

Mitchell S. V. Elkind, MD, MS, FAAN, FAHA

Chief Clinical Science Officer, American Heart Association
Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology, Columbia University

Dr. Elkind is a tenured Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology at Columbia University. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, and he trained in Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and in Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital, both in Boston, MA. He completed a fellowship in Vascular Neurology and Neuroepidemiology at Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Elkind holds a Master's degree in Epidemiology from Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Elkind's research focuses on stroke prevention, inflammatory and infectious biomarkers in stroke risk prediction, atrial cardiopathy, immune therapy for acute stroke, and vascular causes of cognitive aging.



He is only the second neurologist to serve as President of the American Heart Association (AHA) in its 100 year history. After completing his term 2020-2021, he joined the AHA in a new executive position, Chief Clinical Science Officer, with the vision of expanding the work of the organization from its traditional focus on cardiovascular disease and stroke to brain health more broadly defined. In this vision, Elkind develops and leads initiatives on basic and clinical brain science (including stroke, aging and dementia, migraine, traumatic brain injury, and mental health), nutrition and Food Is Medicine approaches to health, cardiometabolic and kidney health, digital health, and others. He believes "...that maximizing health and human potential requires bridging the traditional divides among disciplines, and no organization does that better than the AHA."

The AHA is one of the largest public health organizations in the US and globally. Founded in 1924, it has over the past century provided innovation and advances in cardiovascular and neurological health ranging from:

1. funding > \$5 B in scientific research (largest funder of cardiovascular research after NIH);
2. improving awareness of stroke risk factors;
3. implementation of quality programs that have improved care of stroke patients in the US and globally.
4. widespread dissemination of cardiac defibrillators;
5. developing and publishing key guidelines for cardiovascular and stroke care across multiple disease areas;
6. convening the top international scientific conferences in cardiovascular and stroke medicine.