).

In other related celebratory news, Dr. Sacco was given the [inaugural American Stroke Association \(ASA\) Edgar J. Kenton III Lecture Award](#) in recognition of his lifetime contributions to the field of stroke disparities, during the ISC Pre-Conference Symposium III, "[HEADS-UP: Health Equity and Actionable Disparities in Stroke: Understanding and Problem-solving.](#)"

As a sought-out expert in the field, Dr. Sacco's perspective on notable new research presented at the conference can be read in several recent news articles, including:

- CNN: "[Another win for optimism! Recovery after stroke](#)"
- MedPage Today: "[A Tale of Two Strokes: Hemorrhagic Cases Getting Left Behind](#)"
- MedPage Today: "[Out of the Basement: Early Results Promising for Portable MRI](#)"
- Medscape: "[Shingles Vaccine Linked to Lower Stroke Risk](#)"

### ***Additional highlights of the UM's stroke neurology team at the ISC***

Faculty, fellows and students of the Department of Neurology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine contributed to over 40 symposia, panels, presentations and posters at this year's ISC, with

topics ranging from national disparities in stroke care to nuances in stroke prevention in the elderly and optimizing endovascular treatment in stroke patients.

In particular, several women from the [UM Stroke Division](#) were invited speakers this year, which has special significance given the recent research [published on the underrepresentation of women neurologists at ISC](#).

Hannah Gardener, Sc.D., assistant scientist, Department of Neurology, presented [new research](#) from the Northern Manhattan Study (NOMAS), which showed greater stroke incidence in blacks and Hispanics, including those over age 70. The research was simultaneously published in *Stroke*. In addition to being featured in the [AHA Newsroom](#), several media outlets wrote about the study, such as: [HealthDay](#), [NeuroNews International](#), [Healio/Cardiology Today](#) and more.

"It's important for everyone to know their stroke risk factors, take their prescribed medications and make lifestyle changes that can reduce their risk," Dr. Gardener stated. "Risk factor management starting at or before middle age is key in reducing stroke risk, especially among blacks and Hispanics who are at increased risk."

Erika Marulanda-Londono, M.D., a Miller School stroke neurologist and assistant professor of clinical neurology, was honored at the conference with the late-breaking Bernard J Tyson Career Development Award and presented new research from the Florida Stroke Registry titled "[Variation in Acute Ischemic Stroke Metrics for Nationally Certified versus Self-Attested Comprehensive Stroke Centers in the Florida Stroke Registry](#)." The Florida Stroke Registry is a statewide initiative, led by stroke neurologists and researchers at UM/Miller School's Department of Neurology, which pools data from hospitals participating in the AHA's "Get with The Guidelines – Stroke" quality improvement program with a goal to reduce disparities in the local hospitals.

Dr. Negar Asdaghi, MD, assistant professor, Stroke Division, participated in a lively debate sharing her perspective on perfusion imaging during an ASA and Stroke Society of Australasia joint symposium entitled, "[Time Is Brain Is Dead: Only Dead Brain Is Dead](#)." She also shared her view with [Neurology Live](#) (article pending).

Additionally, Dr. Asdaghi gave an invited talk titled "[The New Frontiers in Thrombolysis of Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke \(Symposia; 25th anniversary of the NINDS tPA trial\) - Thrombolysis in Patients with Minor, Non-disabling Symptoms](#)," moderated the session, "[Optimizing EVT](#)," and presented the poster, "[Outcomes of Endovascular Thrombectomy in Late-presenting Patients: Findings From the Florida Stroke Registry](#)".

Dr. Nicole Sur, M.D., assistant professor of clinical neurology, Department of Neurology, Stroke Division, discussed ways to improve stroke prevention in the elderly in an invited talk titled "[Improving Stroke Prevention in the Elderly: A Challenge for the Next Decade](#)." She also presented three posters:

- [Poor Atrial Fibrillation Management Leads to Unnecessary Thrombectomies in Elderly Patients](#)
- [The Safety and Outcomes of Endovascular Thrombectomy in Stroke Patients on Oral Anticoagulation: The Florida Stroke Registry](#)
- [Factors Associated with Oral Anticoagulant Non-Use for Patients with Atrial Fibrillation-Related Stroke: The Florida Puerto Rico Atrial Fibrillation Stroke Study](#)

Of note, two of our vice-chairs attended and significantly contributed to the conference.

As chair of the International Stroke Conference 2020 Program Committee, Miguel Perez-Pinzon, Ph.D., professor of neurology and neuroscience, Vice-Chair for Basic Science (Neurology), and director, Cerebral Vascular Disease Research Laboratories at the Miller School, provided previews and commentary surrounding many of the scientific sessions. Video highlights can be found [here](#).

Dr. Jose G. Romano, M.D., professor of clinical neurology, Vice-Chair of Clinical Affairs, Chief, Stroke Division, presented the results of the MyRIAD study, "[Mechanisms of Early Recurrence in Intracranial Atherosclerotic Disease \(MyRIAD\) Study: Participants, Clinical and Imaging Outcomes](#)," which was designed to identify mechanisms of ischemia and predictors of recurrence in intracranial atherosclerotic disease (ICAD), a common cause of stroke.

To help support up-and-coming stroke experts, Dr. Amer Malik, M.D., M.B.A., assistant professor of clinical neurology, Stroke Division, provided words of wisdom on life beyond residency at the "Fellow and Early Career Mentoring Luncheon."

UM fellows and students, several from the stroke division, contributed to poster presentations, including:

- [Race-Ethnic Disparities in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Outcomes](#) - Antonio Bustillo, et al.
- [The Association Between Aortic Arterial Stiffness, Carotid Intima-Media Thickness and Carotid Plaques in Community-Dwelling Older Adults. A Population-Based Study \(the Atahualpa Project\)](#) - Victor J Del Brutto, et al.
- [Prevalence of Subclinical Extracranial Carotid Atherosclerosis Detected by Ultrasound Among Amerindians: A Population Study in Rural Ecuador](#) - Victor J Del Brutto, et al.
- [Predictive Scoring System to Differentiate Acute Ischemic Stroke from Stroke Mimic During Code Stroke Evaluation](#) - Mausaminben Hathidara, et al.
- [Factors Associated with Imaging and Endovascular Therapy Decisions for Mild Ischemic Stroke: An International Survey](#) - Nastajjia A Krementz, et al.
- [Radiographic Characteristics of Mild Ischemic Stroke Patients with Visible Intracranial Occlusion: Data from the INTERSeCT Multi-Center Prospective Imaging Study](#) - Hsien Lee Lau, et al.
- [Longer Procedure Time in General Anesthesia versus Conscious Sedation During Mechanical Thrombectomy for Large Vessel Occlusion Ischemic Stroke](#) - Vasu Saini, et al.
- [Radiological and Symptomatic Hemorrhagic Transformation Post Endovascular Thrombectomy for Both Anterior and Posterior Large Vessel Occlusion Ischemic Stroke - Insights from STAR Collaboration](#) - Vasu Saini, et al.

The UM's stroke neurology team is looking forward to providing additional research updates and perspective at the conference next year in Denver! #ISC21

The [American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference](#) (ISC) is the world's premier meeting dedicated to the science of stroke and brain health. This year's conference featured more than 1,600 compelling scientific presentations in 21 categories that emphasize basic, clinical and translational science for health care professionals and researchers.