Washington Regional Medical Center
Advances in Neurovascular and Trauma Care Agenda
August 14, 2026

7:30– 8:00 **Continental Breakfast & Connecting**

8:00 – 8:15 **Welcome / Opening Remarks – Kasha Pinkerton, MSN, RN, SCRN, CNL-BC**
Director of Quality and Research

8:15 – 8:45 **A Time Bomb in the Brain**
Brandon Evans, MD
Neurosurgeon at Washington Regional Brain and Spine Surgery Clinic

Objective:
- Discuss the diagnosis, treatment, and complications of aneurysms

8:45 - 9:15 **More Than Meets the CT: The Hospitalist's Role in Trauma and Stroke Care**
Trey Becton, MD
Hospitalist at Washington Regional Medical Center

Objectives:
- Identify the most common inpatient complications in stroke and trauma patients
- Review major chronic comorbidities that impact stroke and trauma patients including hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease
- Discuss management of anticoagulation and antiplatelet agents as well as the prevention and treatment of venous thromboembolism in stroke and trauma patients

9:15 - 9:45 **2026 Stroke Guideline Update: Advancements in Acute Care**
Jay Hinkle, MD
Neurologist at Washington Regional Medical Center

Objectives:
- Evaluate recent updates in stroke systems of care and prehospital management
- Identify patients who are eligible for IV thrombolytics in extended time window
- Analyze updates in endovascular thrombectomy for acute ischemic stroke
- Describe recent research in dual antiplatelet therapy for stroke or transient ischemic attack

9:45 – 10:00 **BREAK**

10:00 - 10:30 **Disaster Preparedness**
Peter Fischer, MD
Medical Director of Washington Regional's Trauma Center

Objectives:
- Define mass casualty and surge principles and describe how they apply to trauma system response at the hospital and regional level
- Review current trauma system capabilities and gaps in Arkansas, including coordination between EMS, rural facilities, and trauma centers
- Identify strategies to optimize surge capacity, including staffing models, resource allocation, and use of simulation or regional partnerships
- Apply practical frameworks for real-time decision-making during mass casualty events, including triage, transfer coordination, and maintaining standards of care under stress

10:30 – 11:00 **Stroke in Pregnancy**
Alexis McCollum, MD
OB/GYN at Washington Regional HerHealth Clinic

Objectives:
- Recognize risk factors and presentation of stroke in pregnancy
- Understand diagnostic and treatment options utilized in the pregnant and lactating patient
- Demonstrate risk mitigation prior to pregnancy and in early pregnancy

11:00 - 11:30 **Prehospital Assessment and Management of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**
Grant Wilson, EMT/Paramedic
Paramedic at Arkansas EMS

Objectives:
- Identify key findings in the pre-hospital assessment of TBI
- Discuss appropriate airway and ventilation management strategies
- Review evidence-based pre-hospital interventions to optimize cerebral perfusion
- Determine appropriate destination and transport decisions

11:30 – 12:15 **LUNCH BREAK (LUNCH PROVIDED)**

12:15 – 12:45 **The Courage to Question: Safety Culture in High-Risk Care**
Merri Roy, MS, RN, NI-BC, NPD-BC, CPHIMS and Mariah Biven, MSN, RN, CPHQ
Manager of Quality and Patient Safety and Clinical Quality Analyst

Objectives:
- Define the key elements of a highly reliable safety culture
- Recognize the early warning signs of safety breakdowns in high-risk settings
- Understand strategies that produce psychological safety
- Identify common cognitive biases that contribute to diagnostic and treatment errors in acute care

12:45 – 2:00 **BREAKOUT SESSION – Life in the Fast Lane**

FAST in the Field: Prehospital Ultrasound
Jessica Ragland, BSN, RN, CFRN, EMT
Air Evac Flight Nurse

Objectives:
- Identify common pre-hospital applications of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS)
- Describe how field ultrasound findings can influence patient management and transport decisions
- Recognize the benefits and limitations of pre-hospital ultrasound

VAN-Training of Emergency Medical Services to Improve Stroke Outcomes in Northwest Arkansas
Mary Rhinehart
MD Candidate UAMS – Northwest Class of 2027

Objectives:
- Discuss the reliability of VAN tool as administered by Emergency Medical Services personnel to predict presence of a large vessel occlusion in setting of cerebral ischemic infarction
- Understand the effect of the VAN tool to predict patients eligible for thrombolysis
- Understand the effect of the VAN tool to predict patients eligible for thrombectomy

Common Orthopedic Injuries and Management in the ER
Burdge Green, MD
Emergency Medicine Physician at Washington Regional Medical Center

Objectives:
- Identify common orthopedic injuries encountered in the emergency department
- Distinguish injuries that require emergent intervention vs. urgent or routine follow-up
- Recognize frequently performed orthopedic procedures in the ER
- Understand disposition decisions, including admission, operative consultation, and safe discharge criteria

12:45 – 2:00 **BREAKOUT SESSION – Taking Action - Case Scenarios**

Beyond the Textbook: Unique Acute Stroke Presentations Every Clinician Should Recognize
Jennifer Bonner, DNP, AGACNP, ANVP-BC
Stroke Program Nurse Practitioner at Washington Regional Medical Center

Objectives:
- Identify atypical acute stroke presentations through real world case examples
- Discuss rapid clinical decision making to optimize diagnosis and acute management of complex stroke cases

Massive Transfusion Protocol (MTP)
Brittany Berryman, RN
Trauma Educator at Washington Regional's Trauma Center

Objectives:
- Identify indications for activating MTP
- Describe key components of MTP, including balanced blood product resuscitation, rapid blood product administration, and use of adjuncts such as TXA
- Define roles and coordination of the resuscitation team
- Evaluate patient response to MTP and complications such as coagulopathy and hypothermia

Streamlining Trauma Care: Arkansas Trauma Communications Center
Jeff Tabor NRP, B.S., FACPE
Program Manager Arkansas Trauma Communications Center

Objectives:
- Describe the role and function of Arkansas Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) in coordinating trauma patient placement, transfers, and communication between EMS agencies and hospitals across the state
- Explain how ATCC improves trauma system efficiency through real-time resource management, trauma center status updates, and streamlined communication
- Discuss the impact of ATCC on the trauma patients of Arkansas

2:00 – 2:15 **BREAK**

2:15 – 2:45 **Paroxysmal Sympathetic Hyperactivity**
Lindsey Barnes, MD
Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician at Fayetteville Diagnostic Clinic

Objectives:

- Describe the pathophysiology and epidemiology of the disease process
- Identify appropriate diagnostic approaches and criteria
- Examine medical and supportive management strategies

2:45 – 3:15 **Blunt Chest Wall Trauma: Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies**
Abigail Deeds, MD
Surgeon at Washington Regional General Surgery Clinic

Objectives:

- Define traumatic chest wall trauma and its impact on patients, especially in the geriatric population
- Explain treatment modalities for blunt chest wall trauma, including nonoperative and operative strategies

3:15 – 3:30 **Closing Remarks**

6 CME Hours