

Summary of Work

Dr. Gregory W. Albers is the director of the Stanford Stroke Center, a position he has held since co-founding the center in 1992. A world leader in stroke research and treatment, the Stanford Stroke Center has pioneered major advances in medical therapies and consistently ranks among the most prolific research groups in the United States.

Dr. Albers' primary research focus is the diagnosis, management, and prevention of ischemic stroke, which results from obstruction in a blood vessel supplying blood to the brain and accounts for about 85 percent of all strokes. Dr. Albers and his team use advanced imaging technology to expand the treatment window for ischemic stroke, thereby improving patient health and quality of life outcomes.

Dr. Albers conducts clinical studies of treatments for acute stroke, including both thrombolytic strategies (which dissolve blood clots) and neuroprotective strategies (which seek to limit neuronal damage). He also investigates new antithrombotic strategies for stroke prevention. Despite medical advances, stroke continues to be the fourth-leading cause of death and most common cause of adult disability, with roughly 800,000 strokes occurring in the U.S. annually. That this number may increase substantially as the U.S. population ages only underscores the urgency and importance of Dr. Albers' work.

Dr. Albers was instrumental in the development of medical software, RAPID, that interprets patient brain scans and helps clinicians decide on appropriate treatments for ischemic stroke. Aided by RAPID, patients in two of Dr. Albers' recent studies achieved the best recovery results ever obtained in stroke studies.

A prolific and distinguished researcher, Dr. Albers has authored more than 450 articles on topics related to cerebrovascular disease in peer-reviewed journals.

Biography

Dr. Gregory W. Albers graduated from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and completed his medical training with an internship (internal medicine), residency (neurology), and fellowship (cerebrovascular disease) at the Stanford University Medical Center. He has received board certification in both Neurology and Vascular Neurology from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Dr. Albers joined the Stanford faculty in 1989, and the following year won the Lysia Forno Award for Teaching Excellence at Stanford University Medical Center. In 2011, Dr. Albers received the American Heart Association's prestigious David G. Sherman Award for Outstanding Contributions to Stroke Research. He has been named among the "Best Medical Specialists in North America – Cerebrovascular Disease" and the "Country's Best Heart and Stroke Doctors" in national surveys of physicians and department chairs. For more than 20 consecutive years, Dr. Albers has been named one of the "Best Doctors in America."

From 2003 to 2008, Dr. Albers served as Chairman, Cerebrovascular Diseases for the American College of Chest Physicians Expert Panel on Antithrombotic Therapy. He also served on the national Stroke Council of the American Heart Association Guidelines for Stroke Prevention from 2006 to 2011. Dr. Albers is a member of the following professional organizations: American Academy of Neurology; American Medical Association; American Neurological Association; Bay Area Stroke Society; International Stroke Society; National Stroke Association; and the Stroke Council of the American Heart Association.

