

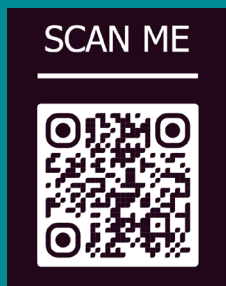
October
2026

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



ACL: [eTAT Newsletters](#)

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



THE LAUGH LAB

What did the ghost say
when she saw her
boyfriend?

Hey, Boo!

What do demons eat for
breakfast?

Deviled Eggs!

YOUR PATH REPORT

Stay up to date by following us!
Insta: wakepath
X: Atrium_WakePath

Chair's Message:

As October arrives, the cooler mornings, changing leaves, and shorter days remind us that seasons of change can be both refreshing and energizing. As we move through the fall, we remain committed to the important work of improving our department and laboratories. Across our clinical, academic, and operational missions, teams continue to identify opportunities to streamline workflows, enhance communication, strengthen our culture, and create a better experience for our faculty, staff, trainees, and patients. These efforts may sometimes happen behind the scenes, but together they contribute to a more connected, efficient, and supportive environment for all.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our Appreciation Week activities last month. The enthusiasm, kindness, and camaraderie on display were wonderful reminders of what makes our department such a special place. Thank you to everyone who helped organize events, participated in activities, and took the time to recognize and celebrate one another.

Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful fall season.

- Diana Cardona MD, MBA, FCAP

FOR YOUR AWARENESS

- [New symplr Time and Scheduling](#) platform and app launch Oct. 8
- [Stay well this flu season, and get vaccinated by Dec. 1](#)
- Transitioning to [Origami](#) for event reporting
- [Benefits](#): Open enrollment starts on Oct. 14
- **Path Forward our department leadership development series** provides practical strategies for effective communication, leadership, collaboration, mentorship, and professional development.

Session #3: October 28 - Receiving Feedback Without Becoming Defensive - Cara Haberman, MD

Session #4: November 4 - Strategies to Increase Efficiency and Impact with AI - Jaspal Singh, MD

WELCOME NEW TEAMMATES

- **Shruthi Mohan, PhD**, joins faculty as Assistant Professor, Director of Molecular Pathology and Genetics, started 9/21/26.

INTERESTING OPPORTUNITIES

- Sept. 14-Oct. 16: [Season of Purpose is now!](#) Explore volunteer opportunities
- Oct. 1-15: [Ride Winston-Salem transit for free](#)
- Oct. 7: Grand Rounds – Dr. Xianyong (Sean) Gui, MD, presents “*Using Spatial Transcriptomics to Identify Molecular Signatures of Crohn’s Disease-associated Segmental Stenosing Stricture.*”
- Oct. 21: Grand Rounds – Dr. Diane Moore, PhD, presents “*Dying to Know: The Science of Postmortem Drug Testing.*”

- Oct 23: [Submit nominations](#) for our annual Clinical Excellence Awards at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist and Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 7: [Navigating Your Journey Through Fertility and Beyond](#)
- Oct. 8: The Q4 “For All Day” All labs and departments are encouraged to participate and submit photos from your event.
- Oct. 8: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month: [Legacy, Unity, and Impact](#)
- Oct. 9: [Advocate Health Has Talent](#) voting open through Oct. 9
- Oct. 21: Advocate Health Touchstone Award Sharing Day; Register [here!](#)
- Oct. 21: [Join us for the First Annual Clarkson Campus Field Day!](#)
- Oct. 23: Belonging in Healthcare Conference; Register [here!](#)

FACULTY AND LABORATORY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Former Pathology Fellow **Julie Bennington** recently published a viewpoint [article](#), “*Why We Love (and Hate) Cats: A One Health Perspective*,” in the Journal of One Health Systems.
- **Abdullah Kilic, MD and Elizabeth Palavecino, MD** - Recently published [article](#), “*Species Distribution and Antifungal Susceptibility of Candida Isolates From Candidemia: Findings at a Tertiary Academic Medical Center From 2018 to 2025*,” in Cureus.
- **Abdullah Kilic, MD** co-authored the Microbiology Spectrum [article](#), “*Integrated Genomic and Phenotypic Analysis of Intra-Clade Variation in Candida auris From a New York City Tertiary Hospital*.”
- **Diana Cardona, MD, MBA, FCAP** was featured in the Becker’s Hospital Review [article](#), “*Will Robots Replace Phlebotomists? Advocate Health, Cleveland Clinic Leaders Weigh In.*”
- **William Harrison, MD, FCAP, F-ABMDI** – “We are pleased to announce that the Wake Forest Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) received its Notice of Award for the renewal of the P30 Center grant.

As part of the new five-year funding cycle, **Dr. William Harrison** will continue to serve as Leader of the Neuropathology Core, and **Dr. Tom Register** will serve as Leader of the new Fluid Biomarkers Core.

The Neuropathology Core received particularly strong reviews, with reviewers highlighting the remarkable progress and growth of the Rapid Brain Autopsy Service as well as the innovative Translational Models Service, led by Dr. Carol Shively. The new Fluid Biomarker Core was also very well received. These programs were recognized as significant strengths of the ADRC and reflect the collaborative efforts of our faculty and staff to advance aging and Alzheimer's disease research.

Please join us in congratulating everyone involved in this important achievement."

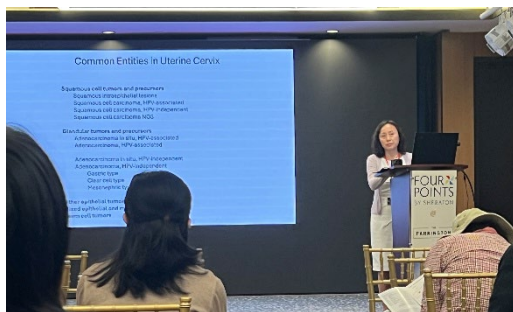
- The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is pleased to recognize **William Harrison, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Neurology, and Internal Medicine (Geriatrics and Gerontology), on his acceptance into the **Ray E. Helfer Society**, a distinguished international professional society dedicated to advancing the medical understanding, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

Membership in the Helfer Society brings together physicians and other professionals with specialized expertise and a demonstrated commitment to the field of child maltreatment. Dr. Harrison’s selection recognizes his work as a forensic pathologist and neuropathologist, with particular expertise in the pathology and neuropathology of fatal child abuse and abusive head trauma.

Through his clinical practice, expert consultation and testimony, teaching, and scholarly work, Dr. Harrison has contributed to the accurate recognition and understanding of injuries associated with child maltreatment and to the broader pursuit of justice and prevention for vulnerable children.

Membership in the Ray E. Helfer Society will provide additional opportunities for collaboration with nationally and internationally recognized experts in child abuse medicine and related disciplines. Dr. Harrison looks forward to representing the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Wake Forest University School of Medicine within this distinguished professional community.

- **Thomas Register, PhD** and **Carol Shively, PhD** have been awarded **\$421,000** as part of **SHE-HEALS (“Stopping Atherosclerotic Heart and Vessel Disease in Women”)**, a \$10 million global initiative led by **Ziad Mallat** at the University of Cambridge. Co-funded by the American Heart Association and the Global Cardiovascular Research Funders Forum (GCRFF), this international project investigates how the menopause transition accelerates cardiovascular and blood vessel diseases in women. By exploring the specific biological shifts that occur as estrogen levels decline, the research aims to uncover why traditional risk models often fail women and pave the way for targeted, sex-specific preventative therapies and clinical guidelines.
- **Yanjun Hou, MD** and **Haodong Xu, MD** were invited to give lectures at the 12th Annual Chinese American Pathologists Association (CAPA) Diagnostic Course, held September 12-13, 2026, in New York.
 - Dr. Yanjun Hou presented “The Common, Uncommon and Rare Lesions in the Uterine Cervix”.
 - Dr. Haodong Xu presented “Lung Tumor Pathology: Diagnostic Pitfalls and Practical Pearls”.



UPDATED FORENSICS BUILDING



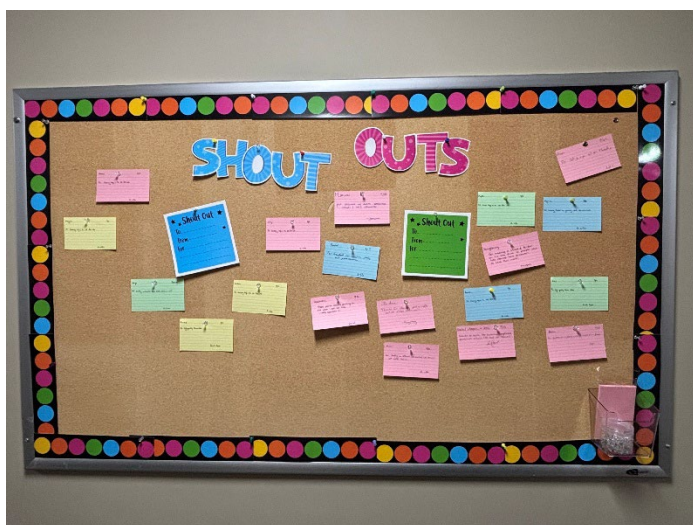
ART WALL



Take a moment to explore our new pathology art wall, now on display in **Suite A**. Featuring images submitted by members of our department, the exhibit showcases the beauty and impact of pathology while celebrating the creativity of our faculty, trainees, and staff. Thank you to all contributors, and we encourage future submissions as we continue expanding this inspiring display!

WHAT OUR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS ARE UP TO

- The Resident and Fellow Shout Out Board in the resident area!



If a resident or fellow does something that you feel deserves a shout out, please feel free to add an index card with which person is being shouted out, why they're receiving it, and who is leaving it. At the end of each month, shout outs are collected, and those residents/fellows will be entered into a random drawing for a themed prize or a gift card. 😊

Thank you to everyone who participated in Teammate Appreciation Week and helped make it a wonderful celebration of our colleagues. We are especially grateful for the many acts of kindness shared throughout the week. Congratulations to our 8 Acts of Kindness winners: **Patricia Warren, Shauna Matthew, Shandy Kirkland, Elizabeth Ruggiero, Susan Appt, Sunni Chen, Megan Lee, and Barbara Price**. Winners had the ability to select from Carolina Panther Football and WF Football tickets or Gift card from Sanders Ridge or Subway. Thank you for helping foster a culture of kindness, appreciation, and teamwork across our department. Highlights on the next page! 😊



Wake Forest University
School of Medicine



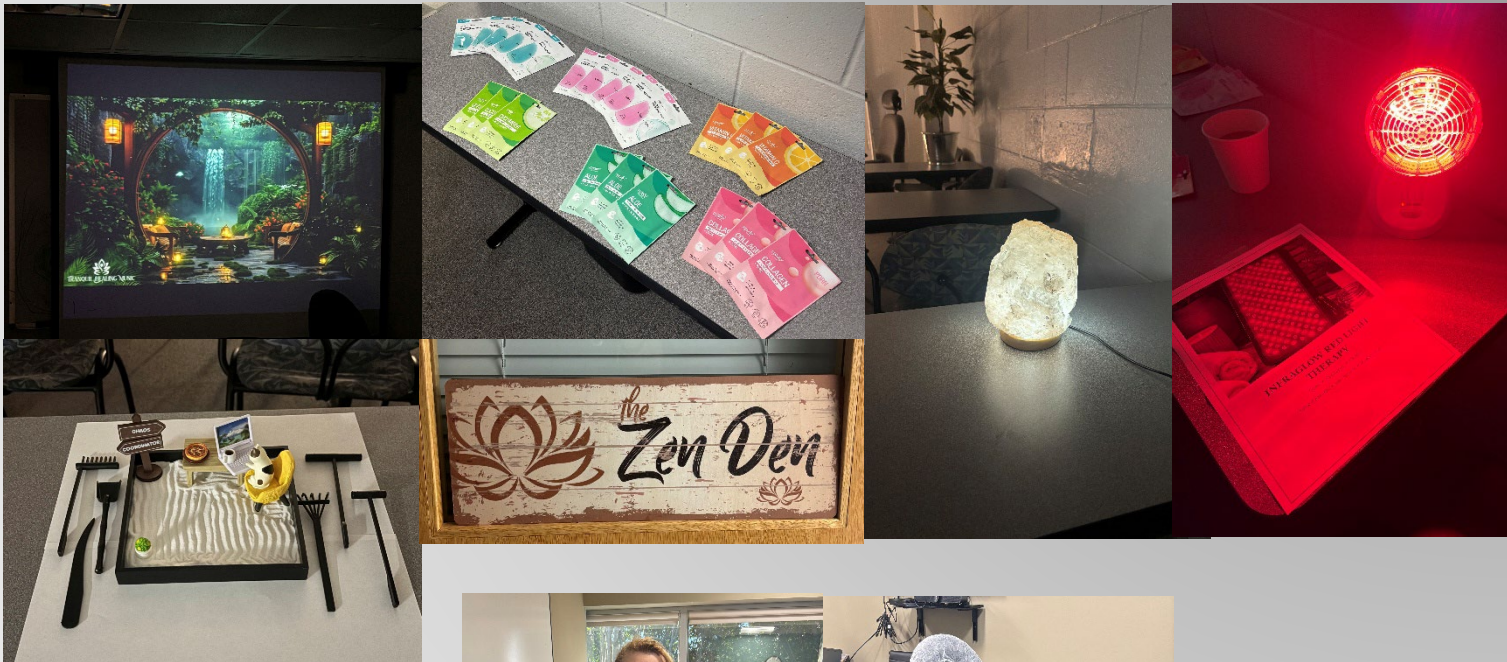
Atrium Health



ADVOCATE HEALTH

Teammate Appreciation Week | 9/10-18

Zen Den



Chair Massage



Thanks for Being Spec-Taco-Lar!

