Timely delivery of the most effective stroke treatments is essential. When caring for a stroke patient, time saved is brain saved: 1.9 million neurons die during each minute a stroke goes untreated, according to the American Stroke Association.

The award-winning UVA Stroke Team partners with community hospitals throughout the region to provide extensive care for stroke patients — 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Using telehealth technology, our specialists support community healthcare providers on the front lines of stroke care.

The result of this partnership is better access to treatment with improved patient outcomes, and fewer stroke-related fatalities and disabilities. In 2015, we provided more than 350 consultations through our Telestroke and phone support systems.

- UVA Health System is designated as a Primary Stroke Center by the American Heart Association (AHA) and American Stroke Association (ASA), a distinction we’ve carried since 2007.
- UVA received two awards from the AHA and ASA in 2016: Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold Plus Achievement Award and Target: Stroke Honor Roll-Elite, indicating that patients at UVA receive care that meets the latest care guidelines.

Specialized Stroke Support

A partnership with the UVA Telestroke program provides community hospitals and patients with enhanced patient care and improved economics through advanced emergency department and inpatient neurological support.

Our experienced Telestroke team supports community hospitals through:

- Providing urgent medical assessments to determine the likelihood and severity of a stroke and the best course of treatment, with access to evidence-based treatments, including IV thrombolytics and innovative clot retrieval procedures
- Facilitating bed transfers to the UVA Neuro ICU and Stroke Unit for acute stroke patients when needed and providing ongoing neurologic consultation when transfer is not necessary
- Communicating directly with the patient and their family once the patient is stabilized: explaining the clinical evaluation, treatment options and prognosis and allowing ample time to answer questions and address concerns, reducing the burden on the community hospital staff
- Emergent consultations for all neurological subspecialties
- Providing specialized online and on-site training to help providers and their patients quickly recognize the signs and symptoms of stroke, saving valuable time.
Endovascular Therapy: Blood clot removal during stroke

In a minimally invasive procedure, called a thrombectomy, UVA interventional neuroradiologists and endovascular neurosurgeons remove the blood clot causing a stroke, ending the stroke as soon as possible.

- UVA participated in the initial IMS-3 clinical trial for this technique.
- UVA has a long history of leading-edge stroke research, participating in PROACT, a phase II randomized trial of recombinant pro-urokinase by direct arterial delivery in acute middle cerebral artery stroke. This trial, which took place in the 1990s under the leadership of site principal investigator Mary (Lee) Jensen, MD, was the first and only randomized trial for more than a decade to illustrate the benefit of intra-arterial therapy for stroke.
- Karen Johnston, MD, chair of UVA Department of Neurology, co-authored the 2015 American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Guideline for endovascular stroke therapy.

Building on 20 years of experience in the use of advanced technologies and broadband communications, the UVA Center for Telehealth works to facilitate access to specialty medical care and support the mission of UVA Health System to advance clinical service, teaching, research and public service.

Our Stroke Team

Our Stroke Team is available around the clock to meet the needs of our partner hospitals. This team includes physicians who are board-certified in vascular neurology, endovascular neurosurgeons, interventional neuroradiologists, neurocritical neurologists and neuro-specific trained nurses.

Nicole Chiota-McCollum, MD
Vascular and General Neurology
Avery Evans, MD
Interventional Neuroradiology
Mary (Lee) Jensen, MD
Interventional Neuroradiology
Karen Johnston, MD, MSc
Vascular and General Neurology
Kenneth Liu, MD
Vascular Neurological Surgery
David McCollum, MD
Inpatient Neurology
Barnett Nathan, MD
Critical Care Neurology
Javier Provenccio, MD
Critical Care Neurology