



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

*Office of Aviation Safety*



## **FAA Aeromedical Evaluation**

Mitchell A. Garber,  
MD, MPH, MSME

# FAA Guidance

- 1-year wait for “spontaneous bleeds,” not further defined
- “Brain hemorrhage” vs. “cerebrovascular accident” (CVA)
- 2-year wait for CVA
- Neuropsychological exam optional
- No evaluation for recurrence

# FAA Evaluation (this case)

- No cause for stroke identified
- Family history of stroke
- Cognitive difficulties months later, no formal assessment or rehabilitation
- No assessment of risk of recurrence
- No FAA neurologist review
- Alaska Regional Flight Surgeon (pediatrician) issued unrestricted certificate



# FAA Evaluation (other cases)

- Medical certification review:
  - 18 similar first-class cases
  - None similarly certified
- Additional accident 12/29/2010:  
EMS pilot with witnessed stroke
  - Prior stroke 7/22/2006: no cause, neurology review, neuropsychology testing, or risk evaluation



**NTSB**