

# Pathology inSight

Alumni Newsletter for Wake Forest School of Medicine's Department of Pathology

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## A scholar and a gentleman farmer

This won't be the first time **Dr. Mark Willingham** has retired. He served for 20 years in the US Public Health Service at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), retiring as a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Section Chief in September, 1991. He'd signed on for a research fellowship there after completing his pathology residency at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), during which he'd met a medical student named Jerry Garvin, "over an autopsy, literally." The two became friends, and eventually figured out that their fathers had known each other too, at the Charleston paper mill where they'd both worked.



Mark Willingham, MD, driving the tractor, with (left to right) Madison, 12; Noah, 11; and Caleb, 9.

Dr. Garvin later completed a residency and fellowship at the NIH/NCI; he recalls with some amusement that he and Dr. Willingham lived about half a mile apart in DC and were part of a "truly terrible" volleyball team in the neighborhood. "We thought we were pretty good, though, and we joined a league," Dr. Garvin said. Their team lost nearly every game. Dr. Garvin returned to MUSC in 1980, eventually becoming chair of the pathology department there.

Dr. Willingham returned to MUSC in 1991, where he found himself very happy in an academic environment with collaborative research projects and teaching responsibilities. And, he adds, the first of his three children was starting college then and the private sector offered better pay than government service. In 1997, Dr. Garvin was recruited by Wake

Forest, and Dr. Willingham joined him here in order to continue their collaborative research. "The tuition concession benefit was a very attractive recruiting tool as well," Dr. Willingham noted, especially given that his third child was about

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# Welcome incoming residents



Adela Cimic, MD

**Dr. Adela Cimic** earned her MD degree at the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina. After three years of required service in surgery and internal medicine, she started a residency in anatomic pathology at the Clinical Center of Sarajevo. During the residency she was awarded an international fellowship in renal pathology by the International Society of Nephrology, which she completed in 2009 at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Last year, she was a research fellow in cancer biology here at Wake Forest. In her free time, she enjoys biking, swimming, and spending time with her husband.



Michael Gentry, MD

**Dr. Michael Gentry** received his MD degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At UNC, he volunteered at the student-run health clinic (SHAC) and was a founding member of the Pathology Interest Group. Prior to that, he spent three years as a lab technician in cancer biology. Some of his research interests include neurodegenerative diseases and the immune system's response to cancer. When he isn't working, he enjoys biking, camping, hiking, canoeing, reading, and spending time with his wife. Dr. Gentry was born and raised in the Winston-Salem area.



Vivian M. Hathuc, DO

**Dr. Vivian M. Hathuc** recently graduated with a DO degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in her hometown of Bradenton, FL. She earned a BA in Business Administration and worked at an industrial coatings company prior to pursuing a career in medicine. She has volunteered as a camp counselor for the American Diabetes Association, and at Victory Memorial Hospital in Waukegan, IL. Dr. Hathuc enjoys cooking, watercolor painting, and spending time with her fiancé.



Saim Qazi, MD

**Dr. Saim Qazi** is originally from Greenville, SC, and completed his undergraduate degree in neuroscience at Furman University. He received his MD from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in 2009 and completed the first two years of a pathology residency at the Orlando Health Pathology Residency Program. Dr. Qazi volunteers in the community and the Big Brother Program; he enjoys playing tennis, reading, cooking, and traveling with his wife.



Kari Valente, MD

**Dr. Kari Valente** is a recent graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine where she served as President and Secretary of the Pathology Interest Group. During her last year she met and worked with Dr. Amy Parsons, one of our past residents, and last year's dermatopathology fellow. Kari also completed a BS in Biology at the University of Mississippi. While in medical school, she served as a volunteer with the Jackson Free Clinic, and has previously participated in the Give a Kid a Smile Day and as a Boy Scout Camp First Aid Coordinator. She enjoys reading, music, hiking, cooking, gardening, and watching movies.

# Welcome new (and returning) pathology fellows

Dr. Saba Ali is our dermatopathology fellow this year. Dr. Ali is originally from Cleveland, OH. She completed a 6-year medical program and earned her MD at NEOUCOM in Rootstown, OH. She is a member of AOA and recently completed her dermatology residency training at Wake Forest. Dr. Ali enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.



Saba Ali, MD



Chrissy Tatum, MD

Dr. Christina (Chrissy) Tatum is our forensic pathology fellow this year. Dr. Tatum grew up in Hong Kong and Tokyo, where her father was an architect. She also lived in Shanghai before returning to the US, where she graduated *summa cum laude* with a BS in Biology from Kennesaw State University in Georgia. She earned her MD degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she also completed her residency and a fellowship in gastrointestinal pathology at the Baptist Health System.



Citabria Holley, MD



Graham E. Parks, MD

Dr. Citabria Holley returns as Surgical Pathology Fellow and Assistant Instructor, and Dr. Graham E. Parks returns as Cytopathology Fellow.

Dr. Cyrus K. Manavi returns as Hematopathology Fellow, and Dr. Sohaib Khatib continues as Hematopathology Volunteer Fellow.



Cyrus K. Manavi, MD



Sohaib Khatib, MD

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*(Willingham, continued from page 1)*

to go to college around that time.

PubMed lists nearly 350 journal articles (a portion of his publications) by Dr. Willingham, their titles demonstrating the breadth of his expertise in molecular diagnosis, microscopy, cancer cell biology, and immunohistochemistry, and his numerous co-authors demonstrating his extensive collaborations with other researchers. He's been the head of the Section of Tumor Biology, and director of the Cellular Imaging Shared Resource and part the Tumor Tissue Shared Resource.

As productive and prolific as he's been in research, Dr. Willingham is not one of those people who can't imagine what they will do after retirement; he's got a long list of ways to spend his time, and not surprisingly, science is among them. With his younger son, Christopher, along with Christopher's wife and their three kids, he purchased a 42-acre farmstead not far from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

At the farm he has plenty of room to pilot his ra-

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# View from the Chair



A. Julian Garvin, MD PhD

Following a department-wide luncheon last spring, we began answering questions from faculty, staff, and students on our internal website. The initial questions were submitted during the luncheon, but we were unable to answer all of them in our allotted time, and we wanted to make the responses available to everyone.

One question had to do with maintaining the independence of the various research sections. While we do foresee the roles of the sections of Comparative Medicine, Lipid Sciences, and Tumor Biology to change in concert with each section's evolving role in the institution, we do expect them to remain part of the Department of Pathology.

Given the recent retirement of a number of senior faculty, and the strong likelihood that there will be more retiring in the next few years, it's not surprising that a number of the questions submitted online concerned recruitment and hiring of new faculty: how and when can we add more faculty? how do we advertise open positions?

We add subspecialist pathologists as soon as specimen volume reaches a critical mass. An example is the relatively recent addition of a genitourinary subspecialist to address the increasing volume of urology specimens. We may be able to focus future hires on subspecialty areas as well, and we will be considering a variety of changes in scheduling and slide signout, but the truth is there is no short answer to this question. The process has already begun in some areas, such as surgical pathology and cytology, and in others it will have to occur within the context of the relevant institutional committees involved in major programmatic changes, and the institutional strategic plan.

Going forward, we will be working with Surgical Pathology and Cytopathology faculty members to refine our recruitment needs by subspecialty, and to form search committees for these positions.

Once we initiate a candidate search, the faculty positions are advertised online, in relevant journals, and by word of mouth at meetings. The journals and online sites are selected by the respective hiring committees for each position, and subject to approval by the Medical Center's Physician & Faculty Recruitment department. Any suggestions for additional websites would be welcomed by the respective search committees as they are formed. We will continue to list vacancies in our alumni newsletters and on our website in addition to the WFBH Physician & Faculty Recruitment website.



*-A Julian Garvin, MD PhD*

*Robert W. Prichard Chair of Pathology*

**Pathology inSight** is published twice each year by the Department of Pathology. Please send questions, comments, and suggestions for future articles to the editor at [pathalumni@wakehealth.edu](mailto:pathalumni@wakehealth.edu).

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## Vice chair and director of clinical laboratories named



Gregory Pomper, MD is  
Vice Chair of Pathology &  
Director of Clinical Labs

Associate Professor of Pathology **Dr. Gregory Pomper** has been appointed Vice Chair of Pathology, and Director of Clinical Laboratories. Dr. Pomper was previously the director of the Blood Bank and the Blood and Marrow Transplant Laboratory.

Dr. Pomper completed his medical training at the University of Pittsburgh, earning an MD in 1993. He went on to complete a residency in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology at the University of Colorado in 1998 and a fellowship in Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine at the National Institutes of Health.

### Blood & Marrow Transplant Program recognized for excellence

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center's Blood and Marrow Transplant Program was accredited in June by The Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT), which recognizes programs for their excellence in cellular therapy and their continuing efforts in providing quality care for their patients.

The Blood and Marrow Transplant program has been performing transplants for adults and adolescents since 1990 and is also accredited by the FDA registered HPC laboratory. The program and its laboratory are administered by the Comprehensive Cancer Center and Pathology Laboratories.

## Congratulations to Molecular Pathology Graduates

**Dr. Amanda M. Brown's** dissertation was entitled "The Role of Omega-3 Fatty Acids in Determining Monocyte and Macrophage Phenotypes in Experimental Atherosclerosis." She is currently pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Gregory Shelleness here at Wake Forest in Pathology-Lipid Sciences.

**Dr. Lolita M. Forrest's** dissertation was entitled "Investigation of the Cardioprotective and Hypotriglyceridemic Potential of Echium Oil as a Botanical Source of Long Chain N-3 Fatty Acids." She has begun a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Rosalind Coleman at UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of Nutrition.

**Dr. Tam M. Nguyen's** dissertation was entitled "Mechanisms of Intestinal Cholesterol Absorption and Transport in Mouse Thoracic Duct Lymph Lipoproteins." She has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Oliver Smithies in UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of Pathology.



Amanda M. Brown, PhD (left),  
and Lolita M. Forrest, PhD



Tam M. Nguyen, PhD

# Spotlight on Postdocs: Tumor Biology

The Council for Inclusion and Diversity provides leadership and education throughout the institution "to ensure that WFBMC builds and sustains a community and culture of inclusion. As part of this effort the council's website posts short essays featuring employees describing their experience. A recent "Diversity Reflection" about



An oil lamp made of clay used for a Diwali festival in India (Haryana). Photo by Arne Hückelheim. *Some rights reserved under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 license.*

the Diwali, Hindu Festival of Lights, featured **Pankaj Taneja, PhD**, a post-doctoral fellow in the Section of Tumor Biology where he currently works with Dr. Tim Kute. In Dr. Taneja's native India, Diwali is celebrated for 5 consecutive days, beginning this year on Wednesday, October 26.



Pankaj Taneja, PhD,

"Diwali is a joyous occasion celebrated with the exchange of sweets and with fireworks, candles and religious rituals," Dr. Taneja says. The rituals are performed to welcome Laxmi, the goddess of wealth, into the home. "Wealth," in this case, does not refer only to money, Taneja explains. "It is any kind of thing which can bring happiness."

You can read more about the Council for Inclusion and Diversity on their webpage: [wakehealth.edu/diversity](http://wakehealth.edu/diversity).

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*(Willingham, continued from page 3)*

dio-controlled model aircraft. His "gentleman farmer" equipment also includes the usual tractors and so forth as well as an electronic piano/keyboard, and he's planning to buy a couple of microscopes for the farm as well.



Phytoplankton in a water sample from Dr. Willingham's pond, shown at 1,000x magnification.

Most of the livestock is wild: foxes, deer, wild turkeys, snakes ("yeah, I've seen some copperheads out there," he said), skunks, wild turkeys, coyotes, and hawks. The more domesticated animals include potbellied pigs, chickens, dogs, and cats. The ducks, alas, succumbed to predators. And just recently, Dr. Willingham's Tumor Biology colleague Dr. Tim Kute, has gotten him interested in beehives, and it looks like he now has a viable hive out at the farm as well.

The land includes a half-acre pond full of fish, and it borders on the Mitchell River, a designated trout stream. "I love fishing," he said. "I'm going to be spending a lot of time fishing." And the pond really is full of fish. He has tagged about 300 of them and documented the various species; he estimates that there are close to 1,000 fish in the pond. He's also examined water samples under the microscope (see photo at left). "Turns out it's a very healthy ecosystem," he said.

# Videos focus on Primate Center

"Focus Forward" is a series of informational videos for employees at Wake Health. In each video, CEO **Dr. John McConnell** visits another department and interviews key people and tells viewers about the programs and projects around the Medical Center. In September, he visited the Wake Forest Primate Center at the Friedberg Campus. The six short videos provide a great overview of the activity there and its significance within the institution.

In the first one, Dr. McConnell and **Dr. Jay Kaplan** (director of the Primate Center as well as the section head of Comparative Medicine) talk about some of the unique aspects of the primate, including the unique training opportunities for researchers and as well as the importance of the center's outreach efforts – among scientific



Social housing in family groups is an important part of the Primate Center's Environmental Enrichment program.

colleagues within the institution and around the world, as well as to young people in the community who are curious about science or animal research.

Dr. McConnell reminds the audience that the faculty here at Wake Forest are

in many ways pioneers in the translation of findings from animal studies to human health, and none more so than **Dr. Thomas Clarkson**, with whom he chats in the second video. The next few videos in the sequence are about particular researchers or studies: **Dr. Carol Shively** talked about her ground-breaking findings regarding social stress and health; her work was the first to link increased social stress with an increase in visceral fat deposition. **Dr. Greg Dugan**, a postdoctoral fellow, spoke about his studies in radiation countermeasures. These studies observe the effects of radiation on different tissues, and are conducted with animals that the Primate

Center has "adopted" from other facilities where they had previously been exposed to radiation.

"We can take care of them here," he points out.

A great deal of the research that is

conducted at the Primate Center and elsewhere in the institution requires precisely controlled diets, and Dr. McConnell's next stop is in the diet preparation area, where he talks with **Dr. Sue Appt**, who is director of the Diet Preparation Lab. The diet lab has over 40 years' experience preparing custom diets for research animals.

The final video features **Heather Kirby**, who is the environmental enrichment coordinator; she tells Dr. McConnell and the viewers about how important it is for the animal housing areas not only to be clean and safe, but also to mimic as closely as possible the more positive characteristics of the animals' natural environment. For example, the nonhuman primates are housed socially with opportunities to forage for their food.



Community Outreach efforts bring area students into the Primate Center to meet scientists and learn about the role of animals in research.



To learn more about the Primate Center, point your smartphone at the QR code at left, or visit online at [wakehealth.edu/wfupc](http://wakehealth.edu/wfupc).

### Leave a Legacy

You can make a lasting and profound impact on groundbreaking research, state-of-the-art medical education, and outstanding patient care. Consider including Wake Forest Baptist Health/ Department of Pathology in your will, or naming us the beneficiary of a retirement plan or insurance policy, or establishing a charitable annuity or trust that will pay you an income for life. For more information, please contact John Gillon, Senior Director of Gift Planning, Wake Forest Baptist Health, at 800-899-7128 or send an email: [jgillon@wakehealth.edu](mailto:jgillon@wakehealth.edu).

### Online Gifts

To make an online gift to Pathology, go to [wakehealth.edu/Giving](http://wakehealth.edu/Giving). In the designation field, please note "Pathology Discretionary Fund."

## QR codes make it easy to connect



These square black & white labels are called QR (for "Quick Response") codes, and like UPC codes, they can be read by smartphone devices; it's easy (and free!) to download and install an application, or "app," yourself.

Then you point the phone's camera at the square, and the phone will follow the instructions contained in the code. In this case, it will open the Pathology inSight webpage in your phone's browser: [wakehealth.edu/pathology/alumni](http://wakehealth.edu/pathology/alumni).

Send updates, address corrections, comments, and suggestions for future issues to the address below, or send an email to the editor: [pathalumni@wakehealth.edu](mailto:pathalumni@wakehealth.edu).



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