WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

Emily DeCroos, MD, joined UT Erlanger Neurology at the Southeast Regional Stroke Center in April. Dr. DeCroos obtained her Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with honors from Brown University in 2000. She then received her doctor of medicine from Duke University School of Medicine in 2006. She did her Neurology Residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital where she was served as a Chief Resident in 2010. Dr. DeCroos also completed a Neuromuscular Medicine Fellowship at Duke. She is co-author of several publications and chapters, is co-editor of Pocket Neurology, and has received several awards, including the Dean’s Special Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching from Drexel University College of Medicine. She is board certified in Neurology, Neuromuscular Medicine, and Electrodiagnostic Medicine. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family.

Claire Joseph, MD is board certified in neurology and has extensive experience in acute stroke care, TPA administration and managing acute neurological disorders. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, Canada. She graduated from Ross University School of Medicine with part of the clinical curriculum completed at St. Mary’s Hospital, affiliate of Yale School of Medicine. She completed her residency in Neurology at Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, PA. Having spent most of her life in the Northeast and midwest, she fell in love with the warm weather while doing a fellowship in Augusta, GA and decided to make her home in Tennessee. Dr. Joseph started her neurology practice in Cleveland, then moved on to Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport, TN as a Neurohospitalist. She was one of the earliest Neurohospitalists in the country. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and listening to jazz and classical music.
1. Erlanger continues to be the ONLY hospital in the U.S. that has IN HOUSE OR ON CALL 24/7 STROKE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN COVERAGE. Stroke neurologists are available 24/7 for emergency phone or telemedicine consultations. Simply contact the Transfer Center at 423-778-8100.

2. Erlanger continues to have a NO DIVERT POLICY for acute stroke patients, and LIFE FORCE continues to have an AUTO-LAUNCH Policy for any stroke patient in need of acute stroke care. Just call 423-778-8100 if you need to discuss possible patient referrals.

3. If your nurses or EMS employees would like to receive stroke certification, please contact us regarding the Erlanger Stroke Certification Program. Separate certifications are offered for pre-hospital and in-house stroke care. Notify Traci Jennings at traci.jennings@erlanger.org or 423-778-3437 to arrange for a free visit from one of our highly specialized stroke neurologists to conduct the certification course.

4. If you or your facility is interested in having the Erlanger Stroke Team participate in a community event you are hosting or provide one in your area (i.e., information table, lecture, etc.), please contact Liz Hedges at Elizabeth.hedges@erlanger.org or 423-260-8431.

5. If your facility has any interest in Telemedicine with Erlanger Neurology, please contact Traci Jennings at traci.jennings@erlanger.org or 423-778-3437. Telemedicine agreements allow our neurologists to perform a consultation on a patient at an outside facility via webcam and audio. This is a crucial component of identifying possible stroke patients and determining the best course of time-sensitive treatment options.
1. 2nd Annual Retreat and Refresh Stroke Camp for the Chattanooga Region

September 18–20th at Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Georgia

Retreat and Refresh Stroke Camp began in 2004 when one stroke survivor’s caregiver recognized the need for a fun, relaxing getaway for her loved one and the other survivors in their support group. Since its conception, Stroke Camp has expanded from Illinois all across the country. Over 100 camps have taken place! The mission of Retreat and Refresh Stroke Camp is to improve the quality of life for stroke survivors, caregivers, and their families. This is accomplished through weekend retreats involving stroke survivors, their caregivers, and volunteers to assist with the weekend. Last year, some of our activities included music, drum circles, golf cart rides, hiking, painting, skits, group games, movies, pampering time, arts and crafts, etc. One of our physicians, Dr. Tom Devlin, visited on Saturday for an educational discussion with question-and-answer session. Breakout sessions throughout the weekend are often a highlight for caregivers and stroke survivors to receive support and encouragement from others in a similar situation.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please contact Candace Mahoney, Stroke Program Coordinator, at Candace.mahoney@erlanger.org.

Stroke Camp details and registration are accessible online at www.strokecamp.org.

2. Erlanger Day at the Chattanooga Market

Erlanger Health System is hosting a health fair at the Chattanooga Market on September 20th. The Chattanooga Market, located at the First Tennessee Pavilion, was started to provide healthy, fresh produce and artisan foods, as well as locally produced arts and crafts to Chattanoogans and community visitors. Come learn about Erlanger’s many services, and enjoy the relaxed, open-air vibe. Members of the Stroke Team will also provide community stroke awareness at the Chattanooga Market on these dates:

- August 23rd and 30th
- September 27th
- October 11th
- November 1st and 8th

If you are interested in having members of the Erlanger Stroke Team provide community stroke awareness at your next event, please contact Candace Mahoney at Candace.mahoney@erlanger.org or 423-778-5542.
ADDITIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:

1. The Erlanger Stroke Team had a successful Stroke Awareness Month with the Strike Out Stroke event at the Chattanooga Lookouts game, reaching 4,620 people! About 70 people received free T-shirts with the F.A.S.T. exam information, and 500 others received goody bags with all kinds of stroke information and a few fun items. One of our stroke survivors, Sarah Walker, gave the opening welcome and threw the first pitch. We were honored to have other stroke survivors in attendance as well. Sarah Walker (second from the right) is pictured here with other stroke survivors, including her mom!

2. Throughout the school year, the Stroke Program Coordinators provided stroke education to various 5th grade classes in the region. The 2015 school year wrapped up with visits to Battle Elementary and Stone Creek Elementary. Students learned what a stroke is, how to recognize a stroke using the F.A.S.T. exam, how to react if someone around them is having a stroke, how to recognize stroke risk factors, and how to help prevent stroke. After, students participated in a poster contest in which they created a poster to help educate someone else about stroke using the information they learned. Two winners were selected from each class (pictured), and their posters framed and placed on display at Erlanger! The winners also had a pizza party with members of LIFE FORCE (air ambulance), and the whole class looked on as the helicopter landed at their school (weather- and landing zone-permitting)! If you would like stroke education at a school in your area, please contact Jillian Mckenzie at Jillian.Mckenzie@erlanger.org or 423-778-6443.

3. Health Fairs

The Erlanger Stroke Team will be participating in the 13th Annual Minority Health Fair at Eastgate Town Center on Saturday, August 22nd, the Cigna Health Fair on August 26th and the Volkswagen Annual Health Fair on October 30th.
2015 DATA THROUGH MARCH:

Erlanger Southeast Regional Stroke Center Volume

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NOTE: 2015 volumes are projected

Erlanger Southeast Regional Stroke Center

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NOTE: 2015 volumes are projected
2015 DATA THROUGH MARCH:

Erlanger Southeast Regional Stroke Center

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NOTE: 2015 volumes are projected
### TRIAL STUDIES:

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<th>STUDY OVERVIEW</th>
<th>TREATMENT TIME WINDOW</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>INCLUSION-EXCLUSION CRITERIA</th>
<th>STROKE TYPE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BRAINSGATE STUDY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Device implant in the hard palate of the mouth which allows for cerebrovasodilation</td>
<td>Device must be implanted and activated within 24 hours of stroke symptom onset</td>
<td>40–80 male&lt;br&gt;40–85 female</td>
<td>NIHSS 7–18 Anterior circulation strokes only. Cannot get t-PA or Thrombectomy</td>
<td>Moderate to Larger Ischemic Strokes</td>
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<td><strong>GENERVON STUDY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Novel neuro-protectant drug that acts at both translational DNA and transcriptional RNA level</td>
<td>Receive drug up to 8 hours after stroke onset. If “wake -up stroke” can treat up to 18 hours after last known normal</td>
<td>18–80</td>
<td>NIHSS 9–20 Can get study drug and IV t-PA or Interventional Rx combined</td>
<td>Moderate to Larger Ischemic Strokes</td>
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<td><strong>PRISMS</strong>&lt;br&gt;Evaluates safety of IV t-PA in patients with mild and rapidly resolving stroke symptoms</td>
<td>Within 3 hrs of last known well time</td>
<td>≥ 18</td>
<td>Non-disabling, mild or rapidly resolving stroke symptoms—NIHSS ≤ 5</td>
<td>Mild Ischemic Stroke</td>
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<td><strong>DAWN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Endovascular trial using the Solitaire clot retrieval device hoping to expand the FDA recommended treatment window from 6 hrs to 24 hrs after stroke onset.</td>
<td>Up to 24 hrs after symptoms begin</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Based on sophisticated CT Perfusion imaging</td>
<td>Large Artery Ischemic Stroke</td>
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A new Era of Stroke care was ushered in February of this year with the presentation of the SWIFT PRIME trial results at the International Stroke Conference. These results showed that use of the Solitaire endovascular thrombectomy device leads to better patient outcomes than use of IV t-PA alone for strokes caused by large vessel occlusions. The stroke team at Erlanger had the highest enrollment of any center and had the very best patient outcomes WORLDWIDE. A summary of this important trial can be found at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=l040uxPEDqU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l040uxPEDqU).

Four other positive international stroke trials, ESCAPE (Erlanger the US highest enroller), MR Clean, Extend-IA, and REVASCAT all simultaneously supported the conclusions of SWIFT PRIME trial.

See clinicaltrials.gov for further information regarding all trial studies.
If you would like to continue receiving these newsletters, please let us know in what form is most convenient for you:

- MAIL  •  ONLINE  •  EMAIL

Contact us at Traci.Jennings@erlanger.org or call 423-778-3437