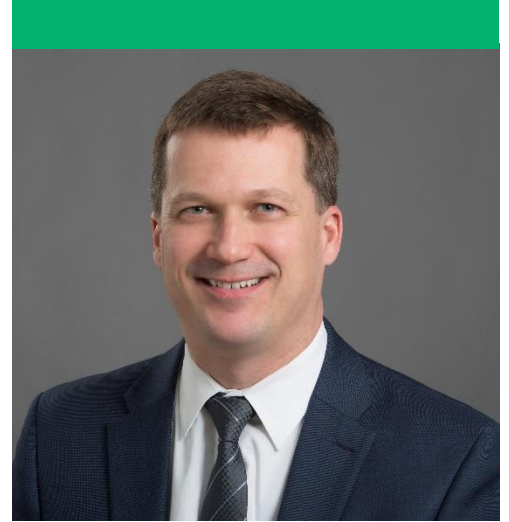




James J. Conners, MD, MS, FAHA

The Jean Schweppe Armour Professor
of Neurology



Advancement of Medicine

In 2024-2025, the Department of Neurological Sciences has continued to thrive due in no small part to your generosity — which has greatly aided me in running the department over the past year. I have been able to support junior faculty in their research pursuits as well as the work of our statistician and research coordinators.

A highlight of the past year was a continuing medical education, or CME, event that brought neurologists, trainees and nurses to Rush for a two-day conference sharing updates on neurological therapeutics. The conference, enabled by your generosity, was very well attended and helped us share our expertise and fulfill our educational mission.

Research

We enjoyed several opportunities to share findings from research supported by the Schweppe endowment. We were delighted to have “Prehospital Ambulance Tablet Evaluations of Acute Ischemic Stroke in Suburban Patients (PHATE-AIS)” accepted as an international presentation in Helsinki, Finland, at the end of May. Another manuscript, titled “Mobile Stroke Unit Treatment Times and Transport Frequency in a Suburban Setting,” has also been generated and submitted for publication. Because of the current uncertainty around government support for research, continuing our work has become even more crucial.



Faculty

As department chairman, it is critical for me to be able to support my academic faculty in their pursuits. One important area is in faculty affairs and promotions. With funding from the endowment, I am also able to give time to our vice chair of faculty affairs and our advisory committee chair to accomplish their necessary work.

Education

It is becoming more and more essential to fully grasp artificial intelligence, or AI, in a health care setting. This past year, I was able to complete a certificate course entitled “Artificial Intelligence in Health Care” at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management. This was an excellent opportunity, and will no doubt assist me as we look for ways to incorporate AI into our work to benefit our patients and faculty.

The Year Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

We will continue to support junior faculty in the process of grant writing and the ongoing educational efforts of the department.

With Gratitude

Thank you so much. Without you, we would not be able to fulfill the academic mission of the Department of Neurological Sciences.