

August 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 did the doctor cure the invisible man?

He took him to the ICU.

I got carded at a liquor store, and my Blockbuster card accidentally fell out. The cashier said never mind

YOUR PATH REPORT

Chair's Message:

I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to our newest residents, fellows, staff and faculty members joining our department and laboratories this year. Each of you brings unique experiences, talents, and perspectives that will strengthen our mission and enrich our community. We are thrilled that you have chosen to join us, and we look forward to supporting your success and celebrating your achievements in the years ahead.

The new academic year is a reminder of what makes our department special. While we take pride in our excellence in education, research, and clinical care, it is our people and our culture that truly define us. As new team members arrive, we have an opportunity to demonstrate the very best of Southern hospitality: extending a warm welcome, offering guidance, sharing our knowledge, and helping others feel that they belong from day one. Small acts of kindness, mentorship, and inclusion can have a lasting impact and help create an environment where everyone can thrive.

I encourage each of us to reach out to a new colleague, welcome a new trainee, and help foster that sense of community. Together, we will continue to advance our missions in patient care, education, research, and innovation while building a culture where every member of our department feels valued and supported.

- Diana Cardona MD, MBA, FCAP

FOR YOUR AWARENESS

- **Exciting technology upgrades are coming to the Garvin Conference Room!** Improvements are scheduled during the week of August 3–7 and will enhance the room's overall functionality and meeting experience. Please plan accordingly during this time, as brief disruptions may occur while the upgrades are underway.
- Update to the process for ordering office supplies, see [Office Supply Transition Update](#).
- One click to Workday, your intranet and Total Rewards. [The Pulse](#) launches on Aug 5, bringing Advocate Health updates and your everyday tools together in one personalized place.
- **New Faculty and Leadership Development Series Launching this month!** In response to recent feedback and our commitment to continuous professional growth, the Department of Pathology is launching a new development series designed for faculty and lab leadership at all career stages. The series will provide practical strategies for effective communication, leadership, collaboration, mentorship, and professional development.

Session #1 August 5 at 1:00 pm—[“More Than a Diagnosis: Communication, Relationships, and the Practice of Pathology”](#) - Edward Gutmann, MD

Logins for Sessions 2 and 3 are coming soon.

Session #2 September 2 - Giving Feedback That Changes Behavior - Cara Haberman, MD

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

WELCOME NEW TEAMMATES

- Iqbal Ahmed, MD, MBBS, Assistant Professor, has joined the Surgical Pathology team, focusing on Pediatric and Gastrointestinal Pathology.
- Rao Mendu, PhD, following years of service at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai joins faculty as Director of Mass Spectrometry.
- Whitney Crowley joined the OR Pathology Laboratory team as a new Pathologists' Assistant (PA).
- Addie Hancock, DO, who completed our Residency and Fellowship programs, is serving as Assistant Professor in Forensics.
- Yongxin Chen, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor has joined the Surgical Pathology team and will divide his time between the Winston/High Point campuses.

INTERESTING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Aug 5:** There's still time to take the stage in [Advocate Health Has Talent!](#)
- **Aug 20:** Flourishing Forward, Doing the Next Meaningful Thing in Your Career and Life: A new conference for Mid- and Late-Career Faculty! Register [here!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 6: [Live Meditation with Headspace: Change & Transitions](#)
- Aug. 12: Annual Conflict of Interest disclosure due for applicable teammates
- Aug. 12: [Progyny webinar: Navigating Menopause in the Workplace](#)
- Aug. 13: Headspace webinar: Balance & Boundaries: Creating Space for What Matters Most ([daytime session](#) | [evening session](#))
- Aug. 13: [Mind the Med: A Closer Look at Controlled Substances webinar](#)
- Aug 23: Kaleideum Family Event: For physicians, APPs, researchers, and psychologists. Families are welcome to attend. [Register here!](#)
- Oct 8: The Q4 "For All Day" All labs and departments are encouraged to participate and submit photos from your event.
- The Fall 2026 Compass Group meeting will bring together national laboratory leaders from leading integrated delivery networks for a two-day program highlighting the innovation and expertise of Wake Forest University School of Medicine and Advocate Health. Centered on "Leveraging the Academic Model for Innovation," the event will feature a Clarkson Campus tour, faculty-led sessions, and keynote remarks from Dr. Boulware during the opening dinner.

FACULTY AND LABORATORY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Comparative Medicine Summer Research Symposium: Comparative Medicine Research Fellows **Courtney Moore** and **Christina Stevens** co-chaired the Comparative Medicine Summer Research Symposium at Biotech Place in Winston-Salem, NC. The event featured presentations from veterinary students participating in the T35 Summer Research Fellowship, fellows and PhD candidates in the Comparative Medicine T32 Fellowship, and keynote speaker **Hannah M. Atkins, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVP**, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The symposium achieved record attendance and concluded with People's Choice Awards recognizing outstanding presentations, including **Ben Sempowski, MD** student, as the Summer Scholars Session winner and **Hannah Ruetten, PhD**, as the T32/Resident Presentation winner, followed by a social gathering at Incendiary Brewing.



Courtney Moore, Hannah M. Atkins, Christina Stevens

Courtney Moore, Ben Sempowski, Christina Stevens

- Please join us in congratulating **Erica Van Dyke** on her appointment as **Director of Laboratory Services** for the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Clinical Pathology Laboratories in Winston-Salem, NC. Erica brings more than 22 years of laboratory operations experience and has served as the leader of Chemistry and Mass Spectrometry at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist for the past seven years. She is also an active contributor to the ACL Core eTAT and ACL Chemistry eTAT initiatives. Erica transitioned into her new role on July 26. Congratulations, Erica, on this well-deserved achievement!
- The Veterinary pathology group had a “Blue Shirt” party for the June’s For All Day event!
- **Kylie Kavanagh, DVM, MS, MPH** was recently recognized for two notable achievements. Her publication, “*Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound and Laser Doppler Flowmetry Capture Distinct Aspects of Tissue Microvascular Perfusion in Nonhuman Primates*,” co-authored with E. Attrill, S. Krainiak, and M. Santiago, has been accepted for publication in *Physiological Reports* (2026). In addition, Dr. Kavanagh has been appointed to the National Science Advisory Board for the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center, reflecting her continued leadership and expertise in comparative medicine research.
- **Haodong Xu, PhD**, co-authored two recent publications: “*LATS1/2-CD38 Metabolic Rewiring Links Senescence to Intraplaque Thrombosis*,” published in [Circulation Research](#), and “*Loss of the USP22 Deubiquitylase Confers Resistance to Chemotherapy in Small Cell Lung Cancer*,” published in [Nature Communications](#).
- **Elizabeth Palavecino, MD** recently contributed to the publication of the CLSI guidance document **MM06, Quantitative Molecular Methods for Infectious Diseases, 3rd Edition** as a member of the expert writing team. The newly released [document](#) provides comprehensive guidance for laboratories performing quantitative molecular testing for infectious diseases and is expected to serve as an important benchmark for accuracy, precision, and standardization in molecular diagnostics worldwide. Dr. Palavecino’s contribution reflects her expertise and leadership in the field of molecular pathology and infectious disease diagnostics.
- **William Harrison, MD, FCAP, F-ABMDI** – “A special thank you to **Zachary Townson** from the Office of Decedent Affairs for his exceptional dedication and teamwork. During a recent temporary malfunction of the 5th floor cooler, Zachary came in over the weekend to assist with the transfer of decedents to the 4th floor cooler, helping ensure continuity of operations and appropriate decedent care.

In addition, Zachary has routinely gone above and beyond by assisting Nursing Supervisors with the release of pediatric and fetal decedents on weekends, providing critical support during challenging circumstances. His willingness to step in when needed, commitment to service, and professionalism are greatly appreciated by the Department of Pathology and our clinical colleagues.

Thank you, Zachary, for your outstanding support and dedication.”

- AAPath Annual Meeting: Representing the Wake Forest and Charlotte campuses at the annual Association of Academic Pathology (AAPath) Meeting in Boston, MA, were (left to right) **Alexander Stefanis, MS** (poster presenter), **Mark Giffen, DO**, Wake Forest Pathology Residency Program Director, **Amanda Goldsmith**, Wake Forest Pathology Residency Program Coordinator, and **Deeksha Sikri, MBBS** (poster presenter). Their participation highlighted the department’s ongoing commitment to pathology education, research, and academic collaboration.



CAMP MED 2026

- On July 16, Wake Forest University School of Medicine hosted Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Day as part of the Northwest AHEC Camp Med Summer Day Camps, a program designed to introduce high school students from rural North Carolina communities to careers in healthcare.

Students spent the day with our Department of Pathology team participating in presentations, interactive discussions, and hands-on activities, including point-of-care testing, urinalysis, and laboratory demonstrations. They also had the opportunity to meet laboratory professionals, learn how pathology and laboratory medicine impact patient care, and explore the many career paths within our field.

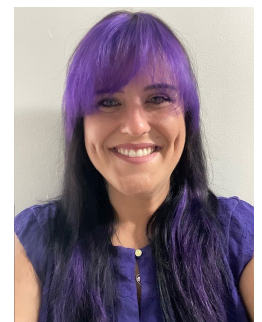
Educational resources highlighted careers such as medical laboratory scientist, clinical chemist, laboratory technologist, and pathologist, while showcasing the educational pathways that lead to these rewarding professions.



By engaging students early, we can help spark curiosity, raise awareness about the vital role of laboratory medicine, and inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals!

WHAT OUR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS ARE UP TO

- Nancy Kock** - Welcome, **Dr. Alyssa Hamann**: The Department of Pathology is pleased to welcome Alyssa Hamann, DVM, as a new **Anatomic Veterinary Pathology Resident**, who began her residency on July 6, 2026. Originally from Ohio, Dr. Hamann earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Findlay, an Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology from Columbus State Community College, and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2026. During veterinary school, she participated in the Wake Forest T35 Summer Research Program under the mentorship of Dr. Kylie Kavanagh and later completed an externship with Wake Forest, where she began research with the Radiation Late Effects Cohort. Her research contributions have resulted in published co-authorships, and she was recognized with the Student Award of Excellence in Pathology from the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Dr. Hamann plans to continue her work with the Radiation Late Effects Cohort throughout her residency. In her free time, she enjoys collecting tropical plants and hopes to one day create her own jungle, caring for her deaf white fluffy cat, Orion, and African fat-tailed gecko, Pascal, and riding motorcycles. One of her goals is to ride the famous Tail of the Dragon scenic route.



Alyssa Hamann

- **Kimberly Woodward** – On July 13, second-year medical students participating in Dr. Ellis's Hematology course prepared their own peripheral blood smears after having blood drawn as part of a hands-on laboratory experience. Alwan assisted students with blood smear preparation and specimen processing. During the hematology laboratory session on July 17, Joshua, Emily, and Alwan helped students review and interpret their own peripheral blood smears, providing valuable guidance and support as they explored hematology principles through direct microscopy.

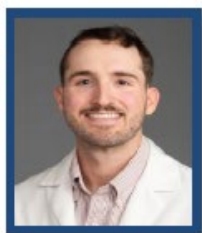


Welcome our new pathology residents and fellows to the Department of Pathology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine!

Residents: Ross Calhoun, Barclay (Clay) Carey, Marissa Moffitt, Sydney Thomas, Cesar Urizar-Gonzalez

Fellows: Michael Ann Priddy-Arrington, Nawroz Barwari, Adam Rosenfeld

1st Year



Ross Calhoun, DO



Barclay "Clay" Carey, MD



Marissa Moffitt, DO



Sydney Thomas, MD



Cesar Urizar Gonzalez, MD

Fellows



Michael Ann Priddy-Arrington, MD (Cyto)



Nawroz Barwari, MBChB (Heme)



Adam Rosenfeld, MD (Derm)