

# Good News!

Wake Forest School of Medicine Cardiovascular Sciences Center

Second Quarter 2018



## Wake Forest Baptist Health Named as Newest StrokeNet Site



Dr. Bushnell



Dr. Duncan



Dr. Wolfe

Drs. Cheryl Bushnell, Pamela Duncan, and Stacey Wolfe are excited to announce that Wake Forest has been named the newest U24 Regional Clinical Center for StrokeNet, a program funded by National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). StrokeNet is a network of 25 regional stroke centers working with nearby satellite facilities that span the country. The program's primary goal is to have teams of researchers representing every medical specialty needed for stroke care and to maximize efficiencies to develop, promote and conduct high-quality, multi-site clinical trials focused on key interventions in stroke prevention, treatment and recovery.

Wake Forest Baptist Health has partnered with 3 sites to develop the Western North Carolina (NC) StrokeNet. Our network includes 4 of the 6 comprehensive stroke centers in NC, the heart of the Stroke Belt: Wake Forest Baptist Health (RCC), Novant Forsyth Medical Center, Novant Presbyterian, and Mission Health. The referral and telestroke outreach of our network includes the Piedmont region and nearly all of NC west of the Piedmont, and part of southern Virginia, over 4 million individuals, 16,800 square miles, and over 4,000 stroke patients admitted to these hospitals per year.

The aims of the WFBH StrokeNet are 1) successfully implement StrokeNet trials in the Piedmont Triad and Western NC and design new stroke treatment trials; 2) Implement a novel approach for recruitment, retention, and outcome ascertainment through 2a) existing telemedicine networks for recruitment and outcome ascertainment; and 2b) Creating the Western NC Advocacy Committee that will include patient advocates, patients, EMS providers, and clinicians to establish best strategies for community engagement; and 3) Develop community outreach programs to engage rural and urban communities in our referral region in StrokeNet trials.

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 **Wake Forest**  
School of Medicine

## In the News

Wake Forest Baptist Health has received the American College of Cardiology's NCDR ACTION Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2018. Only 203 hospitals nationwide receive this great honor. **Dr. David Zhao**, Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine and director of the Heart and Vascular Center of Excellence, says that this is the highest award an institution can receive. To receive the award, our teams have demonstrated sustained achievement in the ACTION Registry for eight consecutive quarters and performed at the top level of standards for specific performance measures. <http://intranet.wakehealth.edu/In-the-Spotlight/2018/Wake-Forest-Baptist-Receives-Top-National-Recognition-for-Cardiovascular-Care.htm>

## Achievements



Dr. Kavanagh

Associate Professor of Comparative Medicine, **Kylie Kavanagh, V.M.S.**, received recognition as the WFBMC May Leader of the Month. Dr. Kavanagh epitomizes what it means to be a compassionate and innovative member of the faculty. Read more about Kylie's nomination here

<http://intranet.wakehealth.edu/Departments/HumanResources/Recognition/Kylie-Kavanagh-May-Leader-of-the-Month.htm>



Dr. Hundley

The results are in and **Gregory Hundley, MD**, is the winner of the Established Clinical Investigator award for the 2018 faculty Research Awards Day. Prizes for Established Investigator are awarded to WFSM basic and clinical scientists at the full professor level who have made (a) major contribution(s) to their field(s) by a continuing line of research or a number of significant contributions that do not have

to be thematically related to each other. The award consists of a framed certificate and a monetary gift. The 2018 Mentoring Award will go to **David Herrington, MD, MHS**. To receive this award, nominees must have played a significant role in mentoring faculty in their trajectory in attaining a highly successful status as a researcher in the biomedical sciences. Faculty Research Awards Day will be held September 19, 2018 from Noon—1:00 pm in the Commons Conference Rooms. A full list of winners



Dr. Herrington

can be found at <https://ctsi.wakehealth.edu/faculty-research-awards>

## Announcements

Congratulations to the PREP students who have been accepted into the Graduate Studies Program here at Wake Forest: **Pascaline Ezouah**: (MPH Program)-Tulane Univ. School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (SPHTM); (MPH Program) Emory University Rollins School of Public Health; **Sara Arenas De Leon**: (PhD Program-Biomedical Sciences) University of New Mexico; **Yismelin Feliz-Mosquea**: (PhD Program-IPP) Wake Forest Graduate School of Arts & Sciences/School of Medicine; and **Mildred Perez**: (PhD Program-Biomedical Sciences) University of Alabama-Birmingham.



Dr. Cook

**Katherine Cook, PhD**, was awarded a Susan G. Komen Grant under the CCR New Treatments for Drug-Resistant Breast Cancer funding program, to support her research project entitled "Targeting the Unfolded Protein Response Pathway to Prevent Therapeutic Resistance."

**Jasmina Varagic, MD, PhD**, received the 3rd CVSC pilot award of \$20,000 for her project entitled "Ang-(1-12)/Chymase Axis and LV Function in Diabetes".



Dr. Varagic

## Funding and Awards

**Kylie Kavanagh, V.M.S.**, recently received great news that her revised RO1 application was reviewed favorably by the NHLBI, who hinted a "very optimistic" outcome. The title of her project is, "Adipose Mitochondrial Quality Control and Cardiovascular Function in Metabolically Healthy and Unhealthy Obese Monkeys."

**David Soto-Pantoja, PhD**, was awarded an early career investigator travel award from the American Society for Radiation Oncology and will give a talk at the meeting in Washington, DC titled "Anti-CD47 immunotherapy synergizes with ionizing radiation to reduce tumor growth and prevent metastasis"



Dr. Williams

**Timothy Williams, MD and Jim Jordan, PhD**, were awarded a DoD Precision Trauma Care Research award in collaboration with Participants outside of WF School of Medicine entitled “Endovascular Perfusion Augmentation for Critical Care (EPACC): Personalized and Adaptive Therapy for Resuscitation After Trauma”.



Dr. Jordan

The American Society of Nutrition Annual Conference was held in Boston this June and graduate student **Pooja Patil** gave an oral presentation titled, “Anti-Fibrotic and Anti-Oxidant Actions of a Muscadine Grape Extract Supplement on Hypertension-Induced Cardiac Damage.” Also present at the meeting, were graduate students **Marianne Collard, Jessica Mackert, and Omeed Rahimi**, who all presented posters focusing on their work with Muscadine grape extract. All of these graduate students are mentored proudly by Drs. Ann Tallant and Debra Diz.



Dr. Gwathmey-Williams

Congratulations to **TanYa Gwathmey-Williams, PhD**, on receiving the 2018 Arthur Guyton New Investigator Award at COSEHC (Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control) in New Orleans.

## Events and Speaking Engagements

Women’s Health Research Day took place on April 11, 2018. Included in the many wonderful oral and poster presentations were graduate students **Marianne Collard’s** oral presentation and **Jessica Mackert and Fatima Ryalat’s** poster presentations. The topic of the student’s work centered around their research on Muscadine Grape Extract.

**Debra Diz, PhD and Amy Arnold, PhD**, co-chaired a successful ASPET symposium at Experimental Biology 2018 in San Diego (Cardiovascular Consequences of Metabolic Targeting in Obesity, April 21-25, 2018). **Dr. Diz, Tanya Gwathmey-Williams, PhD** and graduate student **Fatima Ryalat** all presented posters at the symposium.

**David Herrington, MD, MHS**, et al will present their abstract entitled, Eicosapentaenoic Acid is a Strong Predictor of Risk for Heart Failure in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis at the Best of AHA Specialty Conferences at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions in Chicago, IL in November.



Dr. Chappell

Congratulations to **Mark Chappell, PhD**, who has been invited to give two lectures: A . Ross McIntyre Cardio-Renal Lecture at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Poisner Lecturship in Pharmacology at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

The PREP Scholars Annual Symposium and Poster Day was held on June 12, 2018 at Biotech Place. The featured speaker was **Dr. David McIntosh**, Vice President & Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, Wake Forest School of Medicine.

Save the date! Wednesday, November 7, 2018, is the **Surgical Sciences 26th Annual Residents’ and Fellows’ Research Day**. Keep your eyes on the intranet for more details as the date approaches.

## Career Development Corner

Please join us for 2018 Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences (EICS) Summer Research Program Poster Symposium, on Friday, July 27th, from 9:30 to 11:00, in the Atrium at Biotech Place. Sixteen undergraduate students from all over the country have been working in our cardiovascular laboratories during the summer and they will present posters describing their summer studies. Light snacks will be served. The symposium will be followed by a brief ceremony, to provide the students with certificates celebrating their participation in our program. Join us and let these bright young students share with you their summer studies.



## Recent CV COE Faculty and Fellow Publications March through June

During the last quarter, Wake Forest School of Medicine CV COE faculty published **65 manuscripts** in peer-reviewed journals including *Journal of the American Heart Association*, *JAMA Cardiology*, *Journal of Hypertension* and *Stroke*. A full list of these publications can be found at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1JSeQsdreOokM/collections/55302217/public/>



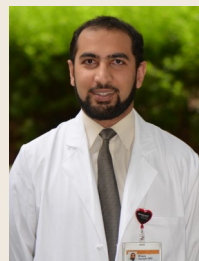
Dr. Wagenknecht



Dr. Langefeld



Dr. Parks



Dr. Qureshi



Dr. Gomadam

**Dr. Lynne Wagenknecht** et al published an article titled “FGF23 Concentration and APOL1 Genotype Are Novel Predictors of Mortality in African Americans with Type 2 Diabetes” in *Diabetes Care*.

**Dr. Carl Langefeld** et al recently published “Genome-Wide Study of Subcutaneous and Visceral Adipose Tissue Reveals Novel Sex-Specific Adiposity Loci in Mexican Americans in *Obesity*.

The manuscript titled “LRP1 Integrates Murine Macrophage Cholesterol Homeostasis and Inflammatory Responses in Atherosclerosis”, authored by **Dr. John Parks** et al, was published in *eLife*.

“American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) Class I Guidelines for the Treatment of Cholesterol to Reduce Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Risk: Implications for US Hispanics/Latinos Based on Findings From the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL)”, authored by **Dr. Waqas Qureshi** et al was recently published in *Journal of the American Heart Association*.

**Dr. Pallavi Gomadam** et al published a manuscript titled, “Blood Pressure Indices and Cardiovascular Disease Mortality in Persons with or without Diabetes Mellitus” in *Journal of Hypertension*.



On May 19, Mark Chappell, PhD, won first place in the 6th Annual Second Spring Art Show sponsored by Winston-Salem Arts Council. The Second Spring Arts Festival showcases creative accomplishments of those 60 plus and promotes Winston-Salem as the City of Arts & Innovation. The yearly celebration features visual and literary arts, demonstrations, music and dance and presentations from notable speakers and performers. Congratulations, Mark!