



SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN THE PRACTICE OF NEUROLOGY

# AAN NEWS & NOTES

WWW.ALNEUROLOGY.COM

## From the President

Dear Colleague,

The Alabama Academy of Neurology is pleased to announce a partnership with the Medical Association of the State of Alabama for management services. Beginning in 2010, the Medical Association began a specialty society management division that has continued to successfully grow, strengthening partnerships in organized medicine in our state. The new management relationship between the Alabama Academy of Neurology and the Medical Association will bring quality CME programs, membership recruitment, communications, board management and legislative support to Academy members. The partnership with the Medical Association also includes the development of a new website for the Academy – [www.alneurology.com](http://www.alneurology.com).

In previous years, we held meetings each year at USA and UAB. Plans are already in progress to hold an annual meeting on August 12, 2017, in Montgomery. It is our hope that holding the meeting in a central location, as well as keeping it at a low cost, will help bolster attendance and allow for the members across the state to better network with one another.

Jennifer Hayes at the Medical Association will be the contact person for the Academy. Jennifer can be reached at (334) 954-2500 or [jbayes@alamedical.org](mailto:jbayes@alamedical.org). In order for the first meeting to be successful, we strongly encourage you to reach out to anyone who would be interested in being an exhibitor and have them contact Jennifer.

We hope that you will join your colleagues across the state and support the Alabama Academy of Neurology. We are encouraged that this new partnership will bring more members and allow us to have a stronger voice in matters that affect our profession while allowing us to care for our patients. See a list of our 2016 members on page 2.

Sincerely,

Amit Arora MD  
President  
Alabama Academy of Neurology



## Save the Date for AAN's 2017 Annual Meeting

August 12, 2017  
Embassy Suites, Montgomery



We are excited to announce our Annual Meeting for 2017 will be held in Central Alabama – a location we hope will draw neurologists from all parts of the state.

Situated in the heart of historic downtown Montgomery, our meeting location is close to a variety of National Historic Landmarks. The Union Station Train shed is located next door with many other attractions and restaurants within walking distance:

- Harriott II Riverboat
- Riverwalk Stadium – Home of the Biscuits, the Class AA affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays
- The Alley - Montgomery's hot spot for restaurants and entertainment

Look for meeting details coming soon!

# States increasingly pass legislation to promote stratifying levels of stroke care, but challenges remain

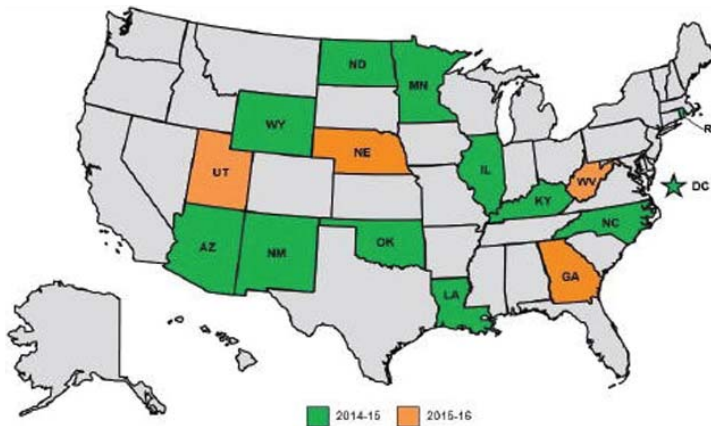
## *Neurology Today*

An increasing number of US states have proposed or passed legislation that encourages stroke care centers to adopt designations according to the levels of services they provide. But leading vascular neurologists and stroke care experts told *Neurology Today* that while the designations have spurred improvements in the quality and accessibility of stroke care, the impact of the legislation around the country varies greatly from state to state, depending on the urban-rural mix and the health care infrastructure in each region.

So far, 15 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation or enacted statewide standards that recognize three

tiers of stroke facilities, and 12 have passed legislation that requires stroke centers to participate in statewide stroke care data registries, according to Douglas Dunsavage, state advocacy consultant at the American Heart Association (AHA)/American Stroke Association (ASA). Still other states have passed or may pass legislation that standardizes other stroke practices, including pre-hospital and emergency medicine services (EMS) treatment protocols.

[Read the full article.](#)



## Alabama Medicaid budget gets much needed funding

On Sept. 7, the Alabama Legislature passed the “BP Oil Bill” ending the special session and allocating \$190 million over the next two years to the Alabama Medicaid Agency. The \$85 million allocation will, by and large, fill this coming year’s budget shortfall, and \$105 million will go toward Medicaid’s Fiscal Year 2018 (Oct. 1, 2017 - Sept. 30, 2018) budget.

The legislature’s ultimate decision was to use the state’s share of the settlement over the 2010 Gulf oil spill to pay debts, free money for Medicaid and provide funding for road projects in Mobile and Baldwin counties, which bore the brunt of the disaster.

## AAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Thank you for your 2016 Membership!

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Aruna Arora, MD, Huntsville  
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Khurram Bashir, MD, Birmingham  
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John Hinton, MD, Mobile  
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**Join us today!**  
[www.alneurology.com](http://www.alneurology.com)



## Date set for Medical Association of the State of Alabama Governmental Affairs Conference

Make plans to join your colleagues in Washington, D.C., at the Medical Association's 2017 Governmental Affairs Conference, Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2017.

Protecting and promoting medicine's interests on Capitol Hill is a never-ending responsibility that requires participation from physicians across all specialties. This is particularly true considering the magnitude of the health issues confronting Congress.

Medical Association's Governmental Affairs Conference will provide you the opportunity to get your voice heard! During the conference, you will have the chance to personally meet your Senator

and Representative and be able to engage in discussions with them regarding medicine's legislative agenda.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Make your reservations directly through the Willard InterContinental Hotel by calling (800) 424-6835 or online at [www.washington.intercontinental.com](http://www.washington.intercontinental.com). **Use Group Code M22 to reserve a room at the discounted rate. (Deluxe room rate is \$289.) Hotel booking deadline is 4 p.m. Jan. 2, 2017.**

Contact AAN Executive Director Jennifer Hayes for registration information. E-mail [jhayes@alamedical.org](mailto:jhayes@alamedical.org) or call (334) 954-2500.



## Federal Advocacy: Furthering Access to stroke Telemedicine Act (FAST Act)

The American Academy of Neurology, in partnership with the American Heart/Stroke Association, continues to fight for passage of H.R.2799 / S.1465, the Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine Act (FAST Act). The FAST Act would expand access to stroke telehealth services by addressing an important barrier to the expansion of telestroke services: lack of Medicare reimbursement for telestroke services when the patient originates in an urban or suburban area.

The use of telemedicine in the treatment of stroke – commonly referred to as “telestroke” – has proven highly effective in improving patient access to quality stroke care. But there are a number of barriers that rob patients of the treatments that can improve their lives and prevent long-term disability, including lengthy travel times to primary stroke centers and a shortage of neurologists.

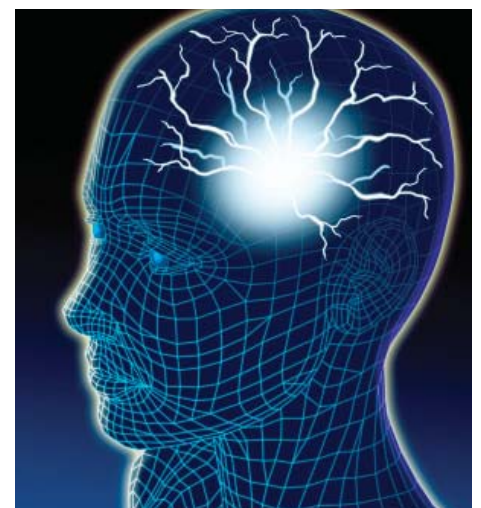
## Fair Ballot Commission announces Constitutional Amendments

The Fair Ballot Commission has announced the Constitutional Amendments that will appear on the November 8 ballot in Alabama. The ballot will include 14 statewide amendments and a number of local amendments.

Sometimes legislation is written in legal-speak, which can be very confusing to anyone not accustomed to that style, so the Fair Ballot Commission was created in 2014 to help average Alabamians understand the amendments by preparing summaries of the amendments in plain, simple to understand terms.

You can click on [Summaries](#) for a short pdf version of the amendments. Or, the voter-friendly ballot measure language is posted on the [Secretary of State's website](#).

The proposed Constitutional Amendments address a number of issues including questions about funding for State Parks, a person's right to work, impeachment process for certain elected officials and local laws established between 1984 and Nov. 8, 2016.

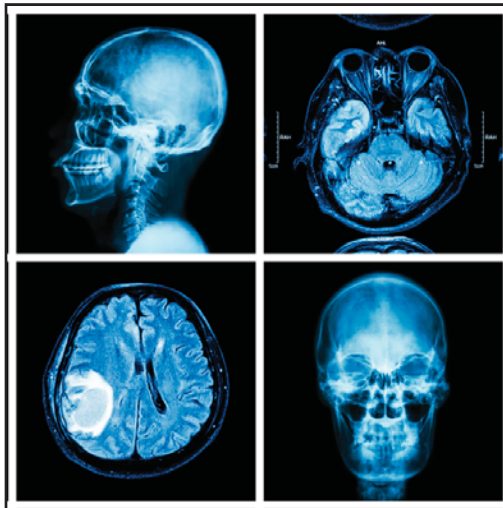


# Traumatic brain injury news

[www.healio.com](http://www.healio.com)

Traumatic brain injuries were diagnosed in 280,000 hospitalizations and 2.2 million ED visits in 2010, and contributed to the deaths of more than 50,000 individuals, according to the CDC. The injuries saw a 70% increase in ED visits from 2001 to 2010.

“Most people with a concussion have a good recovery from symptoms experienced at the time of the injury,” the CDC detailed. “But for some people, symptoms can last for days, weeks, or longer. In general, recovery may be slower among older adults, young children, and teens.”



Healio Internal Medicine presents the latest news and research on TBIs for physicians

• **IMPACT computerized tests for postconcussion assessments gain FDA marketing OK** – The FDA recently approved the marketing of a pair of medical devices, including one intended for pediatric patients, designed to assess cognitive functioning after head injuries or suspected concussions. [Read more.](#)

• **Mild TBI affects fear processing, post-deployment PTSD risk** – Experiencing mild TBI before and during deployment was associated with changes in acquisition and retention of conditioned fear, and somewhat accounted for variance in the association between mild TBI and post-deployment PTSD symptoms. [Read more.](#)

• **New return-to-activity guidelines developed for military personnel with minor TBI** – Recommendations for a new a six-step process of progressive activity for military personnel who have suffered a minor TBI prior to their return to active duty have recently been published. [Read](#)

[more.](#)

• **Most patients first seek concussion treatment from PCP** – For a vast majority of children, the first point-of-entry for concussion care is through primary care, and, as such, incidence estimates that are based solely on ED visits underestimate the burden of injury, according to data published in JAMA Pediatrics. [Read more.](#)

• **Concussion linked to greater academic**

**dysfunction than extremity injury in students** – Recent findings published in the American Journal of Public Health showed that students experienced greater academic dysfunction 1 week after concussion compared with students who experienced extremity injuries. However, 1 month after injury, there was no difference between the groups. [Read more.](#)

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two weeks in advance of printing.

AAN News & Notes is published quarterly. The articles are meant to provoke thought and comment and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the members, Board of Directors or staff of the Alabama Academy of Neurology. Comments and letters to the editor are welcome.

## Help us spread the word about AAN's 2017 Conference

Print and clip the bottom portion of this page or share our *prospectus* with vendors who visit your office and invite them to attend our meeting!

## You're Invited to Exhibit at AAN's 2017 Conference

### August 12 • Embassy Suites, Montgomery

Contact Jennifer Hayes at [jhayes@alamedical.org](mailto:jhayes@alamedical.org)  
or (334) 954-2500 with any questions.

Visit us online at [www.alneurology.com](http://www.alneurology.com)