

## Spotlight On

Andrew M. Southerland, MD, Charlottesville, VA



**Dr. Southerland** is a professor in the Division of Vascular Neurology, departments of Neurology and Public Health Sciences at the University of Virginia Health, Charlottesville, Virginia.

**What is your specialty (and, if applicable, subspecialty or other more focused area) expertise?**

My specialty is in Vascular Neurology, which is the management of cerebrovascular diseases affecting the brain and spinal cord.

**What is your current or, in your career, most predominant clinical practice setting?**

I have practiced my entire career in an academic medical center at the University of Virginia.

**What else can you tell us about your current or significant past roles in your field?**

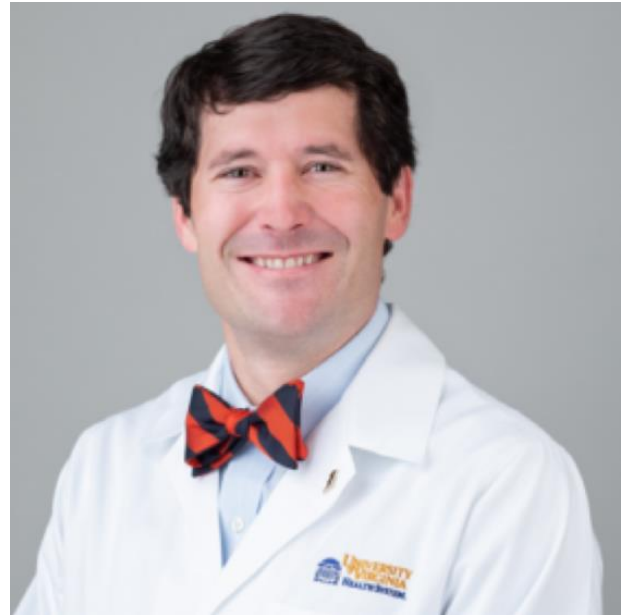
My favorite thing about academic medicine is in the collaborative nature of serving clinical, research, and education missions both locally and abroad. I cut my teeth as a clinical researcher and Neurology Residency Program Director at UVA with the support of great chairs and mentors. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to help lead at the national level serving on the American Heart Association's acute ischemic stroke guideline writing committee and Stroke Leadership Council, as past Chair of the Telestroke Subcommittee and member of the Funding Committee for the AHA, and as a member of the Education Committee and Chair of the Education Research Working Group for the American Academy of Neurology. I currently enjoy serving as Vice Chair of the Vascular Neurology ABCC Committee and previously served on the Neurology MOC Committee.

**Please tell us your thoughts about the role and importance of ABPN board certification.**

The ABPN board certification process is critical to upholding the professional standards and qualifications within our field at a universal level. Serving as a diplomate not only preserves one's credibility as a practitioner but engenders a sense of community to which we all aspire as candidates and then for the professional foundation of accountability and purpose it provides throughout the duration of one's career.

**What have your experiences been like in your interactions with the ABPN as a candidate or as a diplomate?**

Early in my career, I was fortunate to receive an ABPN Faculty Innovation in Education Award. This provided not only financial support but credibility and networking to my development as a neurology educator and education researcher. Since that time, I have enjoyed volunteering on several ABPN committees and helping guide competency standards within our field. In each of these endeavors, I



have been overwhelmed by the alacrity and support of the ABPN staff who work hard each and every day to serve our diplomates.

**Do you have any other perspectives you'd like to share with us?**

I hope that all of my neurology colleagues have the opportunity, as I have had, to interact more closely with the ABPN at some point in their careers. Not only have these experiences been professionally rewarding, but they have been personally uplifting and remind me of the importance of community in protecting our professional identity and growing the next generation of neurologists.

Return to the [Spotlight On web page](#).