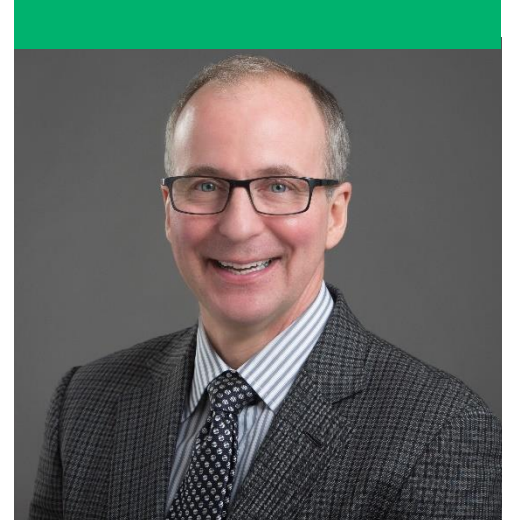




Vincent C. Traynelis, MD

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



Advancement of Medicine

I was interim chair of neurosurgery through 2025 and 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 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 of the fellowships are vigorous and growing. Funds from the A. Watson Armour III and Sarah Armour Presidential Professorship of Neurosurgery have supported my work and also provided critical support for one of the 2025 Spine Fellows. Thank you.

Research

Funds from the A. Watson Armour III and Sarah Armour Presidential Professorship of Neurosurgery endowment have been used to support our research in two major ways. First, we improved patients' ability to provide feedback electronically using validated outcome instruments. The Armour endowment has been the sole supporter of this effort through the years. Second, these funds have helped support key clinical trial research staff. While 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

- Rostami M, Bagherzadeh S, Traynelis V, Fontes R. Distal junctional failure in posterior cervical and cervicothoracic fusion: A systematic review and meta-analysis of associated factors. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00586-025-09293-y>. 2025
- Wolfson DI, Deutsch H, DeWald CJ, Fontes RBV, O'Toole JE, Traynelis VC, Fessler RG. The blaming of the screw: a cautionary tale of innovation, regulation, and mass tort in spine surgery. *Neurosurgery*, in press.
- Bakare AA, Pertsch N, Kim D, Ditzel R, Deutsch H, O'Toole JE, Fontes RBV, Richard G. Fessler RG, Traynelis VC. Comparing risk stratification indices in predicting perioperative adverse events following posterior atlantoaxial and occipitocervical fusion. *J Neurosurg Spine*, in press.

The Year Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

We have completed 75% enrollment in a project examining spinal cord perfusion with novel MR protocols. The protocols were developed at the 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 was dedicated to maintaining departmental morale and stability while growing our enterprise. We hired a new faculty member this year. Adewale Bakare is a Rush neurosurgery graduate who is currently a fellow in spine surgery at Washington University. He will join us in July. He is focused on minimally invasive surgery and deformity surgery. He will add to our already excellent faculty.

With Gratitude

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