

June
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](#)

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SCAN ME



THE LAUGH LAB

How do you know when a joke is a dad joke?

When it becomes
apparent.

What award did the guy who invented "knock knock" jokes win?

The 'no-bell' prize

YOUR PATH REPORT

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

As summer arrives, it brings with it a season of energy, connection, and celebration within and beyond our department.

First, I'd like to take a moment to recognize Father's Day—honoring the fathers, mentors, and role models among us whose dedication, patience, and quiet leadership shape both our families and our workplace. Thank you for the many ways you support and inspire those around you.

This season also marks an exciting milestone for our department with the clinical deployment of Digital Pathology. This effort represents more than a technological advancement—it reflects our collective commitment to innovation and advancing patient care, education, and discovery. We are grateful to all who have contributed to bringing this vision to life.

Beyond our walls, the global stage offers its own moments of connection and inspiration as the FIFA World Cup brings people together across cultures and continents. Besides being a passion of mine and of my family, the World Cup serves as a reminder of the power of teamwork, shared goals, and the joy of striving together—principles that I hope resonate deeply within your own work.

As the days grow longer and warmer, I hope each of you finds time to recharge, spend time with loved ones, and enjoy the season.

- Diana Cardona MD, MBA, FCAP

FOR YOUR AWARENESS

- **The Molecular Oncology Laboratory** relocated to Hanes Building on May 12th. New phone number is 336-716-4586.
- **Blood Bank and Critical Care Labs** relocated to Janeway Tower, 1st floor.
- Use [New Print Services Portal](#) Beginning July 1st.
- [Don't Forget Your Free Dash Ticket for Teammate Appreciation Night](#)

INTERESTING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Monthly Grand Rounds:**
June 10: Group - Dr. Elizabeth Palavecino, MD, presents "*Microbiology/Infectious Diseases*", Dr. Alexandra Balmaceda, MD, presents "*Follicular Lymphomas; Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH) evaluations of Follicular Lymphomas*", Dr. Courtney Moore, Fellow, presents "*Radiation-Induced Sarcomas in Rhesus Macaques*"
- **June 25:** Susan Appt, DVM – "**For All Day**" celebration. Examples of activities [here](#).
 - Purpose: empowering Pathology labs/sections to promote inclusion and a sense of belonging & mattering.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 2 and Beyond: Pride Month [virtual](#) and [community](#) events
- June 4: [Live meditation with Headspace: Authenticity & Confidence](#)
- June 11: Roots to Routes 5k: [Growing and Belonging](#)
- June 11: Department of Pathology 2026 Graduation Ceremony
- June 13: WS Pride Parade - Walk with Pathology-Comparative Medicine, [Flyer 1](#) & [2](#)



Wake Forest University
School of Medicine



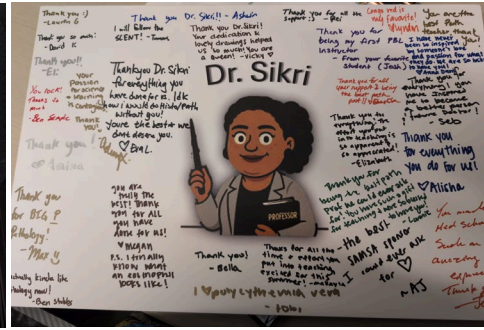
Atrium Health



ADVOCATE HEALTH

FACULTY AND LABORATORY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Deeksha Sikri, MBBS, DNB** received the 1st Year Class of 2029 Teaching Award from the students at Charlotte.



- Two abstracts submitted by **Deeksha Sikri** featured as Top Abstracts at HPEI Annual Conference at Charlotte, including one about using surgical residuals for pre-clerkship pathology teaching sessions.
- **Ashley 'Leigh' Smith's** [article](#), "Histologic features of Lange's folds: implications for diagnosing retinal folds due to vitreoretinal traction in pediatric eyes" with **Tammy Sexton, William T. Harrison, Anna G. McDonald, and Patrick E. Lantz** as co-authors was accepted for publication in Forensic Science, Medicine and Pathology.
- **Chris Giauque PhD**, director of the clinical Molecular Oncology laboratory, won a best abstract award at the 70th annual conference of the American Association of Bioanalysts in Las Vegas on May 6th for his podium presentation "Clinical Validation of a Real-Time PCR Assay for Detection of the MYD88 p.L260P Variant".
- **Wencheng Li, MD, PhD** received a certificate in medical leadership.
- **Gayathri Balamayooran, DVM, PhD** presented a case at SEVPAC (Southeastern Veterinary Pathology Conference) in Tifton, Georgia.



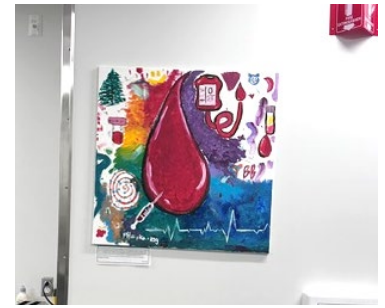
The Molecular Oncology Lab!



Blood Bank and Critical Care Labs!

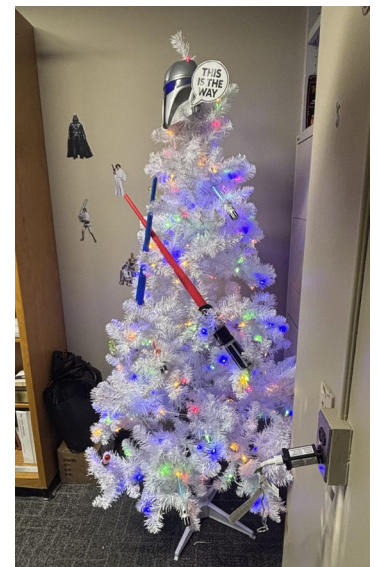
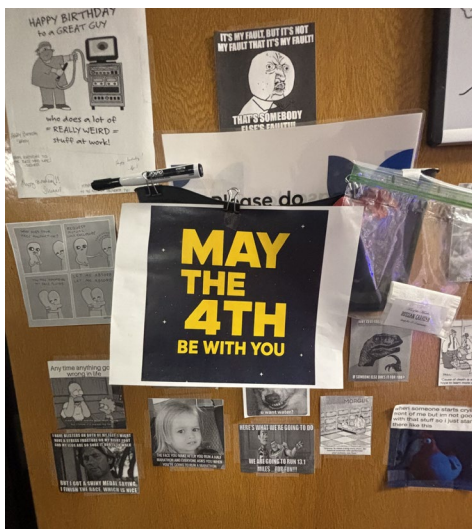


- **Beth Gallos** – The Critical Care Blood Gas lab has combined both of their laboratories from 5NT and OR Path lab into one new lab on 1 Janeway. We are growing and adding additional testing to support the OR and ICU's over the next few months. Stop by and say Hello!
- **The Blood Bank and Critical Care Labs** hosted an open house on May 28, welcoming colleagues for tours and light refreshments. To commemorate the opening, lab teammates collaborated on a communal painting, now proudly displayed in the new space.
- **Kimberly Woodward, MD, MPH** and **Ashley Crosby, MD** attended the CAP Laboratory Medical Direction Conference in Northfield, Illinois, on May 7–8, 2026, where they had the opportunity to learn alongside Dr. Pomper, who served as one of the faculty leaders for the conference.



WHAT OUR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS ARE UP TO

- The residents and fellows surprised Dr. Mark Giffen on May 4th by decorating his office for Star Wars Day! ★ 🚀



PURPOSE AND COMMITMENT RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine proudly hosted its 4th Annual Purpose and Commitment Recognition Ceremony, honoring teammates who exemplify the Advocate Health culture commitments in their daily work. Since launching this program in 2023, the department has celebrated individuals whose actions reflect a dedication to uplifting others, leading with purpose, collaborating boldly, and embracing change. 🌟

This year's honorees include **Alexandra Clyburn** (not pictured) and **Sue Appt** for Lift Everyone Up, **Jordan Bouldin** and **William "Bill" Nell** for Lead the Way, **Agshin Taghiyev, PhD** and **Leslie Chandler** for Think Boldly Together, and **Kristen Hall** and **Scott Evans** for Embrace the Unknown.

Honorable mentions go to **Chemistry** for Embrace the Unknown and **Point of Care** for Think Boldly Together.

These outstanding teammates continue to inspire those around them and make a meaningful impact across the department. Congratulations to all honorees on this well-deserved recognition!



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