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North Carolina Stroke Association Awarded \$10,000 from The Allergan Foundation for *Time is Brain, Time for Change* Initiative to Improve Statewide Access to Stroke Care

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (May 10, 2017) — The North Carolina Stroke Association (NCSA), based in Winston-Salem, was awarded \$10,000 from The Allergan Foundation for its **Time is Brain, Time for Change** initiative. This program aims to ensure that every North Carolinian has access to timely, state-of-the-art stroke care no matter where they happen to be, across the state, when a stroke happens.

The **Time for Brain, Time for Change** initiative provides assessments and funding for hospitals as they pursue Acute Stroke Ready certification by the Joint Commission. Enabling more hospitals to become certified will improve the likelihood of stroke victims receiving critical care within the optimal three-hour time frame in which hospitals can administer critical clot-busting drugs. Acute Stroke Ready certification includes training for EMS personnel and partnerships with telestroke networks to give the local hospital staff 24/7 access to acute stroke experts.

“North Carolina has significant gaps in access to stroke care that need to be closed by more hospitals becoming Acute Stroke Ready certified,” said NCSA executive director Beth Parks. “The eastern counties of our state regularly record some of the highest stroke death rates in the country, yet they have the fewest hospitals with advanced stroke care certification.”

Currently in North Carolina, there are 36 hospitals certified as Advanced Primary Stroke Care Centers and four Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Centers. The newer Acute Stroke Ready certification is geared toward accredited hospitals that would not otherwise be candidates for Primary Stroke Center or Comprehensive Stroke Center certification. One NC hospital, Angel Medical Center, has already received Acute Stroke Ready certification with seed funding provided by the NC Stroke Association. While there are now 41 certified hospitals statewide, the disparity is location: only five of those hospitals are located in the eastern portions of the state.

“We are very grateful to The Allergan Foundation for supporting the **Time is Brain, Time for Change** initiative,” said Parks. “Together, we will realize our vision of every stroke patient in our state receiving the proper level of care in the most expeditious and efficient manner.”

About the N.C. Stroke Association

*The North Carolina Stroke Association is a 501 (c) 3 organization founded in 1998 by a group of physicians and lay people who saw the need to address the state’s increasing prevalence of stroke and its attendant disabilities. With operational seed money from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, NCSA began to fulfill its mission to reduce the **incidence** and **impact** of stroke in North Carolina through collaborations to facilitate **screening, education, outcome assessments and advocacy**. For more information, visit www.ncstroke.org.*

About the Allergan Foundation

Established in 1998, The Allergan Foundation is a U.S.-based, private charitable foundation committed to providing a lasting and positive impact in the communities in which Allergan, plc. employees live and work. The Allergan Foundation is dedicated to supporting charitable efforts that improve patient diagnosis, treatment, care and quality of life, or to otherwise promote access to quality healthcare. www.allerganfoundation.org