

July
2026

YOUR PATH REPORT

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Celebrating Independence and Possibility

As we celebrate our nation's independence this July, we are reminded that while our country's history is comparatively young, it has long been a place where dreams can take shape and possibilities become reality.

That spirit of optimism and opportunity resonates strongly in our work at Advocate Health. Though we are still early in our journey together, we are building something meaningful—an organization where we have the privilege and responsibility to help shape the future of healthcare, especially in pathology and laboratory medicine.

By staying focused on what matters most—delivering the highest quality care to our patients and supporting one another as colleagues—we create the foundation for innovation, excellence, and lasting impact. Each of us plays an important role in this work. I encourage you to stay engaged, share your ideas, and continue finding ways—both large and small—to improve how we care for our patients and each other.

Wishing you and your families a joyful and safe Fourth of July!

- Diana Cardona MD, MBA, FCAP

FOR YOUR AWARENESS

- Equipping our teammates to lead the way with [AI](#)
- Avoid the rush: [Book your child's well visit now](#)
- Annual Regulatory Learning (ARL) starts **July 1**. Safety is a top priority at Advocate Health, and ARL helps keep our teammates, patients and visitors safe. [From July 1-Sept. 30](#), all teammates are required to complete ARL to stay up to date on the standards and practices that support a compliant workplace. The Fast Pass test-out option is back for select courses; and early completion comes with rewards – the first teammate from each division to finish will receive a prize, and those who complete ARL by July 31 will be entered into a gift card drawing for the Advocate Brand Store. [Learn more.](#)
- Avoid heat-related issues at work. As temperatures rise, the risk of heat illness increases too, especially with physical activity or when wearing heavy PPE. Stay cool, take care of each other, and [know the signs and prevention steps.](#)

INTERESTING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Oct 8:** The Q4 “**For All Day**” will be October 8, 2026. These purposeful days are about empowering Pathology labs/sections to promote inclusion and a sense of belonging & mattering. Tell us what your lab/department will do to support this mission, and don't forget to send photos. Examples of activities [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 8: HUB Partner/Spouse Virtual Drop in Session; [Register](#) and [Join](#).
- July 9: [Live Meditation with Headspace: Managing Anxiety](#)
- July 9: [Insider Risk 101: Practical Tips for Leaders and Teams webinar](#)
- July 23: Best Place to Care/HUB – East of Texas; Register [here](#).

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

SCAN ME



THE LAUGH LAB

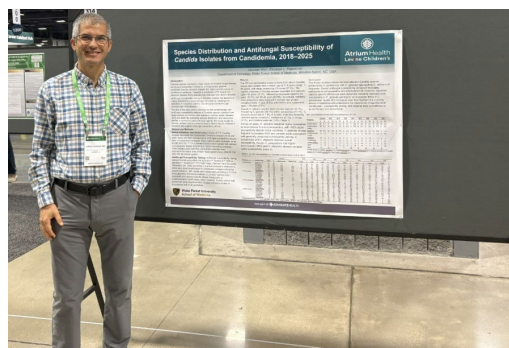
Did you hear the one about the Liberty Bell?

Yeah, it cracked me up too!

My doctor told me to reduce stress, so I stopped watching penalty kicks!

FACULTY AND LABORATORY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Deeksha Sikri, MBBS, DNB** attended the SGEA and IAMSE Annual Conferences in June held in Augusta, GA.
- **Abdullah Kilic, MD** presented the poster “Species Distribution and Antifungal Susceptibility of Candida Isolates from Candidemia, 2018–2025.” at the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Microbe 2026.



- **Cathy Gilkey, MLS (ASCP)CM** - The flow lab recently finished its validation of the fetomaternal bleed screen for the BD Lyric. This test is utilized to assess fetal red cells mixed with maternal blood during a traumatic event. The lab result is used to calculate Rhogam dosage. This validation is part of a long-term project to move all flow assays to the new BD Lyric method from the older Beckman Coulter Navios instrumentation. **Thank you to the entire Flow Lab staff for their help and diligence in getting this project completed!** Go live was Tuesday, June 16th.
- **Kylie Kavanagh, DVM, MS, MPH** - has been named a **Fellow of The Obesity Society (FTOS)**, a prestigious honor recognizing exceptional scholarly achievement and significant contributions to obesity research. This marks her third fellowship, in addition to her distinction as a Fellow of the American Aging Association and the Gerontological Society of America. She has also been invited to present at the National Institute on Aging workshop, “Advancing the Translational Aging Research Pipeline,” this August at the NIH.
- **William Harrison, MD** moderated the Frontotemporal Dementia, Lewy Body Disease, and Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) scientific session at the June 2026 annual meeting of the American Association of Neuropathologists.
- **Michael D. Gautreaux, PhD** had two abstracts accepted for poster presentation at the ASHI 52nd Annual Meeting in October: *Inconsistencies Between Manual and Automated Cell Counting* and *A Laboratory’s Perspective with LIS and EHR Integration*.
- **Mark Cline, DVM, PhD, DACVP** - Congratulations to **Felicity Say**, a graduate student in Dr. Mark Cline’s laboratory, on her acceptance into the Redox Biology T32 Institutional Training Program.
- **Don Shumate** - Welcome, **Ally Hannon**! Ally recently joined the Department as a cytotechnologist. She is 25 years old and from Asheboro, North Carolina. She enjoys reading, solving puzzles, and playing golf in her free time. Ally is also the proud owner of two cats, Wednesday and Jasper. We are excited to have her as part of our team!



Ally Hannon

WS Pride Parade! 6/13/26



Pictured: Jese Shannon, Susan Appt, Erik Rasmussen, Angus Rasmussen, Hannah Ruetten, and Hannah Jordan.

“FOR ALL DAY”

- Molecular Genetics participated in the “For All Day” celebration on June 25, featuring a BULZiBUCKET game and a Chips and Dips Day.
- Comparative Medicine Preclinical Translational Services Core – The team celebrated Pride Month with a rainbow-themed T-shirt display and enjoyed a team lunch together.
- The PTDSU team recently participated in a “Best Caption” activity, where team members created captions for a shared photo. Submissions were compiled into an Outlook poll, and team members are currently voting to select their favorite entry.



Vote Best Caption for Image

- ☐ "When cybersecurity says, 'don't write down your passwords, but you interpret it as make it a scavenger hunt instead.'
- ☐ Sticky Note Password Manager – Never forget a PW again " As long as you don't lose your Sticky Note" P.S. (Please do not put near high wind or office fans)
- ☐ My brain needs an update; it keeps forgetting my passwords.
- ☐ "Password Incorrect" "Password Incorrect" "New Password cannot be the same as old password"
- ☐ OK – now this would be the opening scene for the new KeePass commercial..
- ☐ I couldn't find my Outlook password so I could sent Trish my "Best Day Ever" entry...
- ☐ A quick look at the laptop of the Count on Sesame Street.
- ☐ Hey! Those are just like the combination on my luggage!
- ☐ My handwriting is my new security strategy

WHAT OUR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS ARE UP TO

🎓 Congratulations to our 2026 graduates from the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Department of Pathology!

We're so proud of our graduating residents: Nawroz Barwari, Anna Nevels, Shuo (Sean) Niu, Michael Ann Priddy-Arrington, Ashley (Leigh) Smith, and our incredible fellows: Alexandra Balmaceda (Cyto), Catherine Gloss (Derm), Addie Hancock (Forensics), Juan Marrero Berrios (Heme), Shayna DeSando (Surg Path), and Hanadi Osman (Surg Path, not pictured).

Additional Awards Presented at Graduation:

- Distinguished Medical Student Award – Elinor C. Grage
- Fellow teaching Award - Alexandra Balmaceda
- Faculty AP teaching Award – Nabil Rahoui
- Faculty CP teaching Award – Ashley Crosby
- Emeritus Faculty Awards – Nancy Rosenthal and Simon Bergman

- Dr. Simon Bergman Excellence in Teaching Award – Giovanni Insuasti
- John Edland Courage Award Challenge Coin – Ashley (Leigh) Smith and Addie Hancock

