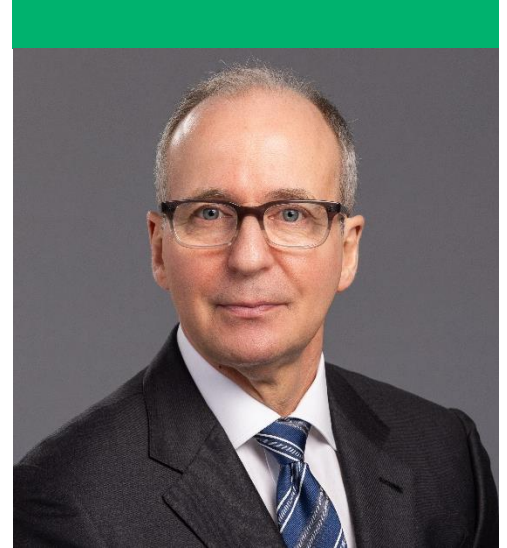


## Vincent C. Traynelis, MD

The A. Watson Armour III and Sarah Armour  
Presidential Professor of Neurosurgery



### Advancement of Medicine

In 2024, I assumed the position of interim chairperson of neurosurgery. I continue to lead the Rush Spine Group and practice cervical spinal surgery. I have been active in researching a number of issues related to cervical spine disease and treatment. I completed a three-year term as the chair of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Ethics Committee, and I am currently the chair of the Committee on Advanced Subspecialty Training, or CAST. CAST defines the standards for postgraduate training in all neurosurgical subspecialties and accredits all neurosurgery fellowship programs offering training in these disciplines. I remain highly interested in education. The Rush residency and all fellowships are vigorous and growing. Funds from the A. Watson Armour III and Sarah Armour Presidential Professorship of Neurosurgery have supported my work and provided critical support for the two 2024 spine fellows. Thank you.

### Research

Funds from the A. Watson Armour III and Sarah Armour Endowment have been used to support our research in two major ways. First, we have upgraded our ability for patients to provide feedback in terms of validated outcome instruments electronically. Second, these funds have helped support key clinical trial research staff. While the patient outcomes are focused on spinal surgery, the departmental clinical trials effort provides department-wide support and resources. Thank you for your support of these efforts.



## Publication Highlights

- “The evolving role of postgraduate year 7 in neurological surgery residency.” *Neurosurgery*, 2024.
- “Risk factors for C5 palsy: a systemic review and multivariate analysis.” *Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine*, November 2023.
- “Comparative analysis of the impacts of 30-day perioperative complications on patient-reported outcome measures following multilevel anterior versus posterior cervical fusion.” *Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine*, in press.

## The Year Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

We are halfway to completing enrollment in a project examining spinal cord perfusion with novel MR protocols. The protocols were developed at University of California, Los Angeles and have been shared with the Rush group. The study is focused on patients with cervical spondylotic myelopathy and has been funded. This type of blood flow determination has never been done.

As the interim chair, I am dedicated to maintaining departmental morale and stability while growing our enterprise. We have hired a new faculty member in functional neurosurgery who will increase our expertise in the surgical treatment of epilepsy. We hope to expand further in functional neurosurgery with the goal of soon providing new, leading-edge treatments for movement disorders, brain tumors, and Alzheimer’s disease. Many of the treatments we foresee being able to offer are not available in the state.

## With Gratitude

Thank you for your support. These funds have allowed us to improve educational efforts, support the faculty at Rush and perform collaborative research. I am grateful for these opportunities to advance the specialty of neurosurgical spine surgery.