

Faculty Feature: Raul G Nogueira, MD, FAHA, FSVIN

Earlier this year, internationally recognized stroke expert Dr. Raul Nogueira joined the Pitt School of Medicine as a professor of neurology, with a secondary appointment in neurosurgery, and UPMC as director of the UPMC Stroke Institute. He was also appointed as the inaugural recipient of the Endowed Professorship in Cerebrovascular Medicine. Since joining the University in February 2022, he has made plans for our institutions that he hopes will revolutionize the future of stroke diagnosis and treatment.

In the stroke community, few are as revered as Dr. Raul Nogueira. With a background that includes lecturing in 25 countries and publishing upward of 450 peer-reviewed papers, he now turns his attention to the UPMC Stroke Institute and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where he seeks to build on our foundation of exceptional clinical research in stroke and neurovascular medicine.

“I was very familiar with the potential of both institutions and was particularly attracted by the opportunity to build a strong clinical and research network across all the hospitals that are part of the UPMC health care system,” said Dr. Nogueira. “This is a truly unique environment.”

Having previously served as editor-in-chief of *Interventional Neurology Journal*, as a professor of neurology with secondary appointments in neurosurgery and radiology at the Emory University School of Medicine, and as director of the neuroendovascular and neurocritical care services at Grady Memorial Hospital, Dr. Nogueira brings extensive publishing, academic, and clinical experience—all of which will serve him in his various roles here at Pitt and UPMC.

By using knowledge learned from his past experiences, he said, he can guide students toward resilience in publishing—one of many tidbits of wisdom he brings to his new faculty position. In addition to his neurology appointment, Dr. Nogueira was also awarded the inaugural Endowed Professor of Cerebrovascular Medicine position; both professorship positions will enable him to foster the next generation of clinical researchers.

“We’re working hard to build a premier team of clinical and research educators that will influence many medical students, residents, and clinical and research fellows interested in vascular neurosciences,” he said.

In addition to his academic goals, he also hopes to further UPMC’s research initiatives by capitalizing on the hospital system’s global network to ensure UPMC is engaging with the most innovative ideas and using the latest tools. Dr. Nogueira is no stranger to the global aspects of clinical research and understands the importance of shared advancements and collaboration in both research and education.

“I am particularly proud of having worked with and mentored less-experienced colleagues in South America, Europe, and China to conduct high-level research despite the challenges imposed by their different realities.” In fact, he said, “some of this collaborative work has led to practice-changing studies.”

Dr. Nogueira hopes to be on the precipice of one such study—“Endovascular Treatment for Acute Basilar Artery Occlusion,” which he recently presented at the European Stroke Organization Conference. The study tested the efficacy of endovascular thrombectomy in patients with basilar artery stroke and concluded with highly favorable outcomes—an example of the treatment indications and optimization strategies that Dr. Nogueira aims to expand on at the UPMC Stroke Institute.

Between his research goals for Pitt and UPMC, his focus on advancements in education, and his emphasis on collaboration, it's clear that Dr. Nogueira aims to continue Pitt's standard of education for every student and UPMC's standard of care for every patient.

"Our vision for the future of the UPMC Stroke institute is simple—to make it the best it can be," Dr. Nogueira said. "And on my assessment, we can be one of the leading stroke centers in the world."