**Lawrence R. Wechsler, MD**

**Henry B. Higman Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery**

**Chair, Department of Neurology**

**Vice President for Telemedicine, PSD**

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Dr. Lawrence R. Wechsler is Henry B. Higman Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Vice President for Telemedicine, UPMC Physician Services Division. He is involved in promoting research, educational opportunities, and clinical services in the Department of Neurology. Dr. Wechsler provides in-patient and out-patient services and participates in faculty, fellowship, resident and student mentoring. He leads local, state and national groups in acute stroke management, by presentations, publications, legislation, and participation on multiple committees. Dr. Wechsler is active in many of the multicenter acute stroke clinical trials as an investigator and steering committee member.

Dr. Wechsler developed and implemented the telemedicine program for acute stroke assessment at UPMC. Telemedicine has been implemented since 2006 in all UPMC system hospitals in order to provide access to acute stroke assessment and treatment by faculty of the UPMC Stroke Institute. Additionally, several other non-UPMC facilities now utilize telemedicine for stroke care. The vascular neurologists at UPMC provide 24/7/365 coverage via 2-way audio and video communication at community hospitals.  Since the inception of the Telestroke service at UPMC, over 2,013 stroke patients have been evaluated with outcomes the same as expected for patients treated face-to-face. In addition to Telestroke, UPMC has expanded telemedicine to 35 specialty services lines across multiple locations and has active Teleconsult centers across 3 locations in Western Pennsylvania where patients can be scheduled to have a virtual visit with a specialist from Pittsburgh.

Dr. Wechsler holds memberships in several organizations, including the American Neurological Association, American Stroke Association, American Society of Neuroimaging and the American Academy of Neurology and was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Neuroimaging from 1999-2007. He serves on the Stroke Systems Work Group at the American Academy of Neurology, the Brain Attack Coalition and is a past president of the American Society of Neuroimaging. Dr. Wechsler has authored and co-authored numerous articles related to stroke and stroke therapy.