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North Carolina Stroke Association Honors Wake Forest Baptist Health CEO Dr. John McConnell at Annual Luncheon

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (March 15, 2017) — Dr. John McConnell, chief executive officer of Wake Forest Baptist Health, was honored at the North Carolina Stroke Association Annual Luncheon on March 15, 2017 at Forsyth Country Club. More than 200 people attended the event which featured remarks from Dr. McConnell on his personal stroke experience, Dr. Charles Tegeler, president of the NC Stroke Association board, and Dr. Colin McDonald, NC Stroke Association board member. The Honorable Senator James Broyhill provided the invocation.

“We are so pleased to honor Dr. McConnell as a leader in our community, and as the leader of a medical institution, Wake Forest Baptist Health, which has played such an instrumental role in the original founding and evolution of the NC Stroke Association over our 19-year history,” said Beth Parks, executive director of the NC Stroke Association. “Dr. McConnell has a compelling personal connection to our Time is Brain, Time for Change initiative which addresses the need for acute stroke ready care in hospitals across North Carolina.”

Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the NCSA Time is Brain, Time for Change initiative with a goal of ensuring 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 occurs. By providing assessments and funding for hospitals as they pursue Acute Stroke Ready certification, the NC Stroke Association will improve the likelihood of stroke victims receiving critical care within the optimal three-hour time frame. This is especially important for counties in our state who record some of the highest stroke death rates in the country, yet have the fewest hospitals with advanced stroke care certification.

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.*