

YOUR PATH REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

A Season to Reflect and Celebrate

As we enter this season of hustle and bustle—filled with shopping, parties, family gatherings, and year-end work—it's important to pause and reflect. This year has been one of courage and resilience. Together, we faced challenges head-on, navigated the uncertainty that comes with change, and continued to lead in discovery and innovation.

Each of you should be proud of what you've accomplished—not just the milestones, but the strength, perseverance and adaptability you've shown along the way. These qualities define who we are as a department and set the stage for what's ahead.

Looking forward to 2026, we stand united, ready to embrace the unknown and shape the future together. Thank you for your dedication, your creativity, and your unwavering commitment to excellence.

Wishing you peace, joy, and time to recharge this holiday season. - *Diana Cardona, MD, MBA*

FOR YOUR AWARENESS

- [Exciting News: A New Chapter in Education Assistance Is Here!](#)
- Dec. 26: Deadline to [elect paperless 2025 W-2 delivery](#) and enter teammate store gift card drawing
- Beware of holiday scams. As shopping ramps up, so do AI-generated images, fake ads and even phishing emails or texts. [View tips](#), and Squish the Phish when you sense a scam.
- Now Accepting Applications: [CTSI Faculty Liaison Program](#)
- [Duo \(Authenticator Transition\)](#) is being implemented. Watch for email with instructions as initial rollouts are underway, with full adoption expected by the end of Q1.

INTERESTING OPPORTUNITIES

- Monthly Grand Rounds – December 10th (8:30 - 9:30 a.m): Dr. Lynne S. Rosenblum presents “*Cytogenetic Testing - Technology and Applications.*” Click here for [More info.](#)
- The Comparative Medicine / Clarkson Campus Photo Inclusion Project is now on display in the bldg. 14 hallway, Clarkson Campus.

The design of the display resembles a DNA double-helix (and our old logo) which will expand down the hallway as photos are added. Help us expand the helix of Comparative Medicine employees and by getting your portrait taken!
Contact: george.schaaf@wfusm.edu



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Winter Door Decorating Challenge – December 1st – Jan 30th
- Holiday Luncheon – December 17th
- Coming Soon! Gingerbread Wars Challenge. Pathology Labs are invited to enter a decorated house. Voting will take place at the Holiday Luncheon.

December 2025

The Culture and Belonging Committee welcomes your ideas! Please use this QR code, or [link](#), to submit anonymous suggestions, comments or concerns.



👉 [Click here to share your updates](#) or use this QR code

SCAN ME



Stay up to date by following us!

Insta: wakepath
X: Atrium_WakePath

THE LAUGH LAB

*How does a penguins
build its house?*

Igloos it together!

*I thought the dryer was
shrinking my clothes...
turns out it was my
refrigerator all along!!*



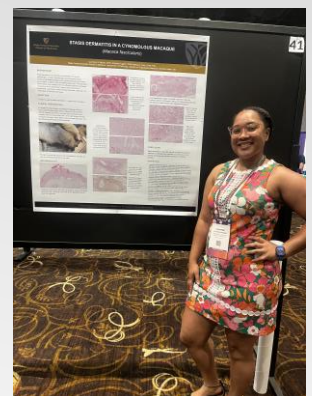
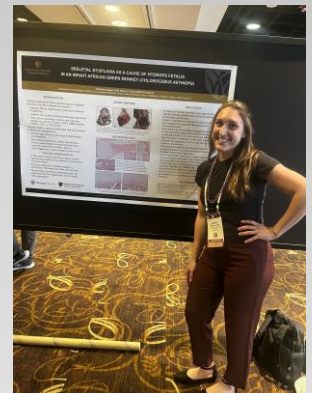
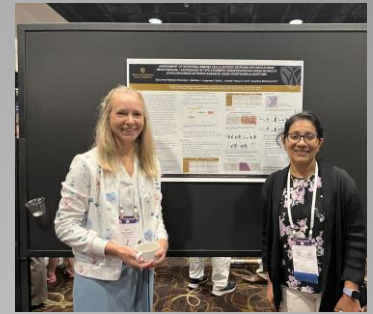
FACULTY AND LABORATORY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **William Harrison, MD** lectured at the North Carolina International Association for Identification (NCIAI) 2025 annual meeting, delivering a 90-minute presentation titled “To Dust Ye Shall Return: Forensic Perspectives on Human Decomposition.”
- **Deeksha Sikri, MBBS, MD** was featured in the Advancing AI Across Academic Medicine Resource Collection. This [systematic framework](#) provides structured guidance for AI tool selection and implementation to help faculty who feel overwhelmed by the numerous AI tools available. It responds to the critical challenge of AI confusion and overreliance identified by the International Advisory Committee for Artificial Intelligence (IACAI).
- **Wencheng Li, MD** abstract entitled, “*Systematic Evaluation of HER2 Expression in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer and Correlation with Gene Alterations and Interobserver Agreement*” has been accepted for presentation in the Stowell-Orbison/Surgical Pathology/Autopsy Award Poster Session. Congratulations to **Dr. Emily Wilson**, who will present in the Stowell-Orbison Award Session at the USCAP 2026 Annual Meeting.
- **Agshin Taghiyev, PhD** and **Reza Ghasemi, PhD** passed their ABMGG board exam in Laboratory Genetics and Genomics. Congratulations!
- **Agshin Taghiyev, PhD** participated in two interviews for different newspapers. The first was published in [Xalq \(“People”\)](#) in Azeri Turkish on October 21, 2025. The second appeared in the online newspaper [Azerbaijan Today](#) in English on November 5, 2025. Both interviews focused on genetics and included mention of Wake Forest University’s Department of Pathology.
- Congratulations to **Ashley Crosby, MD** passing her transfusion medicine boards!
- **Christopher Giauque, PhD** – The Wake Forest Molecular Oncology laboratory performed a clinical validation of DuoSeq, a novel NGS technology allowing for DNA and RNA sequencing libraries to be prepared simultaneously in a single workflow, enabling rapid processing and genetic testing of a range of cancer types. Data from this validation have been included in a recently published [DuoSeq paper](#) in the Journal of Molecular Diagnostics. Lab director Dr. Christopher Giauque and **Robert Erno, Callie Barker, and Jordan Bouldin** from the laboratory are coauthors of the paper.
- **Lynne Rosenblum, PhD** – The Molecular Pathology and Genetics labs welcome **Emily Ramirez** as our new Medical Laboratory Assistant. Emily joins us from Frye Medical Center and is a recent biology graduate from UNC Charlotte. She started on November 17th—welcome to the team, Emily!
- **Sarah Cilvik, MD, PhD** received the Dean’s Research Commendation Award! This distinction honors investigators among the most accomplished in our research community - those whose work continues to drive discovery and improve health for all. Congratulations!

WHAT OUR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS ARE UP TO

- Interview Window: October 23 – December 16, 2025
- Congratulations to **Alexandra Balmaceda, MD** for passing her hematopathology boards!
- Congratulations to our seven trainees—**Abdelrahman Alwan, Andrew Hiatt, Anika Chowdhury, Shuo Niu, Rachel Mullins, Amber Tran, and Emily Wilson**—who had abstracts accepted for the upcoming USCAP meeting in March. Some even had multiple submissions! This marks one of the strongest showings for our program in years. Kudos to everyone for their hard work and dedication!

2025 American College of Veterinary Pathologists Meeting!



Pictured: Dr. Gayathri Balamayooran, Erica Ramaker, Dr. Courtney Moore, Dr. Amanda Duggan

Congratulations to Dr. Courtney Moor for being awarded the CL Davis/Thompson student achievement award!

SPECIAL SHOUTOUT ✨

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Department-Wide Food Drive benefiting Clemmons Food Pantry! Together, we collected **534.51 pounds** toward our 500-pound goal! 📷

- **489.51 pounds** came from generous food donations
- The remaining weight represents **\$90.00 in cash contributions.**

List of additional ways to give:

- Second Harvest Food bank has a [virtual food drive](#)
- [LasagnaLove.org](#) offers lasagna meals to families and there is a chapter that serves Winston Salem.
- Gringo Ninja Private Chef [facebook link](#) is helping provide as many meals as they can.
- [Out of the Garden Project](#)

FALL DOOR DECORATING CHALLENGE! 🍁

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Fall Door Decorating Challenge! Your creativity added warmth and festive spirit to our workplace, and we truly enjoyed seeing all of your amazing designs. 🍂



Christy Thalangsy



Laura Miller - Downtown Health Plaza



Molecular Pathology/Cytogenetics



Clemmons Medical Plaza Laboratory



Westchester Lab