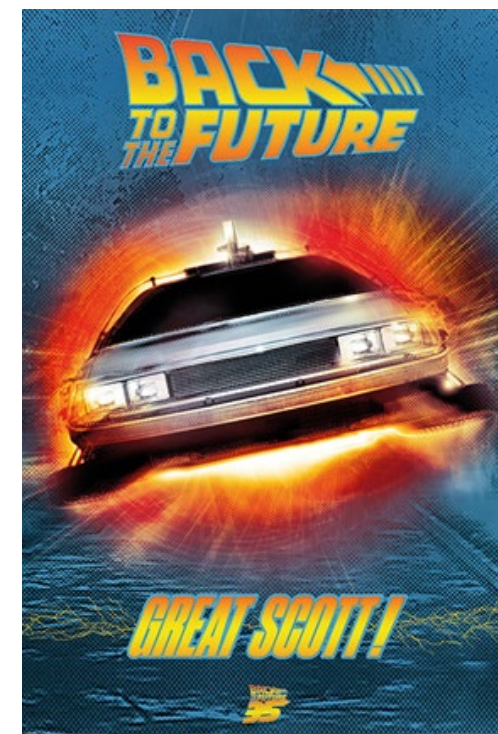


# NINDS UPDATE

Scott Janis, PhD, MA

NINDS Perspective: What we have  
learned from the past to help us  
guide our future



# NINDS StrokeNet TEAM



Clint Wright, M.D., M.S., FAAN, FAHA  
Director  
Division of Clinical Research



Scott Janis, Ph.D., M.A.  
Program Director  
Division of Clinical Research  
**StrokeNet Program Scientist**



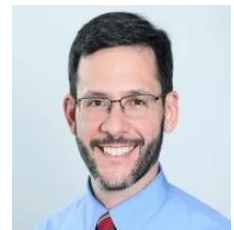
Marian Afzal, B.A.  
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Division of Clinical Research  
**StrokeNet Program Official**



Richard Benson, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Global Health  
And Health Disparities  
Division of Clinical Research  
**Program Scientist DEI CORE**



Carlos Faraco, Ph.D.  
Program Director  
Division of Clinical Research  
**Program Scientist CAPTIVA MRI/  
Telerehab 2**



Adam Hartman, M.D.  
Program Director  
Division of Clinical Research  
**Program Scientist FOCAS**

## *StrokeNet DSMB*



Lina Garcia, M.D.  
Clinical Coordinator  
Division of Clinical Research  
**StrokeNet DSMB I Liaison**



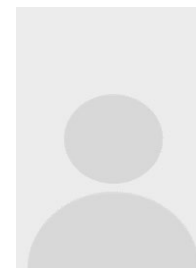
Kevin Jones, Ph.D.  
Health Program Specialist  
Division of Clinical Research  
**StrokeNet DSMB II Liaison**



Marcy Pape, PT,DPT  
Health Program Specialist  
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**StrokeNet STEP DSMB Liaison**



Alva Recinos, M.D.  
Health Program Specialist  
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**StrokeNet Fogarty Expert**



Sean McCarthy, RN, MS  
Clinical Research Project Manager  
Division of Clinical Research

## *SPAN Program*



Francesca Bosetti, PhD  
Program Director  
Division of Neuroscience

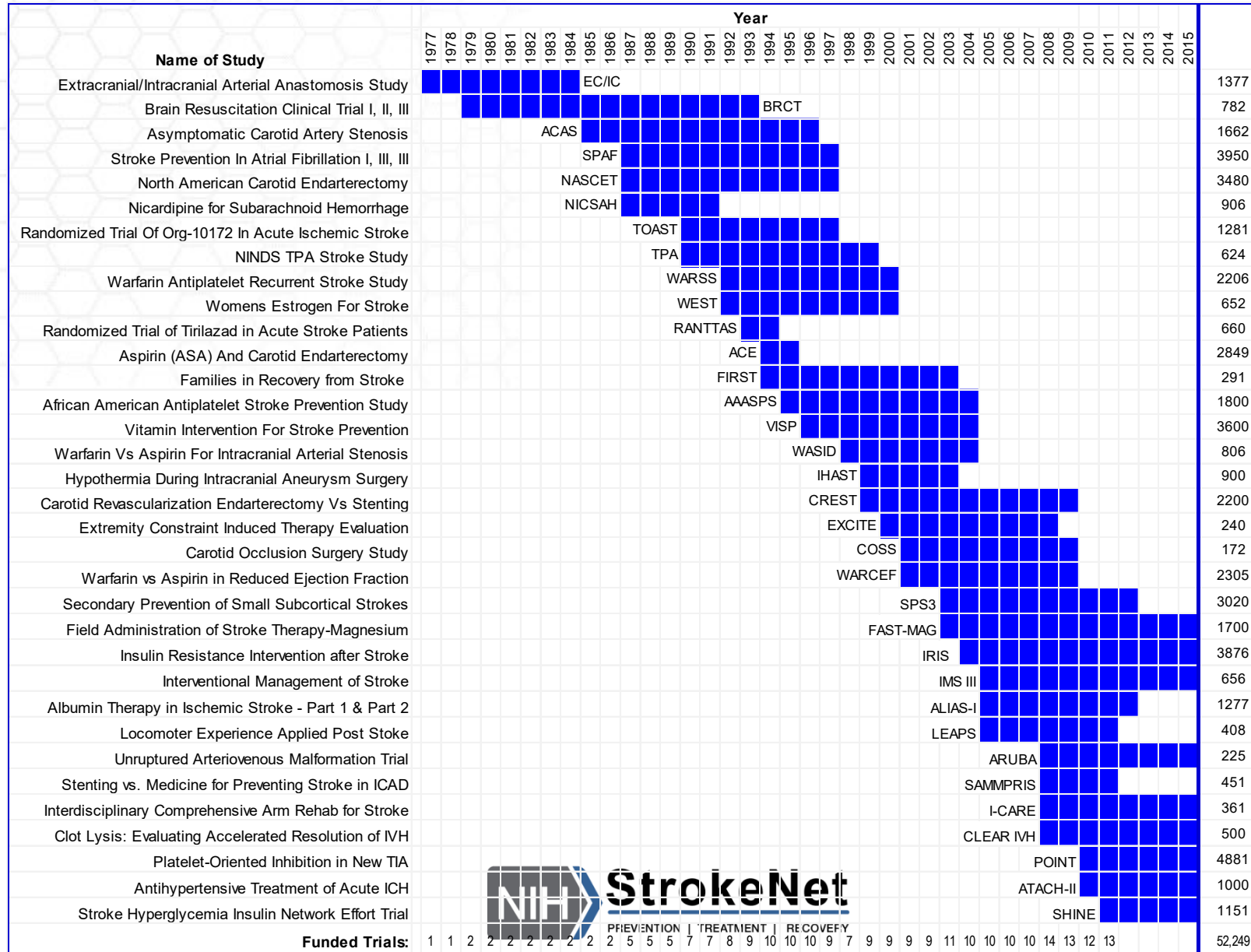


Sandra Hewett, PhD  
Program Director  
Division of Neuroscience



Jim Koenig, PhD  
Program Director  
Division of Neuroscience

# Major Clinical Trials in Stroke 1977-2011





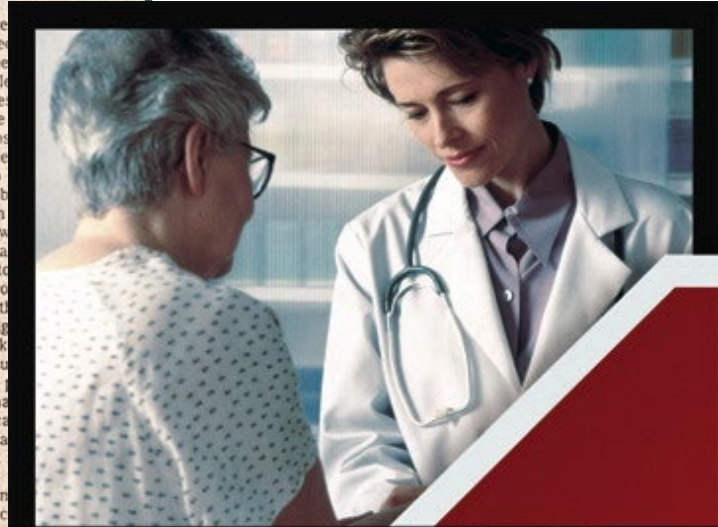
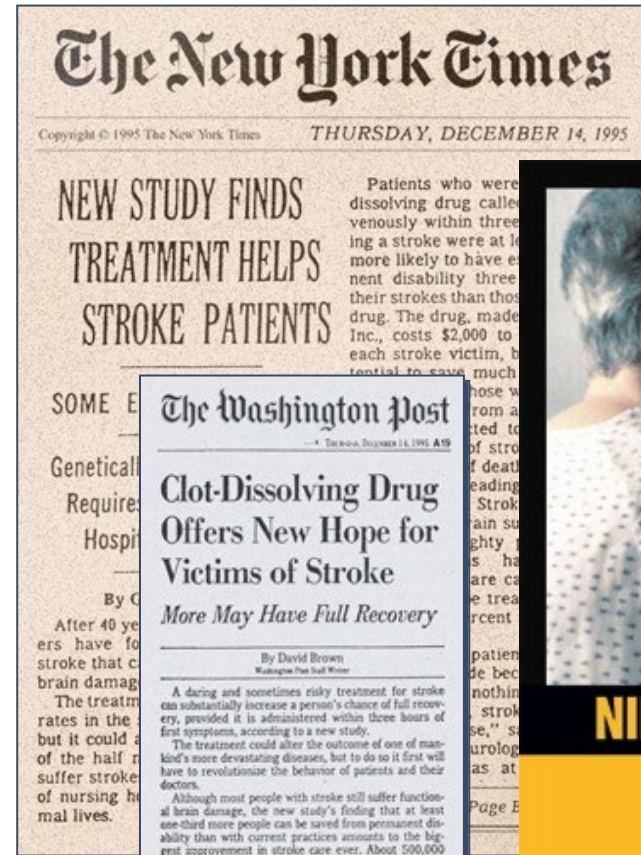
# Getting NINDS Trials Started

---

- The Extracranial - Intracranial Bypass Trial
  - Started 1977
  - Ended 1984
  - Pivotal event in history of stroke clinical trials
  - Established that the stroke community could tackle very difficult questions and get answers that would be accepted and applied in practice
  - Set high standards of performance
- Brain Resuscitation Clinical Trial
  - Emergency consent

# The Stroke Master Agreement

- Pilot studies
- Led to three trials
  - TOAST
  - NCSAH
  - **NINDS TPA Study**
- NIH Stroke Scale
- 50 center network



**NIH Stroke Scale Training**



# Report of the Stroke Progress Review Group - April 2002

## Stroke Priorities for the 21st Century



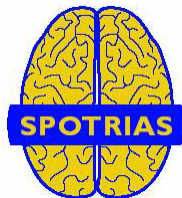
During the Presidentially designated Decade of the Brain—1990 to 2000—scientists made outstanding progress in improving our understanding of stroke, also called “brain attack.” Stroke is the leading cause of death in the United States, a major cause of long-term disability, and a significant health problem worldwide.

Scientists are improving our understanding of differences in stroke incidence and outcomes among various populations. We are learning how to prevent stroke and how to best treat stroke. We are learning how to best care for stroke survivors and how to best prevent stroke in the future.

- Develop regional stroke center networks that will improve information-sharing and collaboration among health care providers, both regionally and nationally.

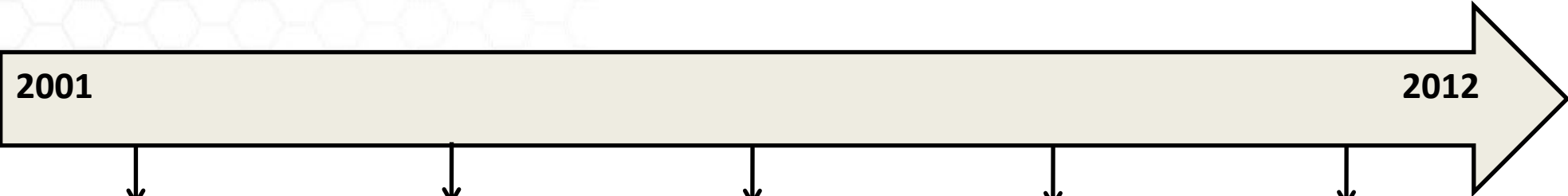
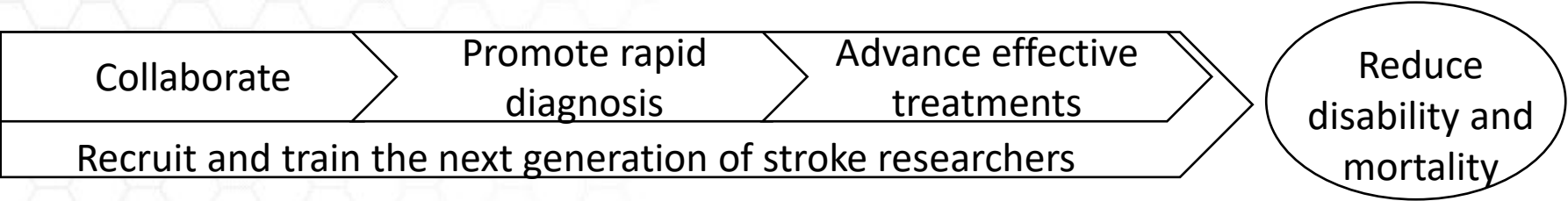
**SPOTRIAS.** In May 2001, NINDS initiated the SPOTRIAS, to facilitate translation of basic research findings into clinical practice in settings where patients with acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke are evaluated and treated very rapidly after onset of their symptoms. Broader goals of this program include career development opportunities for new investigators, sharing of human tissue resources, and encouragement of collaborations among investigators across institutions.

Research on stroke is among the top priorities of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, a component of the Federal government's National Institutes of Health.



# SPOTRIAS aimed to promote new therapeutic approaches for acute stroke

## Conceptual model for SPOTRIAS



2002

2003

2004

2006

2008

Centers:





# Building a team

## 2008 Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Stroke Team

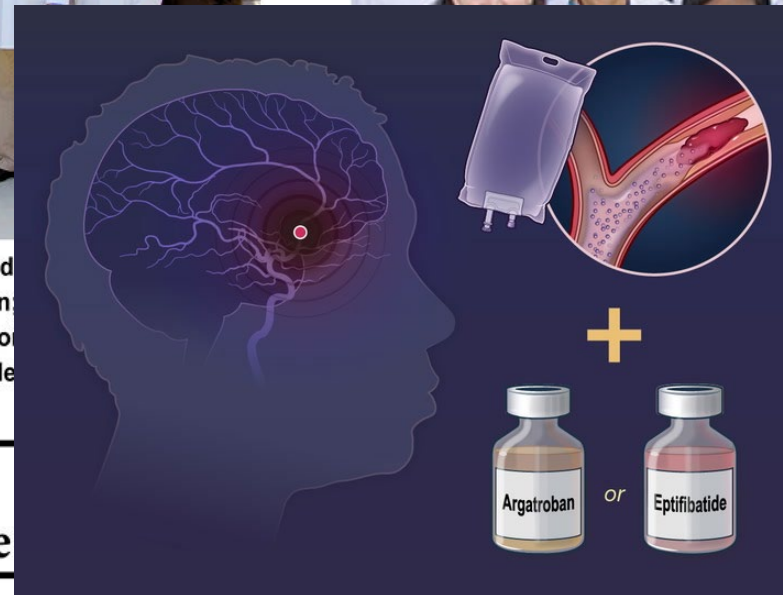
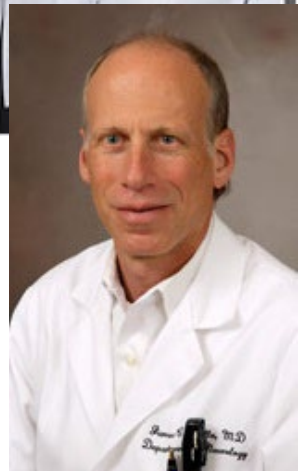


Front Row: Aigang Lu; Pooja Khatri; Jeanne Sester; Jenny Osborne; Dan Woo; Dawn Kleind  
Joe Broderick; Matt Flaherty; Joe Clark; Brett Kissela; Ed Jauch; Kathy Franklin  
Back Row: Diana Oberschmidt; Alisha Hodge; Mary Haverbusch; Kathy Alwell; Charlie Moo  
Janice Carrozzella; Angela Merritt; Irene Ewing; Pam Schmit; Liz Venn; Jane Eile  
Julie Brock; Bonnie Combs; Elaine Miller; Judy Spilker



College

## University of Texas-Houston Stroke Center





# Building a team

## UCSD Stroke Center



## UCLA Stroke Center





# Building a team

NINDS Intramural



**Partners Stroke Team**



**Columbia University Medical Center**



**Washington University stroke center**

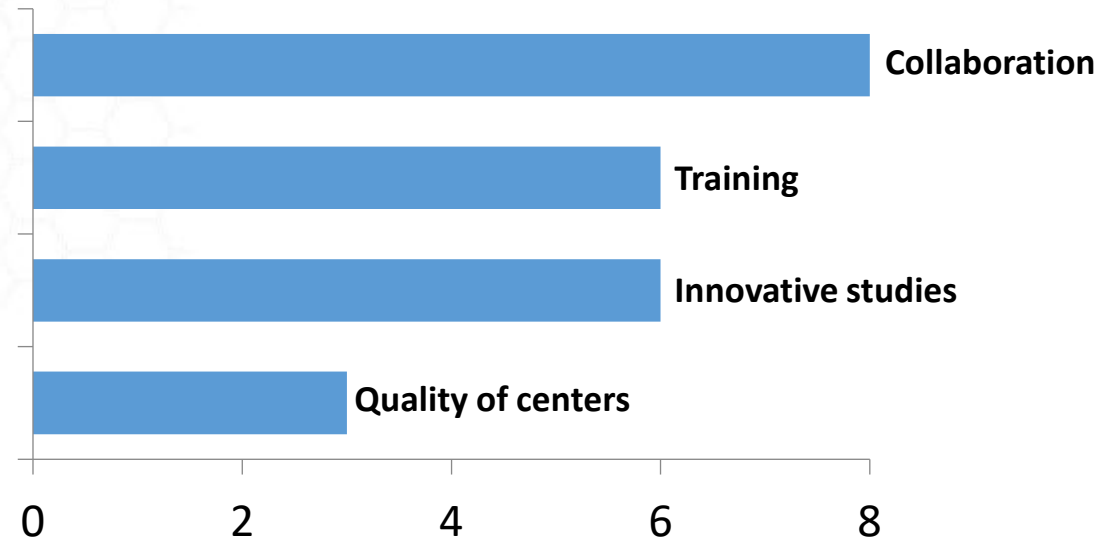


# Collaboration was a clear strength of the SPOTRIAS program

## Top listed strengths of SPOTRIAS

### Methodology

- Asked interviewees to list the top three strengths of SPOTRIAS
- Answers that were stated two or more times were included in analysis

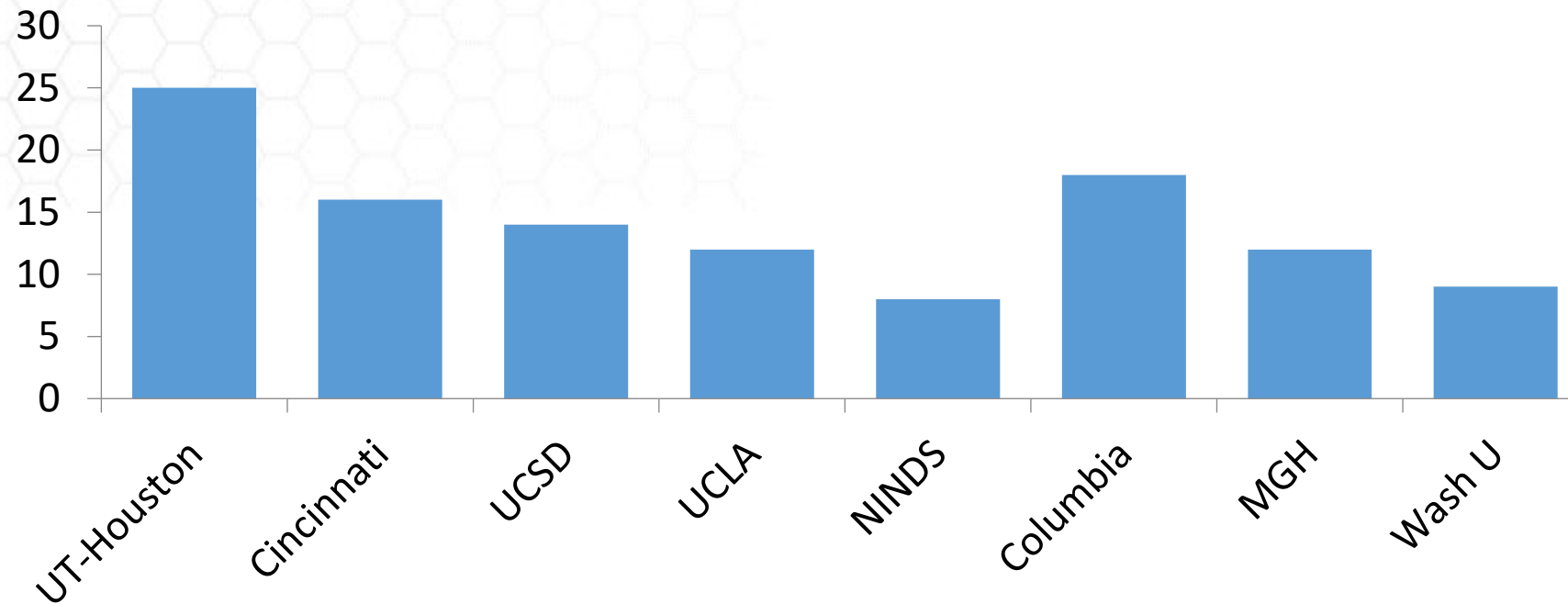


The SPOTRIAS collaboration requirement “changed the culture” of research across departments and institutions



# SPOTRIAS centers have trained the next generation of stroke researchers

Number of total fellowship trained researchers from each SPOTRIAS center\*

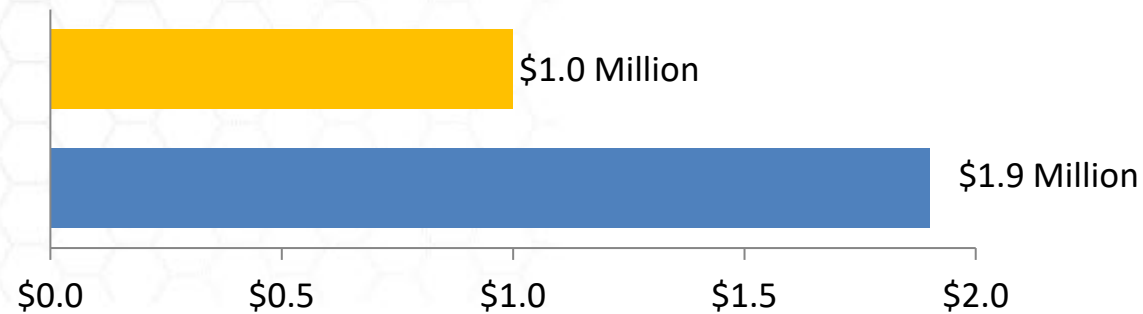


\*Centers listed by date of entry into the SPOTRIAS program

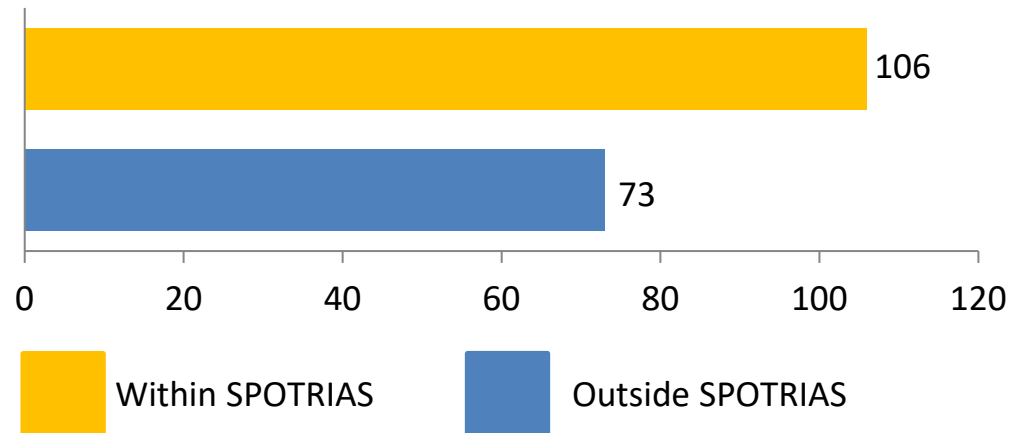
Source: <http://www.spotrias.org/training/>, accessed July 17, 2012

# Funded SPOTRIAS clinical trials tended to have smaller requested budgets than NINDS trials outside SPOTRIAS

**Average budget direct costs (requested)**



**Average enrollment**



# Beginning of a Stroke Network

Washington  
University in St. Louis

UIC Health

PARTNERS<sup>TM</sup>  
HEALTHCARE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL CENTER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
NEUROLOGICAL  
DISORDERS AND STROKE

UCLA Health System

UC San Diego  
HEALTH SYSTEM



UTHealth<sup>TM</sup>  
NIH StrokeNet  
PREVENTION | TREATMENT | RECOVERY



# Stroke Research Priorities Meeting 2012

## Research Priority Setting

### A Summary of the 2012 NINDS Stroke Planning Meeting Report

Barbara G. Vickrey, MD, MPH; Thomas G. Brott, MD; on behalf of the Stroke Research Priorities Meeting Steering Committee and the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council; Walter J. Koroshetz, MD; on behalf of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

#### Prevention

- 1) Prevention of Vascular Cognitive Impairment (VCI)
- 2) Imaging Biomarkers in Stroke Prevention: From Bench to Bedside
- 3) Expediting High Priority Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Trials in Stroke Prevention

#### Treatment

- 1) Preclinical and Clinical Studies to Improve Early Reperfusion Therapy and Establish Limitations of Late Reperfusion Therapy
- 2) Preclinical and Clinical Studies to Achieve Robust Brain Protection
- 3) Expand and Integrate Existing Stroke Trial Networks to Accelerate Translation

#### Recovery

- 1) Translational Research Using Neural Interface Devices for Stroke and Other Neurologic Disorders
- 2) Program for Translational Research Targeting Early Recovery after Stroke in Humans

#### Cross-cutting

Accelerate the Translation of Stroke Research in Preclinical Animal Models into Clinical Studies of Highly Promising Treatments

# The NINDS Stroke Clinical Trial Network (NIH StrokeNet)

Infrastructure established in 2013; renewed in 2018 and 2023

## Goals:

- Maximize efficiencies to develop and conduct a balanced portfolio of high-quality, multi-site phase 1, 2 and 3 clinical trials in stroke prevention, treatment, and recovery
  - Includes biomarker validation and ancillary studies to StrokeNet trials
- Educate future stroke researchers

## Infrastructure:

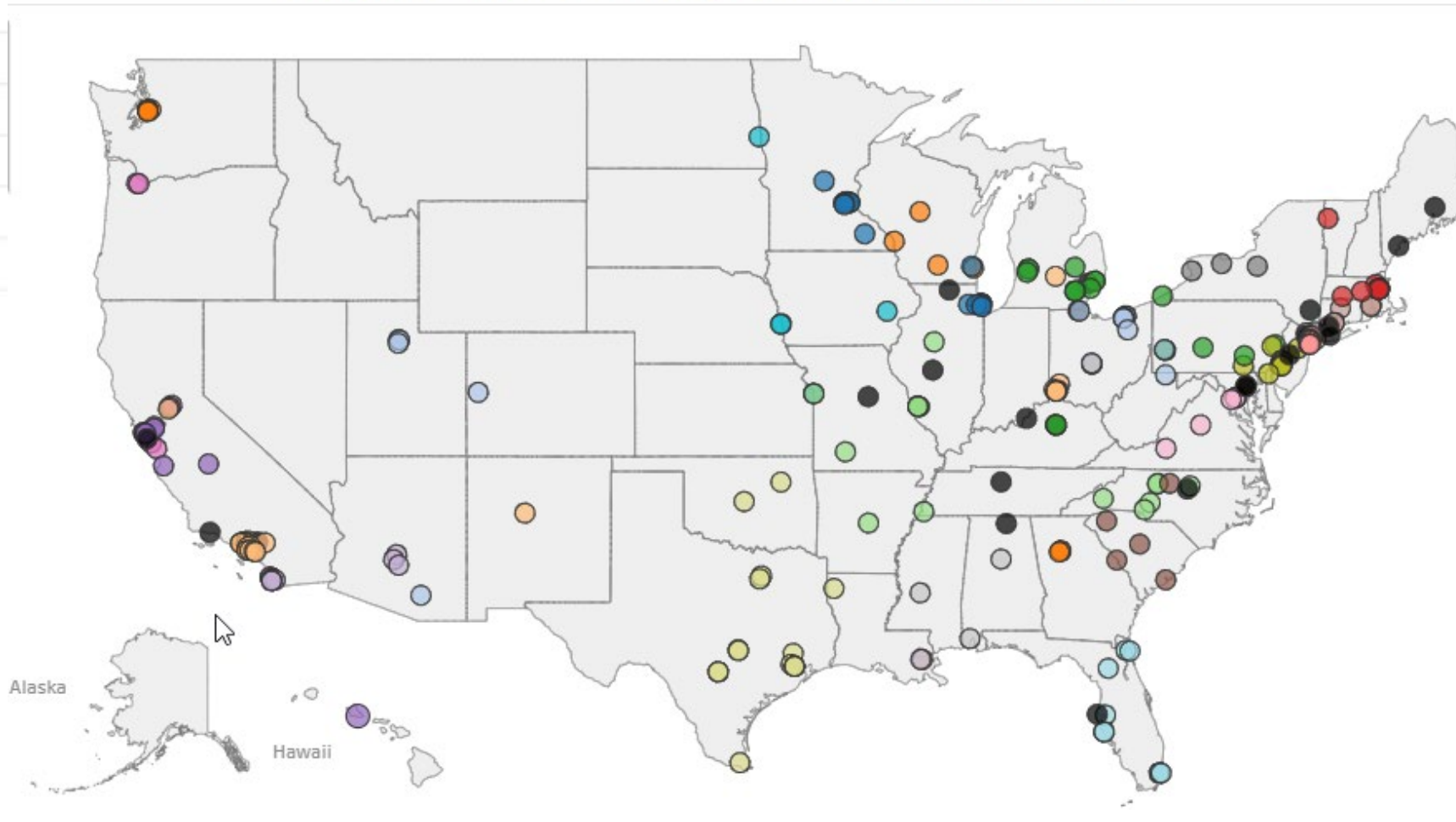
- National Coordinating Center (NCC)
- National Data Management and Statistical Center (NDMC)
- 27 Regional Coordinating Centers (RCCs) with clinical performance and satellite sites representing over 700 stroke hospitals (including Canada, Europe, and Japan)
- Central Institutional Review Board; central research pharmacy, imaging core, and a training and education core
- Each RCC has annual support for portion of a trainee's effort

**Clinical trials and studies funded separately from the infrastructure**, through peer-reviewed funding mechanisms open to investigators from academia, foundations, or industry



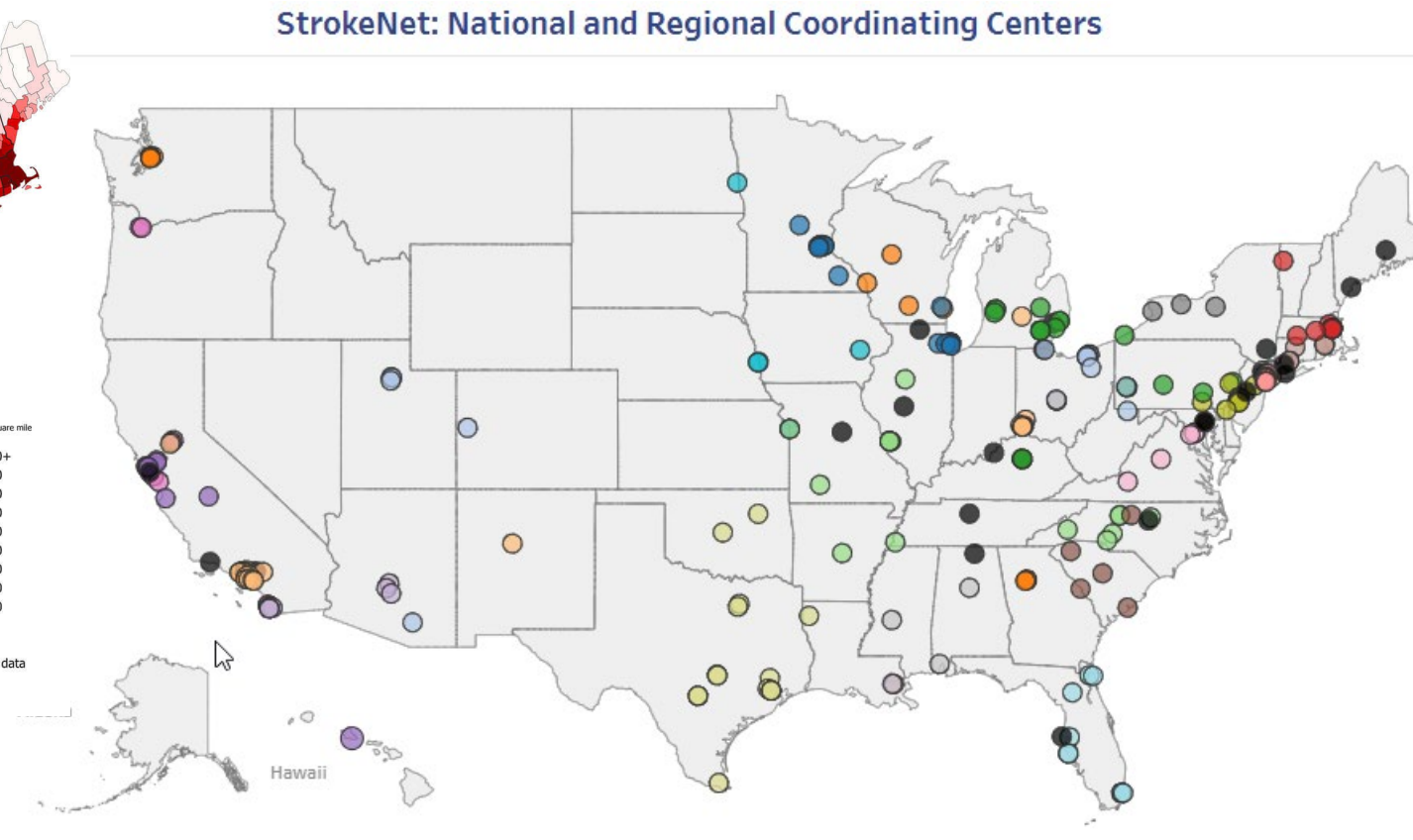
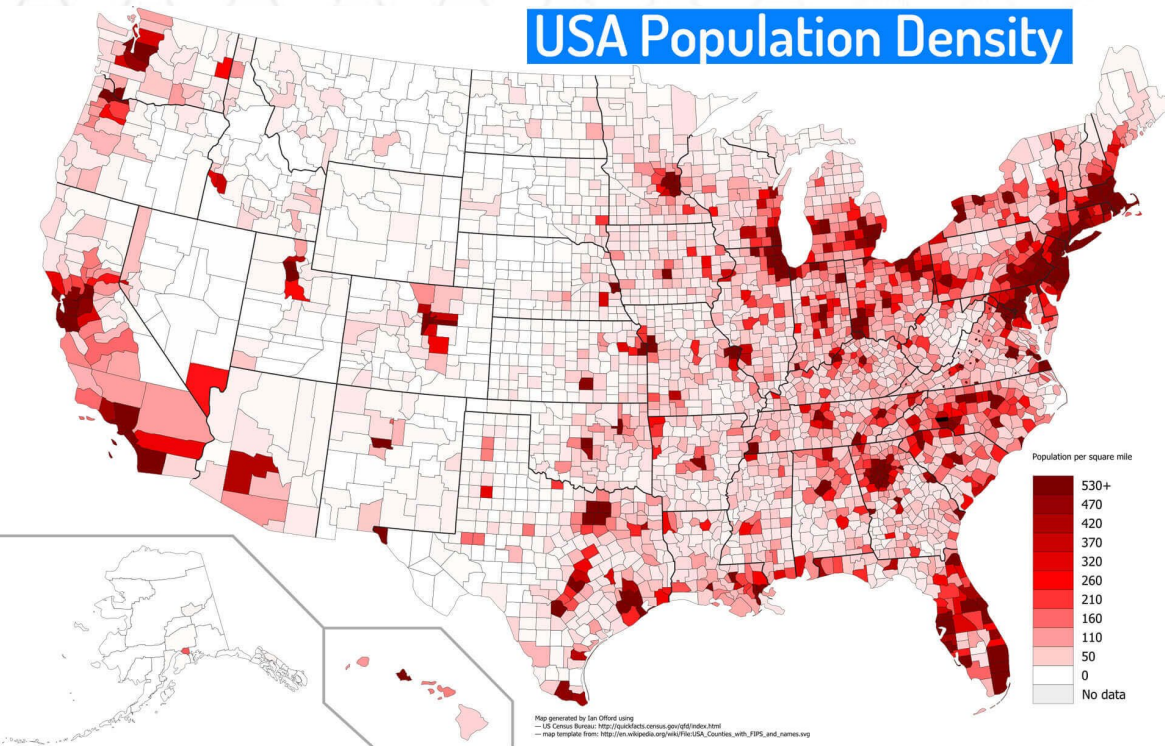
# NIH StrokeNet Sites

StrokeNet: National and Regional Coordinating Centers

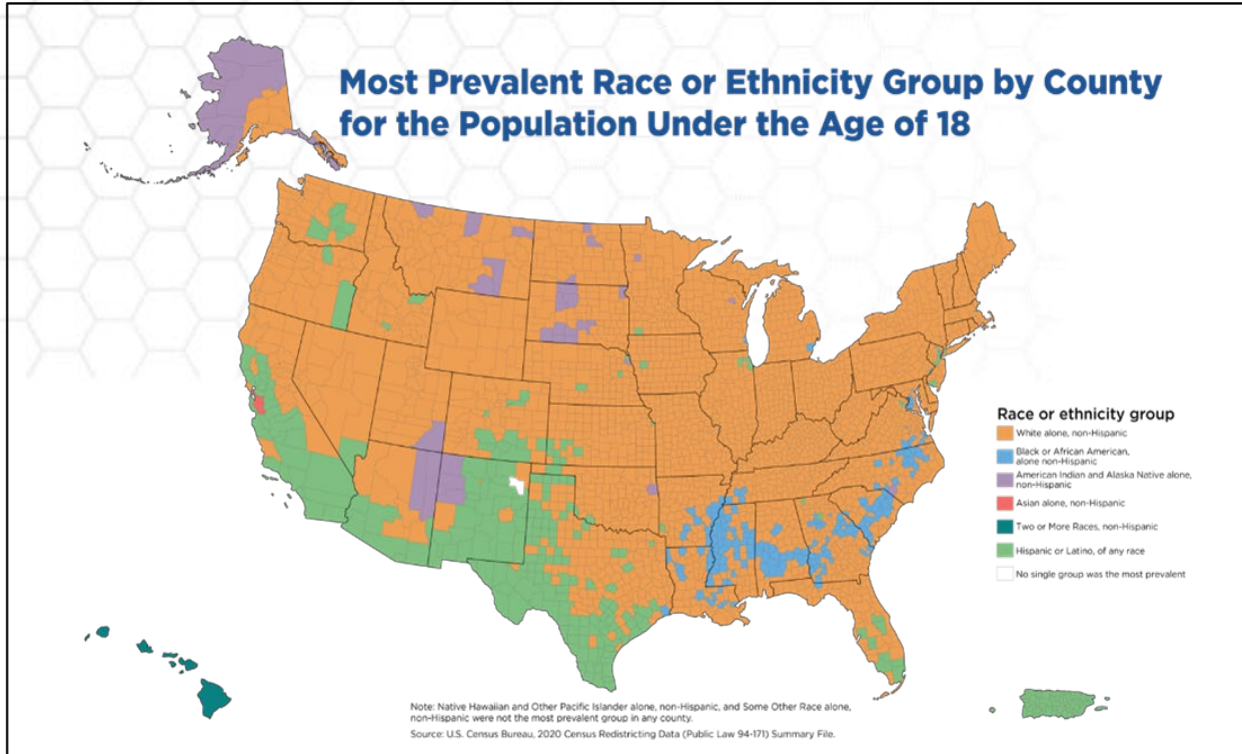




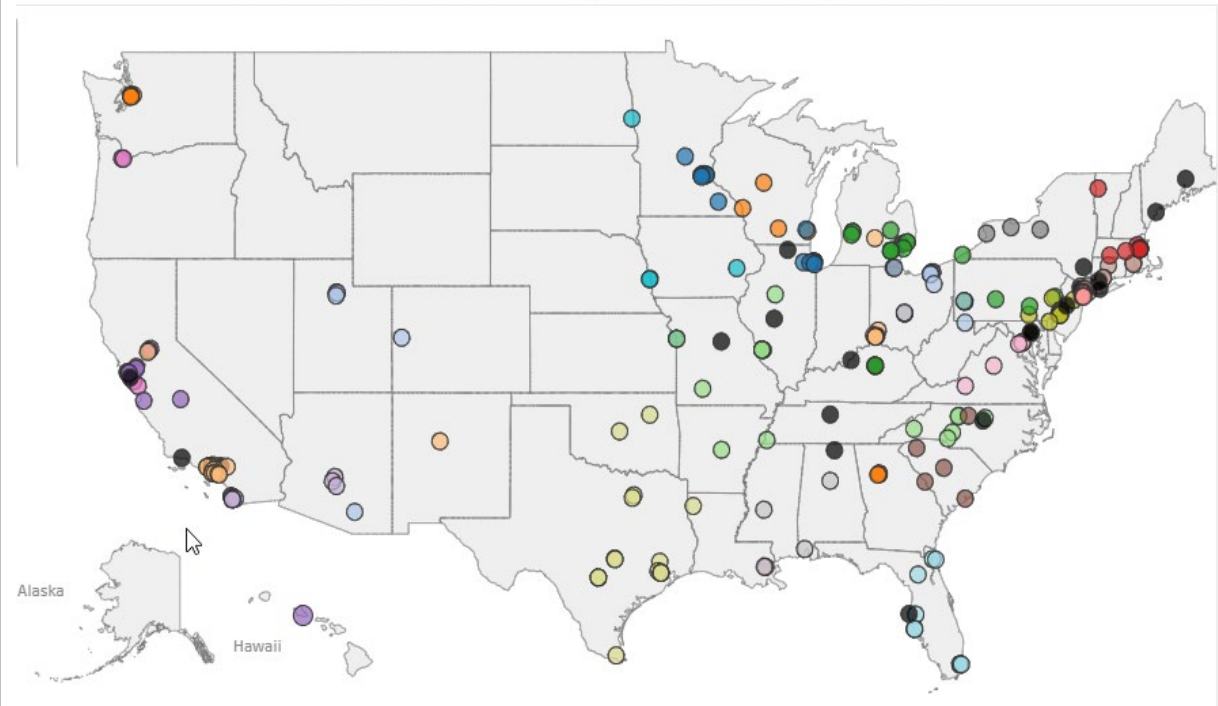
# Coverage of U.S. Population



# U.S. Race and Ethnic Population



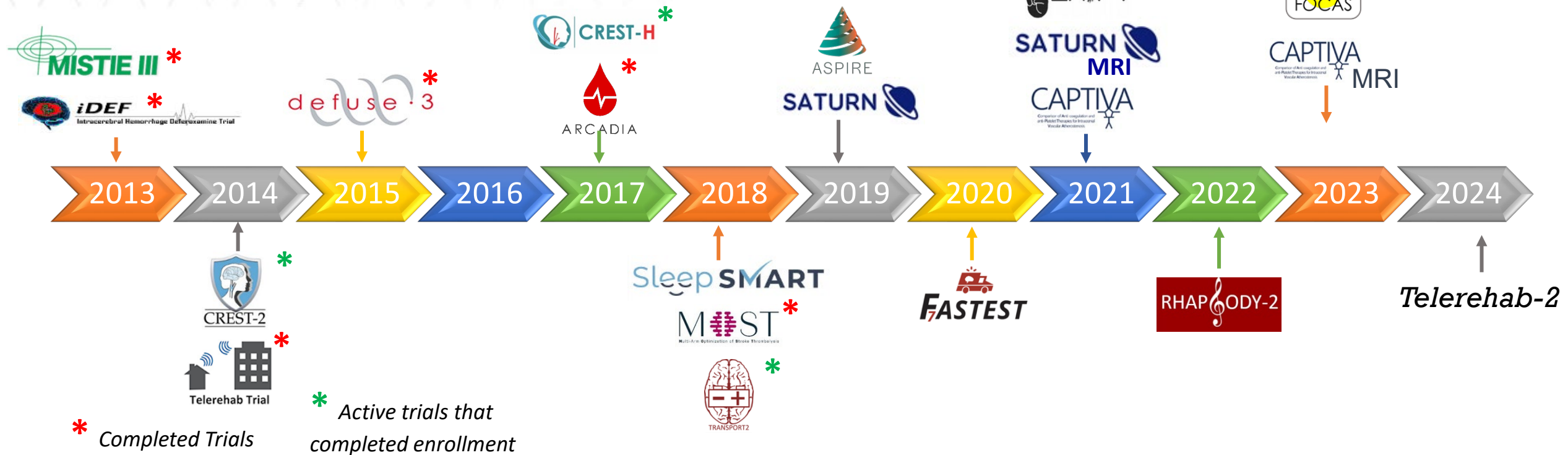
StrokeNet: National and Regional Coordinating Centers



# NIH StrokeNet by the Years

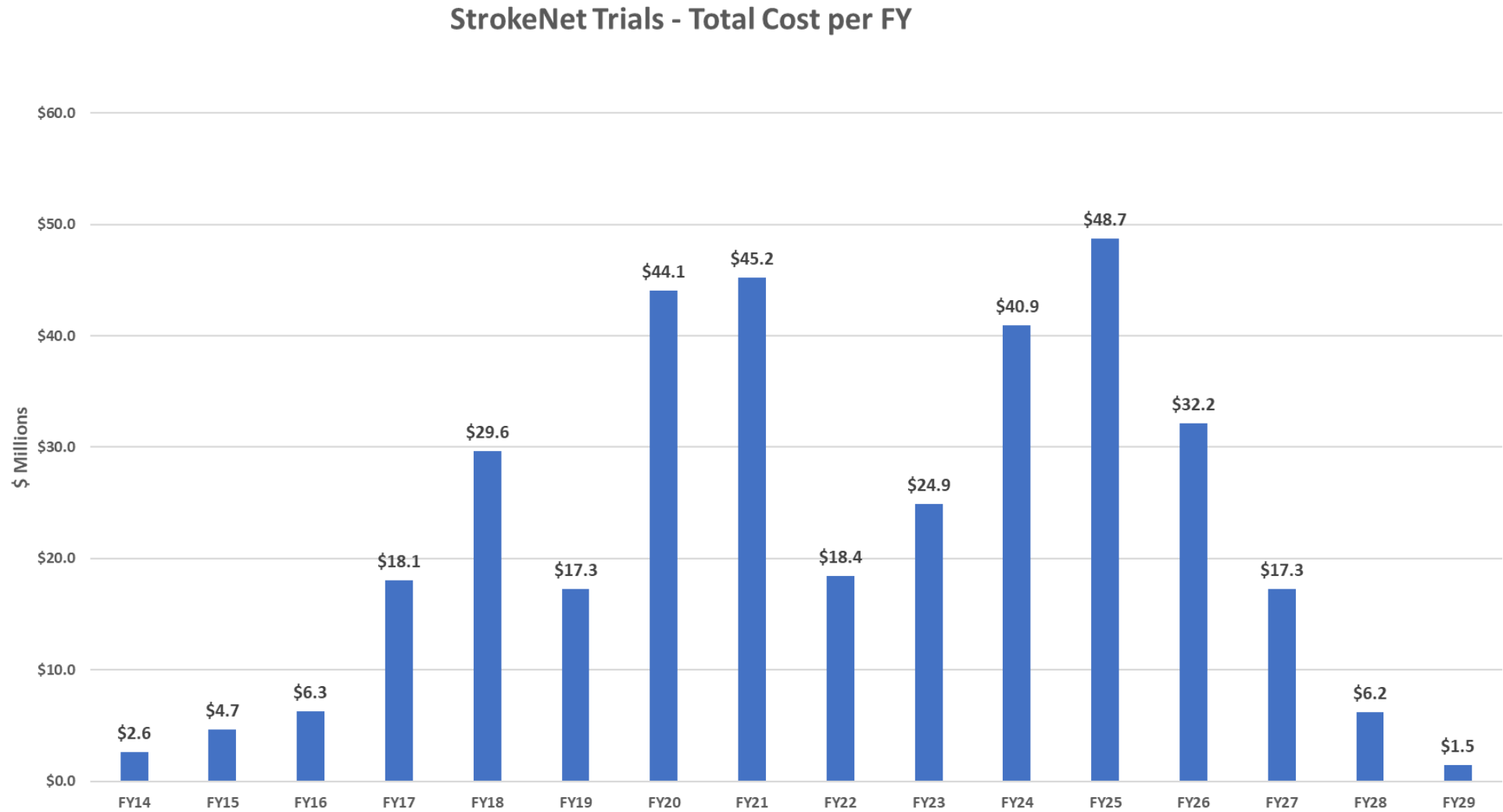
As of 8/31/24, the network has consented and enrolled **13,823** and randomized **7492** participants in a StrokeNet study

Total Submitted	113		Recovery Submitted	21	18%
Total Reviewed	111		Prevention Submitted	45	40%
Total Funded	20	18%	Treatment Submitted	47	42%
Treatment Funded	5	10%			
Recovery Funded	5	24%			
Prevention Funded	9	20%			





# StrokeNet Projects (funded cooperative agreements)



*\*StrokeNet Infrastructure = ~16M total cost per year (not included on this graph)*

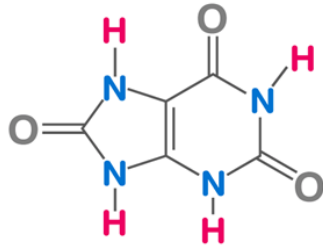
# Time from Submission to First patient enrolled

Application to Funding Approval (Days)	Application to Award Start (Days)	Funding Approval to Award Start (Days)	Application to First Patient Enrolled (days)	Award Start to Study Start (Days)	Award Start to First Patient Enrolled (Days)	
523	758	233	1093	295	319	Mean Days
260	297	106	372	113	122	Std Dev
486	712	223	1084.5	270	304.5	Median Days
16.2	23.7	7.4	36.2	9.0	10.2	Months
198	392	19	528	127	100	Min Days
1223	1427	465	1838	570	642	Max Days

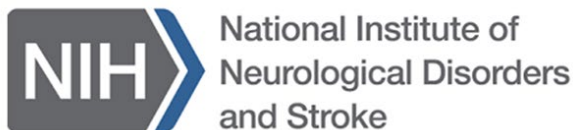
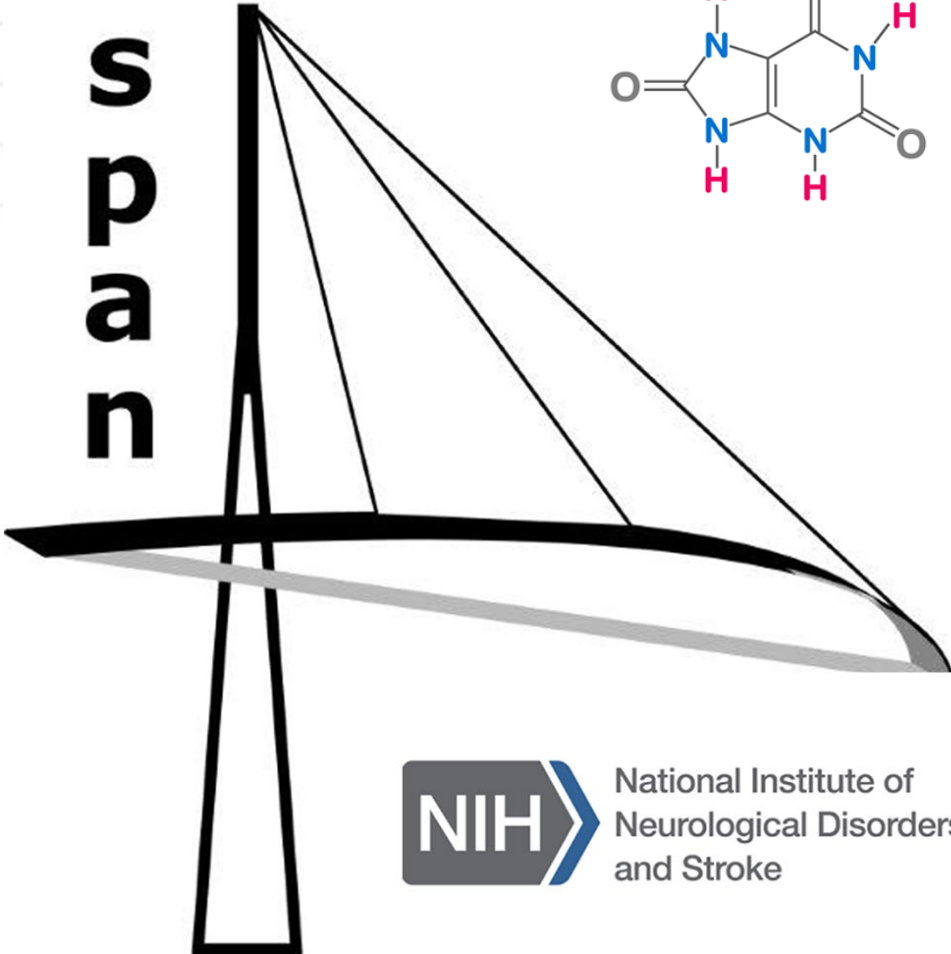
# Stroke Preclinical Assessment Network (SPAN)

The Stroke Pre-Clinical Assessment Network (SPAN) seeks to conduct late-stage preclinical studies of putative neuroprotectants combined with reperfusion.

Uric Acid



s  
p  
a  
n





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# Clinical Networks Evaluation Working Group

of the  
National Advisory Neurological  
Disorders and Stroke (NANDS) Council

- Presentation to the NANDS Council
- February 2, 2022

# Top-line Recommendations

## Top 2 Recommendations



**Proactively identify priorities**



**Monumentally improve pre-award/review efficiency**



**Strengthen internal and external community engagement**



**Set explicit goals to address equity, diversity, and inclusion and resource achieving them**



**Enhance clinical workforce development, readiness, and retention**



**Strengthen regular network evaluation and timely improvement**

# Workable solutions based on the NINDS Clinical Networks Evaluation Working Group



**Proactively identify priorities**

- Work with community (through workshops/conferences, strategic planning) to identify areas of high unmet need and scientific priority
- Strengthen generation of research ideas through existing network structures, (e.g. disease area interest groups)
- Require appropriate representation of diverse populations



**Monumentally improve pre-award/review efficiency**

- Innovate and accelerate Network award and review processes
- Streamline NINDS extramural pre-review processes
- Consider Administrative Core for non-academic coordination functions



**Strengthen regular network evaluation and timely improvement**

- Develop 5-year network evaluation plan
- Conduct Listening Sessions with investigators and community partners 2x/year for input on performance



**Strengthen internal and external community engagement**



**Set explicit goals to address equity, diversity, and inclusion and resources for achieving them**



**Enhance clinical workforce development, readiness, and retention**



# StrokeNet Thrombectomy Platform (STEP)

**Objective:** To determine the optimal strategy for treatment of patients with Arterial Ischemic Stroke (AIS) due to Large Vessel Occlusions (LVOs) or Medium Vessel Occlusions (MVOs)






**Population:** Patients with AIS due to proximal large or distal medium vessel occlusion who are potentially amenable to endovascular therapy

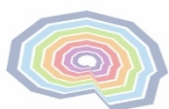
1995 - 2018

- 1999 - EMS Bridging Trial
- 2004 - IMS I
- 2007 - IMS II
- 2012 - DEFUSE 2
- 2012 - IMS III
- 2012 - MR RESCUE
- 2018 - DEFUSE 3

2018 - 2023



					
Platform	STAMPEDE	GBM AGILE	Healey ALS	EPPIC NET (HEAL)	ACTIV
Condition	Prostate CA	Glioblastoma	ALS	DPN	COVID-19
Year started	2005	2019	2020	2020	2020
Agents/pops tested	10	4	5	>4	27
Centers	>120	>23	>54	>24	>620
Patients	>10,000	>550	>1000	>1000	>20,000

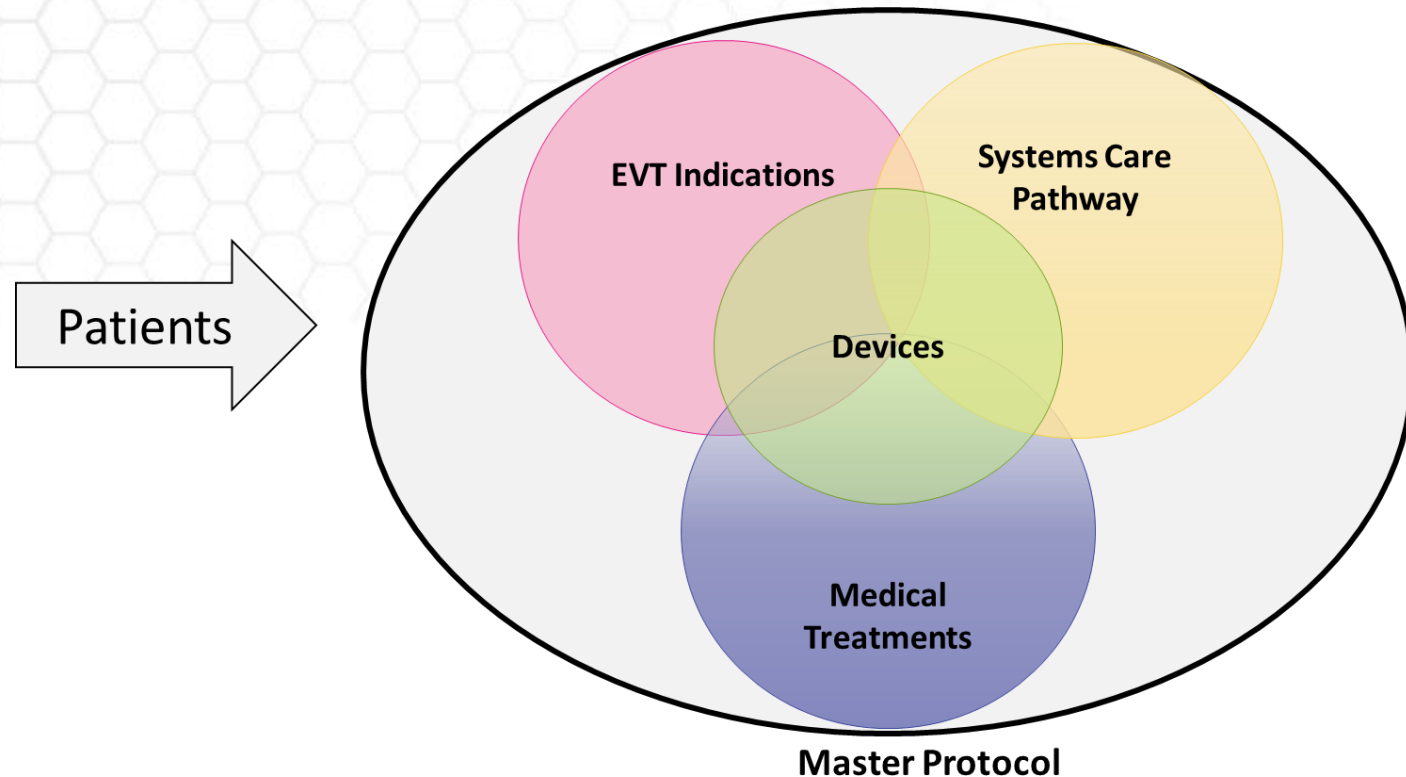


NIH StrokeNet Thrombectomy  
Endovascular Platform



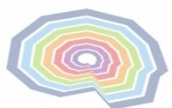
*Building of previous and growing experience, the NINDS pursued a clinical trial platform to answer the many questions that we have been receiving in the EVT space*

# What types of questions for STEP



## Clinical trials that will address:

- Indication expansion of current endovascular therapy (EVT) criteria
  - *e.g., EVT for low NIHSS, children, etc.*
- Concomitant medical therapies added to EVT
  - *e.g., BP control, avoiding tPA, general anesthesia or sedation, novel neuroprotective agents, etc.*
- Systems of care for EVT
  - *e.g., prehospital identification for EVT routing, etc.*
- Novel EVT devices



# How to Apply – Research Opportunity Announcement

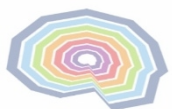


<b>Participating Organization(s)</b>	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
<b>Components of Participating Organizations</b>	National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
<b>Research Opportunity Title</b>	<b>StrokeNet Thrombectomy Platform (STEP) – Domain Clinical trials to be conducted in STEP: Stage 1 Preliminary Application (OT2)</b>
<b>Activity Code</b>	OT2: Application for an Other Transaction Agreement
<b>Research Opportunity Number</b>	OTA-24-009
<b>Related Notices</b>	
<b>Key Dates:</b>	Posted Date: February 8, <a href="#">2024</a>
	Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): March 1, <a href="#">2024</a>
	Application Due Date(s): Rolling Submission

**13**  
**Proposals**  
**already**  
**submitted**

- Biospecimen Core funded for baseline blood collection
  - 24hr blood draw
  - Isolation of DNA that can be used for genetics and epigenetics and RNA for transcriptomics
  - Isolation of plasma for proteomic analyses
  - ***Future opportunities*** for R01 applications

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/find-funding-opportunities/research-opportunity-announcements>



NIH StrokeNet Thrombectomy  
Endovascular Platform





# Workable solutions based on the NINDS Clinical Networks Evaluation Working Group



## Proactively identify priorities

- Work with community (through workshops/conferences, strategic planning) to identify areas of high unmet need and scientific priority
- Strengthen generation of research ideas through existing network structures, (e.g. disease area interest groups)
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## Monumentally improve pre-award/review efficiency

- Innovate and accelerate Network award and review processes
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## Strengthen regular network evaluation and timely improvement

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## Strengthen internal and external community engagement



## Set explicit goals to address equity, diversity, and inclusion and resources for achieving them



## Enhance clinical workforce development, readiness, and retention

# Setting our priorities

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- Again, NINDS is engaged in a planning our next set of stroke priorities. But this time we are looking to leverage the scientific powerhouse we have in the network to work with our broader stroke community.
- Goal is not to use our time to pitch the trials we are working on.
- Identify scientific gaps and the opportunities that we can use our stroke network to advance.
- Starting with the network as a think tank. Then will move to include the boarder stroke community.
- The format will be a Princeton like conference that we will support through a conference grant.
- Objective is to help us (NINDS) prioritize funding and look for opportunities to streamline our research mechanisms (i.e., STEP and SPAN).
- ALL voices are important! We are here and we are listening...