History of RPLA at WakeMed Health & Hospitals
Laurin J. Kaasa, MD, began practicing pathology in Raleigh in 1961 at the hospital now known as WakeMed Health & Hospitals and as the first pathologist oversaw the creation of the Pathology Laboratory. He eventually became partners with Dewey Pate, MD, and Ron Edwards, MD, and together formed Raleigh Pathology Laboratory Associates, P.A. (RPLA). RPLA has prospered and grown the number of pathologists and includes a supportive and professional administrative staff. As a commitment to quality is the guiding force for both organizations, RPLA and WakeMed have partnered to provide comprehensive anatomic and clinical pathology services to both inpatients and outpatients in our community. RPLA practices the principles of excellence and quality service in laboratory medicine that were part of the philosophy of the founding members and continue to be hallmarks of the members today.

Meet Our Pathologists

George Clarke, MD
Director of Pathology Services
BA University of Virginia
MD Vanderbilt University
Residency & Fellowship Vanderbilt University
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology
Clinical Interests Breast pathology, general surgical pathology, laboratory medicine

Matthew J. Snyder, MD
Medical Director, Outreach Services
BS College of William and Mary
MD Medical College of Virginia
Residency Duke University Medical Center
Fellowships Duke University Medical Center (Gynecologic Pathology | Hematopathology)
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Hematopathology
Clinical Interests Gynecologic and general surgical pathology, hematopathology, gastrointestinal pathology, cytopathology

Michael H. Weinstein, MD, PhD
Medical Director, Core Laboratory, WakeMed Raleigh Campus
BS Northwestern University
MD Northwestern University
PhD Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University
Residency & Fellowship Johns Hopkins Hospital
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology
Clinical Interests Genitourinary pathology, breast pathology, head and neck pathology, general surgical pathology and laboratory medicine

Matthew R. Plymyer, MD
Medical Director, WakeMed Cary Hospital Laboratory
BA Lehigh University
MD Medical College of Pennsylvania
Residency Tripler Army Medical Center
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Cytopathology
Clinical Interests Cytopathology and transfusion medicine
Shrin Rajagopalan, MD, PhD  
Medical Director, WakeMed Apex Healthplex  
WakeMed Brier Creek Healthplex  
WakeMed Garner Healthplex  
BS Harvard University  
MD Duke University  
PhD Duke University  
Residency Duke University Medical Center  
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, special training in Hematopathology  
Clinical Interests Gynecologic, genitourinary, breast, lung, gastrointestinal pathology, general surgery pathology, and laboratory medicine

Jeremy T. Spencer, MD  
BA Boston College  
MD The George Washington University  
Residency The George Washington University  
Fellowship The George Washington University (cytopathology)  
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology  
Clinical Interests General surgical pathology and cytopathology

E. Grover Smith, PhD  
Medical Director, Microbiology and Special Testing  |  Executive Director, Raleigh Pathology Laboratory Associates  
BS Wake Forest University  
MA Wake Forest University  
PhD Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University  
Residency University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Clinical Interests Microbiology and infectious diseases

Ahren C. Rittershaus, MD  
Medical Director, Anatomic Pathology and WakeMed North Hospital  
BA Johns Hopkins University  
MD Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine  
Residency Medical University of South Carolina  
Fellowships Johns Hopkins University (surgical pathology) | University of Michigan Hospital (GI and hepatobiliary pathology)  
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology  
Clinical Interests Gastrointestinal and liver pathology, gynecologic, genitourinary, and general surgical pathology

Ryan C. Johnson, MD  
Medical Director, Transfusion Services  
BS Saint Norbert College  
MD University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health  
Residency & Fellowship Stanford Hospital and Clinics  
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Hematopathology  
Clinical Interests Hematopathology, transfusion medicine, laboratory medicine, molecular diagnostics, cytogenetics, general surgical pathology, cytopathology