



**THE GARNER HEALTHPLEX CELEBRATES 10 YEARS** of caring for our community this month. The facility opened on August 19, 2013, and has cared for more than 326,000 patients in the past decade. While Garner Healthplex is currently our ‘youngest’ standalone emergency department, it is also our busiest. In addition to an Emergency Department, the facility includes outpatient imaging and lab services and several physician practices: ENT – Head & Neck Surgery, Cardiology, Primary Care, Wake Orthopaedics and Urology. The site has been home to several innovations in care, including a pilot telemedicine program with WakeMed Hospital Medicine providers to expedite care for patients awaiting bed placement. WakeMed’s presence in Garner is set to grow in the coming years with our plans to build a whole-person health campus that will include a 150-bed mental health hospital and a 45-bed acute care hospital, pending final CON approval from the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

| GARNER ED VISITS    | TREATED & RELEASED | ADMITTED | TOTAL   |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------|---------|
| FY 2014*            | 22,837             | 1,325    | 24,162  |
| FY 2023 (projected) | 37,834             | 1,769    | 39,603  |
| Cumulative Total    | 311,830            | 14,643   | 326,473 |

*\*first full fiscal year in operation*

**DR. GANTT RECEIVES DASCOMB AWARD**



**Angela Gantt, MD, (OB-GYN)** was awarded the 2023 Harry E. Dascomb, MD, Award. The Dascomb Award is WakeMed’s highest teaching honor and is presented annually to a physician who demonstrates excellence in teaching and patient care. Recipients are nominated by their peers and selected by the Dascomb Award committee, which includes doctors from WakeMed and the community.

A board-certified OB-GYN, Dr. Gantt has cared for patients within WakeMed Physician Practices since 2006 and has served as the WPP executive medical director for Women’s Services since 2020.

A NOMINATING LETTER DESCRIBES DR. GANTT AS “AN EXCELLENT EDUCATOR WHO CONTINUES TO SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION TO MEDICAL STUDENTS, RESIDENTS, AND HER COLLEAGUES... SOMEONE WITH A DEEP COMMITMENT TO CARING FOR ALL PATIENTS, THOSE WITH MEANS AND THOSE WHO HAVE NO RESOURCES. HER VISION AND MISSION ALIGN WITH THAT OF WAKEMED IN PLACING ALL PATIENTS AT THE TOP OF THE PYRAMID REGARDLESS OF THEIR BACKGROUND.”

Harry Dascomb, MD, was an infectious disease physician at WakeMed who was recognized for his bedside, clinical and teaching skills and for his ability to provide compassionate patient care. The Harry E. Dascomb, MD, Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching and Care was established in his honor. Recipients must have three or more years of clinical experience and exhibit leadership in establishing, maintaining and supporting clinical teaching programs at WakeMed.



To support the health and well-being of all members of our community, WakeMed has installed several drug take-back bins at our facilities. Safely disposing of unused or expired drugs is important so that they don’t become a safety hazard.

The bins are located in the following areas:

- > **Raleigh Campus** – 1E Visitor’s lobby, ground floor
- > **Cary Hospital** – Main lobby
- > **North Hospital** – Main lobby, near Gift Shop



A fourth bin will be installed in the Medical Park of Cary in the coming months.

For safety, the bins are all placed in highly public and monitored areas of the hospitals. All medications dropped in the take-back bins at WakeMed will be destroyed and discarded. Deposits are completely anonymous and no records are kept of drop offs.

The first bin was installed at Cary Hospital in the spring of 2022 and has already helped safely dispose of 700+ pounds of medications. Some of this volume is likely driven by patients receiving pain management services in the Medical Day Treatment Unit, as it offers a very convenient place to dispose of medications they no longer need.

“Medication take-back bins are the safest, most effective way to dispose of prescription or over-the-counter medications,” explains **Abbie Williamson, PharmD**, executive director (Pharmacy).

“Emergency Department visits related to accidental ingestion of medications continue to rise. We hope that having these bins available in our facilities will make it easy for our patients, their families and our staff to dispose of medications they no longer need, and keep others safe.”

Above: WakeMed Pharmacy team members **Ashley Robinson, Braedon Inagaki** and **Erin Koontz**, manager, demonstrate how to use the drug take-back bin at Raleigh Campus.



Once again this September, we are making time to have a little FUN and celebrate our incredible WakeMed family! Take a break and join your colleagues throughout the month of FUN-tember! In-person events with lawn games, bingo and snacks will be held across the system, as well as daily online trivia and weekly virtual bingo – with great prizes available for the winners! Look for details on MyWakeMed and in the WakeMed Weekly.

**DRUG TAKE-BACK BIN GUIDELINES**



The following items can be deposited in the WakeMed Drug Take-Back bins:

- > Unused and prescription medications
- > Unused and expired over-the-counter medications
- > Pet medication
- > Vitamins

*Please note: Providers and staff are welcome to dispose of unused or expired medication in their possession but cannot dispose of medication on behalf of patients.*



The following items should NOT be deposited in the WakeMed Drug Take-Back bins:

- > Illegal drugs
- > Thermometers
- > Inhalers
- > Lotions or liquids
- > Aerosol cans
- > Needles and sharps
- > Hydrogen peroxide



Exceptional People.  
Exceptional Care.



SVS | VQI  
In collaboration with NCDR\*

## WakeMed Recognized for Social Responsibility

WakeMed, Raleigh Campus (including North Hospital) and Cary Hospital have all been named to the 2023 Hospital Index for Social Responsibility, published by the Lown Institute, a nonpartisan health care think tank. The system and hospitals all achieved “A” grades across metrics of cost efficiency, clinical outcomes, value of care and patient outcomes. Notably, Raleigh Campus topped the list of North Carolina hospitals for Fair Share Spending and Cary Hospital was best in the state in Clinical Outcomes. Data from Raleigh Campus and North Hospital, which operates under the Raleigh Campus license, were combined for this performance ranking.

The Hospitals Index for Social Responsibility is a signature project of the Lown Institute that measures how well hospitals serve their patients and communities through unique benchmark data and analytics – from racial inclusivity and avoidance of overuse to pay equity, among other metrics. To compile the index, the organization evaluates 53 metrics using publicly available data to create a comprehensive Social Responsibility grade for over 3,600 hospitals and 296 health systems nationwide.

## U.S. News & World Report Recognition

Congratulations to WakeMed Rehabilitation, which was once again named one of the top rehabilitation hospitals in the country by *U.S. News & World Report!* The facility ranked 19th out of 50 hospitals on the 2023-2024 Best Hospitals for Rehabilitation list. The publication evaluated 1,041 eligible adult rehabilitation hospitals to determine the top 50 hospitals that excel in providing care to patients recovering from stroke, traumatic brain injuries, severe burns and more.

In addition to ranking hospitals for numerous specialty areas, the publication rates hospitals as “high performing,” “average,” or “below average” relative to other rated hospitals. For the 2023-2024 rankings and ratings, *U.S. News & World Report* evaluated more than 4,300 hospitals across 21 benchmark procedures and conditions. We are pleased to share WakeMed achieved high performance ratings in several areas:

### Raleigh Campus

- > Aortic Valve Surgery
- > Diabetes
- > Heart Attack
- > Heart Bypass Surgery
- > Heart Failure
- > Stroke

### Cary Hospital

- > Heart Failure
- > Stroke

## American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association Recognition

The WakeMed physicians and staff were recognized once again for delivering the highest level of care for patients experiencing heart failure and stroke. Congratulations to our teams for earning national Get With the Guidelines® Quality Awards and Target honors from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. Our Raleigh Campus and Cary Hospital teams received the following awards:

- > **Raleigh Campus:** Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Award with Target: Stroke Honor Roll and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll; Get With The Guidelines: Heart Failure Gold Plus with Target: Heart Failure Honor Role and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll.
- > **Cary Hospital:** Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Award with Target: Stroke Honor Roll, Advanced Therapy and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll; Get With The Guidelines: Heart Failure Gold Plus with Target: Heart Failure Honor Role and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll.

## Top Honors from the Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Quality Initiative

Raleigh Campus and Cary Hospital earned three-star Participation Awards from the Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Quality Initiative (SVS VQI). The awards recognize the importance of active participation in the registry program.

VQI’s registries contain demographic, clinical, procedural and outcomes data from more than 1,000,000 vascular procedures performed in the United States, Canada and Singapore and at the patients’ one-year follow-up marks. This data allows centers and providers to compare their performance to regional and national benchmarks and to support their quality improvement initiatives.

## WakeMed Named a Top Employer for Women

WakeMed has been named one of the Best Employers for Women by *Forbes*. This recognition follows similar recognition from *Forbes* as a great employer for diversity and new grads.

The organizations on the list were identified based on feedback from an independent survey from a sample of more than 60,000 U.S. employees working for companies employing at least 1,000 people. The sample included more than 40,000 women. The survey included questions related to general workplace atmosphere, culture and salaries, as well as topics generally more relevant for women, such as parental leave, family support, flexibility, discrimination, representation and pay equity.



## Building Relationships & Supporting Recovery

Rehab Peer Support Program Builds Connections to Strengthen the Recovery Journey

Helping patients realize the best possible functional outcomes is one of the primary goals of the WakeMed Rehabilitation team. “Recovery from a life-altering health condition or injury can be a long process. Being able to connect with someone who can relate can be a springboard to a more timely and healthy adjustment,” commented **Beth Villena**, director (WakeMed Rehab Hospital). “Knowing that there is productive and satisfying life after illness or injury gives patients hope to push through the early days.”



That’s where the WakeMed Rehabilitation Peer Support program can make such a difference. Research shows that patients who are actively engaged in their care have better outcomes, and peer support can be an excellent complement to more formalized services available in a rehabilitation environment. With both group and individual support options, WakeMed’s Peer Support program helps patients more actively engage in their rehab program and kick-starts their journey back to normal life.

In recent years the face-to-face component of the program was paused due to COVID-19-related visitation restrictions. Over the past year Rehab Hospital leadership has committed to rebuilding the program across all specialty areas (Stroke, Brain Injury, Amputee and Spinal Cord Injury) with a goal of streamlining and improving the process for prospective peer supporters and more effectively connecting patients interested in the service.

To support these goals, a dedicated peer support volunteer program coordinator was established, and retired WakeMed employee **Skip Roy** took on this volunteer position. The coordinator serves as a liaison between Volunteer Services, Rehab leadership and the volunteer peer supporters. The coordinator helps with onboarding peer supporters, provides ongoing support for the program and helps connect supporters and patients.

WakeMed leaders also established standard processes associated with identifying patients who might want to participate in the program and matching them with the most appropriate peer supporter. Most peer supporters are available each week for patient visits, which are placed on the patient’s schedule to ensure that no other activities interfere. If a connection is made during the first visit, patients and peer supporters are empowered to exchange contact information or schedule additional visits.

To continue enhancing the program, WakeMed Rehab will offer ongoing education for peer supporters on topics such as stages of grief, active listening and more. “The connections that are fostered as part of the Peer Support program are truly remarkable and make a real impact on patient engagement in recovery,” commented **Jeanne Dibbert**, manager (Rehab Case Management) who helps coordinate the program. “This is a great example of how WakeMed puts patients and families at the forefront in all we do.”



UPCOMING  
FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITY:  
HELTON  
SCHOLAR  
PROGRAM

## GROWING SKILLED CAREGIVERS

The WakeMed Foundation provides funding for our employees to expand their professional horizons and learn new skills to improve patient care. Applications are now being accepted for the Helton Scholar program, which provides funding (up to \$10,000) for individuals seeking to complete a higher education degree. Preference is given to candidates who demonstrate impact to patient care and financial need. **Applications are due September 15.**

Before you apply, please make sure to review the eligibility requirements for each scholarship to determine if you qualify. If you have questions, please contact [foundation@wakemed.org](mailto:foundation@wakemed.org).



## 2024 WakeMed Quality Showcase CALL FOR POSTERS!

Thursday, January 18, 2024 – WakeMed Raleigh Campus

If you have participated in a quality project and would like to share your experience and outcomes by presenting a poster at the 2024 Quality Showcase, please complete the online submission form. Scan the QR code (login required) or visit MyWakeMed and search “Quality Showcase.”

Eligible project presentations must include:

- > A problem
- > Tested solutions
- > A measurable outcome or change

With any questions, please contact the Kaizen Promotion Office at [KPO@wakemed.org](mailto:KPO@wakemed.org).





# A STRONG FINISH TO THE REALIGNMENT RELAY



After many months of planning, education and transition, the Raleigh Campus "Realignment Relay" is now complete!

Staff at Raleigh Campus have demonstrated their Wake Way spirit in new ways by supporting one another during this period of change, which directly impacted nine units on four floors (either in moving locations, changing patient populations or opening/closing). A team of 120 stakeholders met every other week for several months to keep the project moving forward and plan for each phase. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this project – directly or indirectly – for your incredible support and engagement.

Several members of the 5B Neuro Intermediate Care team joined hospital and nursing leadership on the 'starting line' days before they began welcoming patients back to their newly renovated unit. On June 6, the Capacity & Transfer Management Center officially 'passed the torch' to 5B when they assigned the first patients to the unit, officially marking the reopening of this space.

Following 5B's reopening, the torch was passed to 3E, 3B and 6A. Throughout June, the three units shifted patients and staff between them, and into 1B Clinical Evaluation Area, to better align services and match available beds to patient needs.

When the moves in the Acute Care and Heart & Vascular units were complete, the Critical Care teams were ready to jump into the relay. Cardiothoracic Surgery Intensive Care and Neuro Intensive Care moved into new spaces on 2E and STICU and MICU expanded their footprints within the current ICU spaces.

While the total number of open ICU beds did not change, the current layout better aligns our physical space and staff to serve our patients.

Thank you to everyone involved in this project – your demonstration of the Wake Way during this time of transition is so very much appreciated!

## REALIGNMENT RELAY BY THE NUMBERS

This large-scale realignment project impacted:



9 Units  
Across 4 Floors



242 Patient Beds



545 Staff Members



## WakeMed Retirement Savings Plan Transition Update: Blackout Period & Key Days

As previously announced, the WakeMed Retirement Savings Plan (RSP) will be moving from Corebridge Financial (formerly AIG) to Fidelity Investments this September.

### Blackout Period Begins August 23

To ensure that all information is transferred accurately from Corebridge Financial to Fidelity, there will be a period of time when you will be unable to direct or diversify investments in your individual accounts or obtain a loan or distribution from the RSP. This period of time, called a 'blackout period' will begin at 4 pm on Wednesday, August 23, and last until the week of October 2, 2023.

During this time, you can determine if the blackout period has ended by calling Fidelity at 800-343-0860. Please contact Corebridge Financial at 1-800-44-VALIC or visit [www.wakemed.aigrs.com](http://www.wakemed.aigrs.com) to make any changes to your account before the blackout period begins.

### Important Dates

#### August 23 by 4 pm

- > Deadline to return all necessary paperwork to Corebridge to process a new loan or distribution.
- > Last day Corebridge Financial will process any contributions or accept any loan payments.

#### August 30 at 4 pm

- Last day to do the following at Corebridge Financial:
- > Check your balance or access your RSP account.
  - > Change your contribution percentage rate or change your specific dollar amount to a percent.
  - > Change your investment elections.
  - > Request an exchange (transfer) between investment options.

#### Week of October 2, 2023

- > When the transition is complete, you will be notified and have full access to your account at Fidelity.
- > **Note:** Beneficiary information currently on file with Corebridge Financial will not transfer to Fidelity. Be sure to designate your beneficiary for your account at Fidelity.

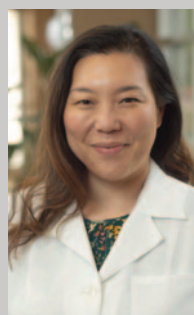
To learn more about the blackout period or what to expect as part of the transition to Fidelity, visit the transition website at [myfidelitysite.com/WakeMed](http://myfidelitysite.com/WakeMed).

## NEWS FROM WakeMed Physician Practices

### Welcome New Physicians



Daniel Paredes, MD  
Hospital Medicine



Audrey Rhee, MD  
Pediatric Urology



Bala Thatigotla, MD  
Bariatric Surgery & Medical Weight Loss

### Welcome New Advanced Practice Providers

Jessica Bailey, NP  
MyCare 365

Angela Blackburn, NP  
Hospital Medicine

Virginia Grace Cates, PA  
Gastroenterology

Rory Cumberland, PA  
Pulmonology & Critical Care

Aimee Dickey, PA  
Urology

Crystal Evans, NP  
MyCare 365

Hayden Hopkins, PA  
Gastroenterology

Kathleen Kierski, PA  
Gastroenterology

Aileen Pierson, NP  
Neonatology

Lindsey Roberts, NP  
Corporate & Community Health

Alayna Stebbins, NP  
MyCare 365

Krista Whittington, NP  
Pulmonology & Critical Care

### Extended Hours: MyCare 365 – Spring Forest

WakeMed MyCare 365 – Spring Forest has extended their temporary hours of operations from 8 am to 4 pm, to 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.

### Location Update

#### Bariatric Surgery & Medical Weight Loss – Cary

The Bariatric Surgery & Medical Weight Loss team in Cary is excited to all be under one roof. **Scott Bovard**, MD, and **David Pilati**, MD, (previously seeing patients in the MacGregor Pines office) will now call the Medical Park of Cary home. The MacGregor Pines office is no longer operational.

#### Bariatric Surgery & Medical Weight Loss – Cary

Medical Park of Cary  
210 Ashville Ave, Suite 205  
919-350-WELL (9355)





Crush, a member of the WakeMed Volunteer Pet Program, was spotted working hard on July 4th to wish our patients, families and staff a happy Independence Day!



Left: Corporate & Community Health teamed up with Morrison Healthcare to offer a healthy cooking class for WakeMed employees at Cary Hospital. Thank you to **Monika Krauss**, **Marissa Robinson** and **Chef Sylvain** for putting this educational event together!



North Hospital employees enjoyed great food and a well-deserved break at the annual North Summer Cookout, coordinated by their employee engagement committee. Congratulations to **Justin Weng**, RN, (Surgical Services), pictured center, for winning first place in the dessert contest.

Right: Several members of the WakeMed Primary Care – Oberlin team attended the 2nd Annual Oberlin Village 5K Run & Walk on June 17 at WakeMed Soccer Park.



Members of the WakeMed family paused to honor and recognize Juneteenth on June 19. The service included a brief history of the holiday, the reading of a poem and a prayer, led by a member of our Spiritual Care team.



The Falls Prevention Advisory Board nominated 3B CVIC (formerly 6A) to receive the Humpty Dumpty Award. This unit went six months falls-with-injury free, thanks to a highly engaged multidisciplinary team who work in collaboration to improve patient mobility, safety and reduce length of stay. Congratulations!



**MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWS VISIT WAKEMED**

Five Mandela Washington Fellows, including a nutritionist, breastfeeding specialist, medical student and an optometrist, from Ghana, Zambia and Tanzania, toured WakeMed in July. The group toured the Children's Hospital and women's services areas and then met with members of the Wake County Health & Human Services team to learn how both organizations work together to improve the health & well-being of the community.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is the flagship program of the U.S. Government's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). Over 50,000 young African community leaders apply each year and only 700 are selected to come to the U.S. for six weeks of academic and leadership training.



Above left: The second annual Celebration of Inquiry was held in July to celebrate the many forms of research taking place at WakeMed. Congratulations to this year's People's Choice winners: **Sharee McCray**, DNP, (Rehab Nursing Administration) and **Christy Sharer** (Project Launch).

Above right: Members of the WakeMed Diversity & Inclusion Council along with other staff members shared information about WakeMed at the annual Out! Raleigh Pride event in June.



**Have news to share?**

Send it to microscope @wakemed.org



# 2023 MEGAN CHAMP MORGAN SCHOLARSHIP



## Recipients



The Megan Champ Morgan Scholarship Fund was established in January 2022 by former WakeMed President & CEO Ray Champ and his wife Meredyth. The fund honors and remembers their daughter, Megan Champ Morgan, who lived a life full of compassion, caring and respect for others. The scholarships will benefit WakeMed employees by providing funding for eligible dependents who plan to pursue post-secondary education.

The fund provides scholarships of up to \$10,000 for dependents of WakeMed employees seeking to complete a higher education degree at an accredited not-for-profit institution in the areas of health sciences, elementary or

secondary education, computer sciences or information technology.

We are pleased to share the 2023 recipients of this generous scholarship fund, shown left to right:

- > **Maddalyn** (Parent: Misty Carroll, Heart Center) will be attending East Carolina University.
- > **Cameron** (Parent: Mandy Williams, Mobile Critical Care Services) will be attending North Carolina State University.
- > **Amelia** (Parent: Nicole Rozzell, Respiratory Care Services) will be attending Western Carolina University.
- > **Bubacarr** (Parent: Julla Panneh, Clinical Evaluation) will be attending University of North Carolina at Greensboro.
- > **Jada** (Parent: Melissa Fisher, Home Health) will be attending East Carolina University.
- > **Rian**, not pictured, (Parent: Pamela Davis, Corporate Accounting) will be attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The deadline for applications for the 2024 scholarship cycle will be next spring with decisions announced by June 2024. Employee parents and dependents must meet several eligibility requirements – see the WakeMed Foundation page MyWakeMed for details.



## NORTH HOSPITAL EXPANDS IMAGING SERVICES

As North Hospital continues to grow to serve the needs of our community, Imaging Services recently introduced new diagnostic services and added several pieces of state-of-the-art equipment. The first diagnostic procedure, Light Interventional Radiology, is performed in a procedure room and provides patients access to two studies: paracentesis (fluid removal from the abdomen for analysis and/or pressure relief) and thoracentesis (removal of excess fluid or air from the chest). The second, Transesophageal Echo (TEE), is specifically for cardiac patients. Three weekly scheduled time slots are available for patients in need of this service.

Additionally, through our *Value Partnership* with Siemens Healthineers, North Hospital has added a brand-new Agile Max fluoroscopy and radiography room to perform speech modification studies, which supports our stroke program and speech therapists. This new service is in addition to providing full fluoroscopy services. Additional equipment enhancements include a Siemens Ysio Max, a general radiology room and Siemens Sequoia ultrasound units. These advanced systems allow WakeMed to offer the best imaging services, with lower doses of radiation, more efficient workflows, improved imaging quality and less time for patients.

North Hospital has utilized a mobile MRI unit for many years and this summer we submitted a certificate of need (CON) application to add a fixed MRI to the facility, which would accommodate expanded procedure capabilities, reduce transfers, support the needs of ICU patients and increase in patient acuity. A decision on the CON application is expected by November 30. All imaging modalities provided at WakeMed (diagnostic imaging, CT, MRI, mammography and ultrasound) are accredited by the American College of Radiology.

## Exceptional Care for an Exceptional Population

Caring for older patients often requires additional support and planning – particularly in an emergency department setting. The Cary Hospital Emergency Department (ED) team understands this well: in 2022, nearly a third of the 45,000 patients they cared for were 65 or older, and, therefore, considered geriatric patients. Given this high volume of older patients, the Cary ED has made this – often fragile and especially vulnerable – population a priority.

“We recognize that older patients often face different challenges – whether physically, mentally or emotionally. As a team, we have been able to truly elevate the level of care we provide and what we can do to support our patients,” explains **Amy Short**, RN, director (Emergency Services – Cary Hospital).

Some of the changes – like installing clocks that are easier to read – have been simple, while others – adjustments to pain management protocols – are much more complex. A few of the programs they have implemented include:

- > Minimizing inappropriate or harmful medication use while ensuring adequate pain control.
- > Introducing targeted screenings related to delirium, dementia, functional decline and abuse.
- > Improving access to food and drink, which helps patients maintain their strength.
- > Changes to the physical space, including low beds, more handrails, limited noise and enhanced lighting.
- > Creating an interdisciplinary geriatric assessment team

This work has been led by an interdisciplinary team of providers, nurses, clinical support staff, rehab staff, Pharmacy, Case Management, Information Services, Spiritual Care and others. The Volunteers at Cary Hospital provided funds for large-face clocks, four-pronged canes (as an alternative to walkers) and hearing-assistance devices for patients who do not have access to their hearing aids. The team also received a WakeMed Foundation Grant to support 15 nurses taking a Geriatric Emergency Nursing Education course.



With all these programs in place, the Cary ED hopes to add another entry to its list of certifications recognizing high-quality care – along with Level III Trauma, Chest Pain Center and Primary Stroke Center. The department recently applied for accreditation as a Geriatric Emergency Department from the American College of Emergency Physicians. As of late July, they were awaiting word of a site visit, which is the next step in receiving this certification.

## WOW, WHAT AN EMPLOYEE!

**Casey Granack** (WakeMed Innovations) and **Ben Reed** (Clinical Engineering) recently presented “Developing a Collaborative Internal Innovations Program” at the AAMI Exchange in Long Beach, Calif. 3 West Medical-Surgical – Cary Hospital congratulates **Brooks Holt**, BSN, RN; **Regina Patterson**, BSN, RN; and **Kelly Smith**, RN, for obtaining medical-surgical certification and **Mariah Reed** for earning Nurse Aide 2 certification.

**Crystal Thorpe**, RN, (Labor & Delivery - Raleigh Campus) earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing (BSN). **Emily Beck**, BSN, RN, (Patient & Family Experience) received a master’s degree in health administration.

**Jaime Penninger**, BSN, RN, (5C Medicine) passed the nurse executive certification exam.

**Chandler Sherrill**, BSN, RN, (Labor & Delivery – Raleigh Campus); and **Nicci Franklin**, BSN, RN, (Labor & Delivery – North Hospital); earned inpatient obstetric nursing certifications.

**Stephanie Baker** (Outpatient Rehab) received certification as a balance and falls professional (APTA Geriatrics).

**Danise Hicklen** (Risk Management) has completed certification for associate in risk management.

**Larry French** (Emergency Management) recently became a certified emergency manager.

**Barrissa Keene** (Revenue Cycle) was promoted to Educator/Quality Specialist.

**Stacy Moore** (Hospital Coding) was promoted to Coder, Sr. Inpatient.

**Donna Gaul** (Speech Therapy) was promoted to supervisor.

**Denise Pennell**, RN, (Surgical Services – Raleigh Campus) serves on the distribution committee for a scholarship fund that is helping pave the way for the future generations of health care professionals. The Dr. Dameron Education Scholarship was created in memory of Thomas Dameron, MD, an orthopedic surgeon and the namesake of the library on 6B at Raleigh Campus. It provides \$1,000 allied health scholarship for Garner Magnet High School.

## COMINGS & GOINGS

Hospital Medicine (Cary Hospital) wishes a happy retirement to **Judy Anderson** after 25 years of service to WakeMed.

The Quality Analytics department sends their best wishes to **Deb Azarelo**, MSN, RN, in her retirement after 21 years of service at WakeMed.

1A Clinical Evaluation Area welcomes, **Megan Espiritu**, **Noelle Lyman**, **Rebecca Lleras**, RN; **Hannah Sandhu**, RN; **Dixitaben Patel**, RN; **Uchechi Okpara**, RN; **Etonica Fobbs**, RN; **Elena Galang**, RN; **Evie Le**, RN; **Jennifer Bauch**, RN; **Judy Acevedo**, RN; **Lara Cordura**, RN; and **Kahlilia Randolph**, RN.

3B CVIC welcomes **Joanny Santiago-Hernandy**, **Gabrielle Taylor**, **Alycia Regniere**, **Christine Garner**, RN; and **Ragan Sandy**, RN.

5C Medicine welcomes **J’Mya Colvin**, RN; **Katie Kleinert**, BSN, RN; **Shante Sturup**, BSN, RN; **Faye Estonilo**, BSN, RN; **Elona Alla**, RN; **Deborah Tackie**, RN; and **Olivia Kingman**, RN.

6C Surgery & Trauma welcomes **Julia Bennett**, **Tanya White** and **Ariana Pescetto**, RN.

Accounting welcomes **Meko Pinder**, **Carmen Andrial** and **Tanya Maturino**.

CICU welcomes **Aidan Wilson**, RN; **Christen Polhemus**, BSN, RN; **Caitlin Harper**, BSN, RN; **Hillary Hernandez**, BSN, RN; and **Jennifer Robbins**, RN.

Emergency Department – Cary Hospital welcomes **Michael Peters**, BSN, RN.

Heart & Vascular welcomes **Susan Rodgers**, NP, to the Complex Arrhythmia team.

Home Health welcomes **Joel Thompson**, **Samantha Worthy** and **Marcie Chibinga**, RN.

Infection Prevention welcomes **Amy Jordan**, BSN, RN, to the Raleigh Campus team.

Patient Financial Services welcomes new manager **Shamelah Williams-Luster**.

Quality Analytics welcomes **Erlinda Laska**, BSN, RN, **John Barney**, BSN, RN and **Leigh Richardson**, BSN, RN.

Rehab welcomes **Sandy Mead** and **Dawn Roy** to their team.

The Clinical Administrators welcome **Toni Burno**, BSN, RN.

Urgent Care – Oberlin welcomes **Bridgette Brewer**, RN.



# MICROSCOPE

Microscope is a monthly newsletter written by and for the employees of WakeMed. Our goal is to provide employees and friends of WakeMed with the most up-to-date news on all of the hospital system's activities. The Marketing & Communications department thanks all of the employees who contributed to this publication.

We welcome comments and suggestions on this publication and its content. Call (919) 350-8120, e-mail [microscope@wakemed.org](mailto:microscope@wakemed.org), or write Microscope, WakeMed Marketing & Communications, 3000 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27610.

Kate Wilkes Editor  
WakeMed Employees, Photos

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## AMBASSADORS NEEDED!

Are you passionate about WakeMed and have an interest in supporting your fellow teammates? The WakeMed Gives team is looking for employees to serve as ambassadors for WakeMed's annual employee giving campaign in October. The WakeMed Gives campaign is led by employees for employees in support of employee assistance, employee education and employee well-being. NPDP credit is available to ambassadors. To get involved, contact Ashley Simpson at [ashsimpson@wakemed.org](mailto:ashsimpson@wakemed.org).

## Follow us!

Want to learn more about what's happening at WakeMed? Follow us on social media or download the WakeMed App!



WakeMed App



@WakeMedHospitals



@WakeMed



WakeMed & WakeMed Children's

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Employee Well-Being Events

#### September 13: Virtual Meditation Class

Join Corporate & Community Health for a 30-minute guided meditation class that will leave you feeling relaxed and refreshed. The instructor will lead you through gentle chair stretches, a deep breathing technique, and a calming meditation that is suitable for all levels of experience. Visit MyWakeMed or the WakeMed Weekly for details on how to join.

#### Corporate & Community Health Education Classes for Staff

##### September 12 & 13: Understanding Food Labels

Corporate & Community Health presents live monthly health classes virtually via Webex. The classes are led by a registered dietitian and cover a variety of topics related to nutrition and health. These classes are open and complimentary to all WakeMed employees. Visit MyWakeMed or the WakeMed Weekly for details on how to join.

#### WakeMed Farmers Market

The Raleigh Campus Farmers Market will occur in the Courtyard every Tuesday from 10 am to 2 pm. The market excludes holiday weeks and will run through the end of September. In addition, the last Cary Hospital market of the season will be held August 16, 11 am to 2 pm. Come by and support produce, local craft, specialty food/beverage and beauty vendors.

#### WakeMed Cycling Club Payday Rides

WakeMed Cycling Club "Payday Rides" will occur throughout the summer on payday Thursdays. The group meets at the Wake Orthopaedics location (3009 New Bern Ave.) at 5:30 pm and rides along the Raleigh Greenway to the Neuse River Trail and beyond. All rides are no drop rides, which means no one will be left behind. All participants must wear a helmet and have a signed waiver on file. For more details about the cycling club, please email Bob Nelson at [bonelson@wakemed.org](mailto:bonelson@wakemed.org).

#### Life After COVID: Virtual Support Group

Join this virtual support group, facilitated by WakeMed Spiritual Care, for staff and patients who have recovered from COVID-19. The group meets via Webex on Tuesdays at 6 pm. For more information, please contact Sara Robb-Scott at [srobb-scott@wakemed.org](mailto:srobb-scott@wakemed.org).

### Cyber Security Awareness & Phishing Training

#### September 6

WakeMed takes privacy and security seriously. This training will help staff members identify key elements of questionable emails and offer guidance when confronted with similar situations. The session will also cover general cybersecurity advice to help keep individuals safe both here at WakeMed and in their personal lives. Join us to improve your cybersecurity awareness. Register on WakeMedU.

#### Read the Wake Way: "Switch: How to Change Things When Things Are Hard"

Decades of counterintuitive research in psychology, sociology and other fields shed new light on how we can effect transformative change. "Switch" shows that successful changes follow a pattern – a pattern you can use to make the changes that matter to you, whether your interest is in changing the world or changing your waistline. Search Read the Wake Way in WakeMedU to sign up. All registered participants will be provided a copy of the book prior to the discussion sessions:

- > North Hospital – September 6
- > Cary Hospital – October 6
- > Raleigh Campus – November 8

#### Save the Date! WakeMed 2024 SHINE Conference

Thursday, March 21, WakeMed Raleigh Campus, Andrews Center

The WakeMed 2024 SHINE Conference represents more than 20 years of igniting health care providers to improve their practice and inspire excellence while focusing on the newest innovations, research and evidence-based practices in neuroscience. Attendees include emergency, acute and rehab nurses, physical, occupational and speech therapists, advanced practice providers, and case managers. Please submit your abstracts by September 30 on [wakemed.org](http://wakemed.org) (search SHINE).

#### Wake AHEC Events

- > Multidisciplinary Approaches to Lung Cancer Screening and Treatment, August 15
- > Potential Youth Violence: Behavioral Indicators, Prevention, and Intervention, August 30
- > The Complex Needs of Older Adults: Mental Health, Legal Issues, and Community Support, September 7
- > Treating Chronic Pain: Tools for Medical, Behavioral Health and Rehab Clinicians, September 7
- > 18th Annual Time is Brain: Advances in Stroke Care, September 23
- > 29th Annual Thomas B. Dameron Jr. Orthopaedic Conference, October 14

For a complete list of events, please visit: <https://www.wakeahec.org/courses-and-events>