

YOUR PATH REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

As we welcome February, we also celebrate the Chinese New Year and the Year of the Horse—a symbol of energy, momentum, and forward progress. This spirit feels especially fitting as our department and laboratories continue to accelerate innovation, collaboration, and discovery. The months ahead will bring exciting initiatives, new opportunities, and continued growth across our clinical, research, and educational missions. We should all be excited about the strides we will make together.

- Diana Cardona, MD, MBA

FOR YOUR AWARENESS

- [Cisco Duo Implementation \(Ongoing\)](#)
- As of Jan 27: The New [ServiceNow Service Portal](#) is available for use and is now referred to as the **Employee Center**. The [new tool](#) offers an enhanced experience to boost efficiency and a consistent way to submit tickets and request services. See training in Workday.
- Advocate Health is now featured as a collaboration partner on the newly launched [Vitestro](#) website.
- Update to **Standardized Email Signature Format** (DEADLINE: January 30) to ensure a more consistent, professional, and reliable appearance across all communications. This change helps minimize confusion, prevent display issues, and support a unified Advocate Health brand experience as we prepare for our future system branding.
- **Reminder: Year-End Review.** If you haven't had your review discussion with your leader, reach out to schedule. Leader conversations and ratings must be completed by Jan. 31, and teammate acknowledgements are due Feb. 27.
- **ACL:** [eTAT Newsletters](#)

INTERESTING OPPORTUNITIES

- Monthly Grand Rounds – Feb 11th (8:30 - 9:30 a.m): Dr. Sofronescu presents “*Hb A1c role in Diabetes Mellites diagnostic and monitoring.*”
- Ready to become a Future Pathologist Champion? Complete the [form](#) to apply.
- Investing in your experience: Empathy and involvement. [Discover more opportunities](#) for connection and community service.
- Celebrate [Outstanding Teammates and Leaders](#) at Atrium Wake Forest Baptist: Nominate a teammate for the [Teammate of the Month](#) or a leader for the [Leader of the Month](#) awards and help us celebrate those who make Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist a better place for everyone.
- The Culture and Belonging Committee of Pathology is hosting a Food Collection for Cancer Patients from February 9-23. More info [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 2: InStride Education Assistance Benefits [webinar](#)
- Feb. 5: Headspace [Live Meditation](#): Understanding Loneliness
- April: [Celebrate Research!](#) 2026

February 2026

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
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THE LAUGH LAB

Some horses take forever doing their hair. They're high mane-tenance.

I love a good horse pun, but then I am a little unstable.



FACULTY AND LABORATORY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Congratulations to Mark Giffen, DO, who:**
 - was recently appointed to the editorial board for the Autopsy and Forensic Pathology subsection of pathologyoutlines.com. He was recognized for his previous work as both a content expert and reviewer by this appointment.
 - recently started the *2026 Advocate Health Access & Opportunity Certificate Program*, which consists of 6 interactive sessions, over 12 weeks, designed to deepen participants' understanding of access and opportunity in healthcare.
- **Heath Blankenship, MD** was a finalist for Wake Forest SOM Emerging Faculty Leader.

- **Jasna Walton** - Big congratulations to **Kelly Leiner**, the January 2026 Leader of the Month winner! 🏆 Kelly is a proud member of our Laboratory Point of Care team at AHWFB, and her dedication to exceptional patient care, paired with her strong alignment to Advocate Health's Behavioral Commitments, is exactly what earned her this recognition. She's the true definition of a servant leader, consistently putting her team and our patients first, leading with heart, humility, and purpose every day. Thank you, Kelly, for representing our AHWFB Pathology Laboratory Team so well!



- **Gregory Pomper, MD** - Congratulation to the **Cloverdale Laboratory Team** for our first CLIA inspection resulting in Zero deficiencies!
- **Jason Spinelli, MT (AMT)** - Introduction of New Hematology Osmolality Analyzer: The Winston Campus Hematology Laboratory is the only laboratory that offers osmolality testing for urine and serum samples in the Wake Network. The previous osmolality analyzer was discontinued early 2025 and the laboratory only had one analyzer to use for all patient testing with no back up. Now, the Hematology laboratory has validated and implemented a new Osmolality analyzer that will eliminate any possible downtimes and will continue to provide accurate osmolality results for patient care.

WHAT OUR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS ARE UP TO

- **Shuo Niu, MD** will begin term as a junior member of the Digital and Computational Pathology Committee at CAP in 2026.

2026 PATHOLOGY RESEARCH PILOT AWARDS

- **Visiopharm Deep Learning for image analysis:** Gaya Balamayooran (PI), DVM, PhD, DACVP, Assistant Professor, Comparative Medicine, Department of Pathology.
- **Spatial Profiling of the Genomic & Proteomic Architecture of Atherosclerosis** - David Caudell (PI), DVM, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology/Comparative Medicine, Director, Comparative Pathology Core Laboratory and Co-Is: David Herrington, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine) and Joshua Maxwell, PhD (Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine).

New Medical Examiners building as of today!



Drs. Woodward, Crosby and Rahoui at the New Faculty Development Program Retreat!

- **Clonal Hematopoiesis and Cardiovascular Disease in Nonhuman Primates** - Haodong Xu, MD, PhD (PI) Professor, Department of Pathology & Cardiovascular Medicine, Co-Is: Mark Cline, DVM, PhD, ACVP (Comparative Medicine & Department of Pathology, Primate Research Center), George Schaaf, DVM, ACVP (Radiation Biology, Department of Radiation Oncology, Primate Research Center).
- **Multimodal Prediction of Oncotype DX and Breast Cancer Outcomes to Accelerate Risk Stratification** - Nabil Rahoui (PI), MD Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology and Co-Is Onur Koyun, PhD (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Artificial Intelligence Research, WFUSM); Diana Cardona, MD, MBA (Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology, WFUSM); Metin Gurcan, PhD (Professor of Internal Medicine; Director, Center for Biomedical Informatics, WFUSM).
- **Profiling of Mucosal Biopsy Collagen Architecture and Inflammatory Environment in Interstitial Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome** - Hannah Ruetten (Co-PI), DVM/PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Comparative Medicine/Pathology, Dr. Wencheng Li, MD, Associate Professor Pathology, (Co-PI) and Co-I Steve Walker, PhD, WFIRM.
- **Spatial Transcriptomics and Organoid Models to Define Radiation Late Effects on NHP Intestinal Barrier Function (Co-award with the WFPRC)** - Cecilia Schaaf (PI), DVM PhD, Assistant Professor, Comparative Medicine/Pathology and Co-Is: George Schaaf, DVM, ACVP (Radiation Biology, Department of Radiation Oncology), Kylie Kavanagh, VMS MPH, Professor (Comparative Medicine/Pathology), David Caudell, DVM PhD, Associate Professor (Comparative Medicine/Pathology), and Guangxu Jin, PhD, Assistant Professor (Cancer Biology).
- **The Radiation Late Effects Cohort as a platform for studying Clonal Hematopoiesis of Indeterminate Potential (CHIP) and its role in neurovascular injury and endothelial damage** - William Harrison, MD (Co-PI) Assistant Professor Pathology, Neurology, Internal Medicine & Geriatrics and Gerontology, George Schaaf, DVM, DACVP (Co-PI), Assistant Professor (Radiation Oncology/Radiation Biology & Pathology/Comparative Medicine) and Co-Is: Clemer Abad, DVM, MPH NIH-T32 Postdoctoral Fellow (Pathology/Comparative Medicine), J. Mark Cline, DVM, PhD, DACVP Professor (Pathology/Comparative Medicine & Radiation Oncology/Radiation Biology)
- **Simultaneous Detection of Chromosomal Abnormalities in CD138-Positive Plasma Cells Using FISH and Anti-CD138 Antibodies:** Agshin F Taghiyev (PI), PhD, FACMGG, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology Associate Medical Director, Molecular Pathology Genetics and Co-Is: Lynne S Rosenblum, PhD, FACMGG, Associate Professor (Department of Pathology, Section Head, Molecular Pathology and Genetics)

WINTER DOOR DECORATING CHALLENGE! ❄️



FISH Lab

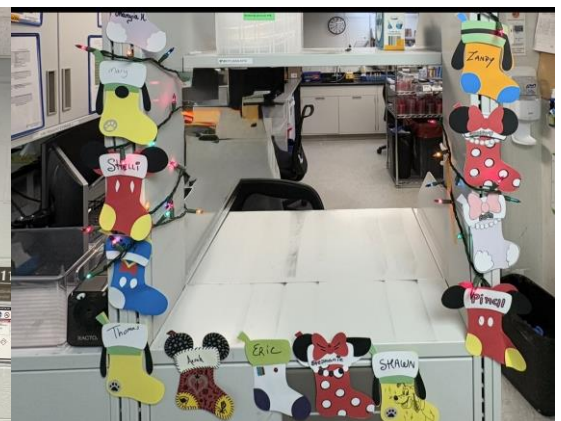
**Kernersville
Patient Service
Center**



Molecular Pathology/Cytogenetics

Gray 2107 Office

Molecular Oncology Lab



Microbiology



Clemmons
Lab