

# MICROSCOPE



## STEP UP TO THE PLATE

WakeMed  
GIVES

Employees system-wide can step up to the plate now thorough August 31 in support of this year's WakeMed Gives employee giving campaign. Last year, the WakeMed Gives employee giving campaign raised \$458,000 from 1,090 donors. Donations can be directed to employee-centered programs, such as:

- Employee Emergency Assistance
- Employee Well-Being Initiatives
- Employee Education

Funds can also be directed to the Courage to Confront Crisis Campaign in support of the new mental health hospital in Garner.

To learn more about how your gift makes a difference, visit the Foundation MyWakeMed page.

## THANK YOU

to this year's campaign coaches:

- Executive Co-Chairs  
**Waqiah Ellis**, VP, Nursing, Raleigh Campus & **Joe Palumbo**, Executive Director, Patient Access-Revenue Cycle
- Physician Co-Chairs  
**Dr. Mike Ferguson**, Medical Director, ENT – Head & Neck Surgery & **Dr. Ritu Sandhu**, Medical Director, OB/GYN
- Physician Vice Chair  
**Dr. Scott Hultman**, Medical Director, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
- Ambassador Co-Chairs  
**Hailee Rich**, Primary Care & **Michelle Davis**, CNS, Clinical Nursing Resource Services
- APP Leadership  
APPreciation Committee

The Foundation is committed to investing in WakeMed's mission to care for all who need us. Here's a look at some of the critical projects and initiatives the Foundation has supported.

### Healthy Community

Providing care that catches people when they need it most.

- Hospitality Pets
- Pet Therapy Dog
- Spiritual Care
- Cancer Care
- Your Whole Health

**\$1.85M  
INVESTED**

### Innovative Programs

Driving new ideas forward.

- 3D Printing
- AI Technology
- PreciselyYou

**\$2.18M  
INVESTED**

### Extraordinary Team

Preparing today's and tomorrow's leaders.

- Foundation Awards
- Employee Emergency Assistance
- Well-Being Initiatives
- Employee Education Funding

**\$728,000  
INVESTED**

Every donation to the WakeMed Foundation has a place on the field.

Help knock it out of the park and donate today!



### Courage to Confront Crisis

Transforming mental health and well-being care in our community.  
➤ \$36M raised toward \$50M goal



## Lights. Sirens. Imagination!

See how Marbles and WakeMed are helping kids explore healthcare through play. Story inside.

Our Environmental Services (EVS) team plays an incredibly important role in ensuring WakeMed provides a clean, healing environment for all patients. Their role requires proper training on a wide range of topics, including infection prevention and control practices, safe use of chemicals and waste disposal, and general cleaning techniques.

WakeMed utilizes the nationally recognized Certified Health Care Environmental Services Technician (CHEST) program to ensure our staff have the knowledge and technical skills needed to perform their role with excellence. Since we adopted this program in 2018, more than 135 EVS team members have received CHEST certification. In that time, EVS has documented improvements in quality, patient satisfaction, employee engagement and cleaning times. The CHEST program has also supported employee retention and career progression efforts.

This spring, WakeMed hosted a CHEST train-the-trainer conference, which equips participants to lead training within their teams. More than 50 attendees – from as close as Fayetteville and as far away as Hawaii – participated in the three-day course.

**Lyn Tyner**, supervisor (EVS – Cary Hospital), shared: “In EVS, we perform the same tasks over and over again, but this course was a powerful reminder of just how vital our role is. It gave me a renewed sense of pride in how our daily work directly protects our patients, families and community. I want to use my new role as an instructor to help my coworkers see the bigger picture, ensuring they feel valued and proud of the life-saving impact they make every day.”

“This conference reinforced the importance of properly training our employees and emphasizing the value of the work they perform. I also appreciated the reminder that a patient's room is essentially their home during their stay, and it should be treated – and the patient cared for – with respect, dignity and attention,” added **Sean Ray**, supervisor (Laundry & Linen Services).



## Celebrating Excellence in Environmental Services



Thank you to our EVS staff and leaders, as well as our Workforce Development team, for supporting this and other training opportunities that support our Aspirational Goals of Extraordinary Team, Quality, Culture of Safety and Wake Way.

Pictured, left to right, are conference participants **Benita Joyner**, **Marlene Uribe**, **Alberto Martinez-Cruz**, **Remone Lewis**, **Lyn Tyner**, **Eric Aparicio**, **Sean Ray** and **Chris Rivera Sales**. Joyner, Uribe, Martinez-Cruz and Tyner all progressed to supervisor positions in recent years after becoming CHEST certified.





## WAKEMED HOSTS NC HOSPITAL LEADERS FOR BRIDGE TO HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

WakeMed recently hosted leaders from North Carolina health systems as part of the Bridge to Health grant program led by The Duke Endowment in partnership with the North Carolina Healthcare Foundation.

The Bridge to Health model – aimed at improving health for patients with complex care needs – is inspired by WakeMed’s Center for Community Health.

**Brian Klausner**, MD, executive medical director (Center for Community Health); **Theresa Amerson**, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Population Health; **Donna Avery**, practice manager (Center for Community Health); and **Jennifer McLucas Ingold**, executive director (Home Health & Community Case Management), led engaging sessions about efforts to stabilize and support its most vulnerable patients. **Micah Krempasky**, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Mental Health & Well-Being, moderated a panel discussion about the gaps in care that exist for patients with severe persistent mental illness. Sixty people attended the two-day event.

Last June, The Duke Endowment awarded a \$1.4 million grant through the WakeMed Foundation to advance the Center’s work and to serve as a cohort leader. Funds are being used to serve patients who struggle to transition from the Center to a community provider for their ongoing care.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING AT WakeMed



Happy Birthday, WakeMed Children’s Hospital! WakeMed staff joined Twinkle at the Farmers Market for a star-studded sweet 16 celebration!

3B CVIC staff validated nursing competencies by participating in a customized escape room! The activity offered a fun and engaging way for staff to demonstrate their knowledge of pressure injury prevention, identification and documentation. Through teamwork and problem-solving, nurses successfully validated their knowledge while reinforcing best practices that support quality patient care.



WakeMed staff, clinicians and volunteers paused on Friday, May 22, to recognize Memorial Day and honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service and defense of our country. Thank you to all who joined us and participated in these services.



WakeMed is again proud to host medical students as part of the Campbell University School of Medicine (CUSOM) Summer Scholars program. The program provides opportunities for rising second-year medical students to work full time on research studies. Join us in welcoming this year’s cohort: **Chloe Dalton**, **Ritu Patel**, **Aakansksh Goskonda**, **Stacey Chuang**, **Julian Cristiano**, **Vlada Chekirka**, **Christopher Hoefling**, **Joanna Petterson**, **Madison Almond**, **Kennedy Poppler**, **Sindoor Ambati** and **Kevin Reju**.



Left: Happy, Healthy Juneteenth. Thanks to WakeMed Center for Community Care and Corporate & Community Health team members, who braved the heat on June 19 to share valuable insights on stress and hypertension with the more than 100 adults and children they interacted with at the City of Raleigh Juneteenth celebration at John Chavis Memorial Park.

Right: Over 120 children participated in the Twinkle Dash on Saturday, June 6. The Twinkle Dash was part of Run the Quay, a 5 and 10K race in Fuquay-Varina. Proceeds benefitted WakeMed Children’s. Staff from the WakeMed Pediatric Primary Care – Fuquay-Varina (pictured), OB/GYN – Holly Springs, Urology – Fuquay-Varina, Cary Hospital and Corporate & Community Health were there to help with this star-studded event!



**Have news to share?**

Send it to microscope  
@wakemed.org





## Lights. Sirens. Imagination!

Marbles Kids Museum and WakeMed Children's transformed the museum's beloved ambulance exhibit into an immersive hospital and healthcare experience where children can step into the role of paramedic, nurse, doctor or patient.

Through hands-on medical play, kids explore healthcare careers, build confidence and gain familiarity with experiences that can sometimes feel scary in real life. Having a previous medical play experience reduces fear in future situations because it makes the concept more familiar. "Through play, children may explore the idea of being cared for by others when injured or sick. Preparation through play helps with coping and getting through medical procedures," said **Megan Sanger**, supervisor (Child Life Services). "Just knowing what something looks like, what it does, or how it feels can benefit kids, caregivers and their medical team."

In creating the new and improved exhibit, the Marbles team took time to visit WakeMed, tour the hospital and talk with different healthcare professionals. Kids may feel joy or fear in a hospital or healthcare setting, so the exhibits team was careful to keep that in mind when they reimagined and built every bit of it in-house.

Features of the new exhibit include:

- ▶ A larger, wheelchair-accessible ambulance with working lights and sirens
- ▶ An adjacent play space designed to look like a patient room – complete with privacy curtain – and a baby wellness area
- ▶ A 9-1-1 simulator – designed to look like a smartphone – where kids can practice calling and talking dispatchers.
- ▶ Interactive Skelevision, which projects the image of a skeleton that mimics the movement of a child

At the grand opening in June, kids were immersed in medical play and enjoyed hands-on opportunities to imagine and explore different healthcare careers. They created fun hospital badges to envision themselves as paramedics, X-ray technicians, nurses or pediatricians. Letting kids dream big through play sends the message that they can do anything when they grow up!



### LEADERSHIP NEWS

#### Welcome, Nat'e Guyton, SVP & Administrator, Cary Hospital



**Nat'e Guyton**, DM, MSN, RN, recently joined WakeMed as senior vice president and Administrator for Cary Hospital. Dr. Guyton brings a wealth of experience in healthcare leadership roles across diverse settings, including, most recently serving as president of Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. In her new role, Dr. Guyton will work in partnership with Cary Hospital leaders **Doug Trocinski**, MD, chief medical officer, and **Sabrina Tyndall**, RN, executive nursing director. She will also serve as the senior administrator overseeing Respiratory Care, Imaging Services and Environmental Services for the system.

Dr. Guyton holds a Doctor in Management with a concentration in organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix, and a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Widener University. She also earned a post master's certificate in healthcare administration from Villanova University and a post master's certificate in healthcare informatics from Drexel University.

#### Jackie Kennedy Named Director of Guest, Retail and Volunteer Services



Please join us in congratulating **Jackie Kennedy** on being promoted to director of Guest, Retail and Volunteer Services. Kennedy has been a member of the WakeMed family since 2001. She was named manager of Volunteer Services in 2012 and her leadership has helped grow Volunteer Services, strengthen community partnerships, and support initiatives that enhance the patient and visitor experience across the health system. In her new role, she will lead the Guest Services, Retail Services and Volunteer Services teams across the system, working closely with

department managers and staff to foster collaboration across all facilities and departments.

## NEWS FROM WakeMed Physician Practices

### WakeMed Children's Expands in Morrisville

Two new pediatric specialty practices are now open at Morrisville Medical Park, located at 101 Holly Creek Road:

- ▶ **Pediatric Urology:** Suite 203 (co-located with adult Urology)
- ▶ **Pediatric Endocrinology:** Suite 103

### Now Open: MyCare 365 – Morrisville

MyCare 365 Primary & Urgent Care opened their 14th location this month. This new practice is the first MyCare 365 in the Morrisville area.

9648 Chapel Hill Road.  
Morrisville, NC 27560

Monday - Friday: 8 am to 8 pm  
Saturday - Sunday: 8 am to 4 pm

### Welcome New Physician



**Krystal Irizarry, MD**  
Pediatric Endocrinology

### Welcome New Advanced Practice Providers

**Ashley Amato, NP**  
Primary Care

**Zachary Bessette, PA**  
General Surgery

**Eman Carter, PA**  
Heart & Vascular

**Evan Colvin, NP**  
Gastroenterology

**Bridgette Cross, NP**  
Neonatology

**Katherine Delaney, NP**  
Neonatology

**Callie Gaskins, PA**  
MyCare 365

**Chade Montgomery, PA**  
Urology

**Salvatore Quattrocchi, PA**  
Wake Orthopaedics

**Daniel Reuther, PA**  
Urgent Care





Dr. Ferguson Receives 2026 Dascomb Award



Please join us in congratulating **Michael Ferguson**, MD (ENT – Head & Neck Surgery) as the recipient of the 2026 Harry E. Dascomb, MD, Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching and Care.

The Dascomb Award was established in honor of Harry Dascomb, MD, who served as an infectious disease physician at

WakeMed and was recognized for his bedside clinical and teaching skills and his ability to provide compassionate patient care. The Dascomb Award, WakeMed’s highest teaching honor, is presented annually to a physician who demonstrates excellence in clinical 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.

Dr. Ferguson joined WakeMed in 2002 and is currently director of WakeMed ENT, Head & Neck Surgery. He has been teaching and guiding residents throughout his career at WakeMed and has been honored on several occasions with the WakeMed ENT Resident Teaching Award. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the UNC Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery and served as the UNC Residency Site Director at WakeMed.

Dr. Ferguson’s nomination letters capture the essence and breadth of his contributions. His colleagues describe him as, “a genuinely good human being. He leads with integrity, treats others with kindness, and gives endlessly to WakeMed and its community.” Another states, “Dr. Ferguson’s influence as a mentor is perhaps best reflected in the choices of his trainees. Four of his recent residency graduates – and soon to be five – have chosen to continue their careers working alongside him. This speaks volumes about the respect, admiration and loyalty he inspires...For his excellence in teaching, his dedication to clinical education, his exceptional surgical skill and his compassionate care, we can think of no one more deserving of the Harry E. Dascomb, MD Award than Dr. Michael Ferguson.”



WakeMed’s Patient Safety Champs!

On June 3, Patient Safety & Risk Management held the Patient Safety Champion Kickoff. **Karen Chilton**, MD, thanked our new champions and helped educate them on their role in helping their colleagues understand why incident reports are so important to submit and how to submit them. During quarterly meetings, they also have the opportunity to bring their department’s patient safety concerns to the group for discussion. Thank you to our Patient Safety Champions and all staff members who work to keep our patients safe.

Newsweek: Specialty Care Recognition

WakeMed has been named to *Newsweek’s* list of America’s Best Hospitals for Specialized Care, earning national recognition for excellence in cardiac care, gastrointestinal care and orthopedic care. The 2026 *Newsweek* rankings, announced in partnership with Statista, recognize leading U.S. hospitals that offer patients trusted guidance when facing complex diagnoses across seven key specialties. Raleigh Campus earned top honors for delivering exceptional cardiac care and gastrointestinal care. Cary Hospital was recognized as a top hospital for orthopedic care.

1,375 hospitals were recognized for world-class clinical outcomes based on methodology including expanded safety and quality indicators, including data from The Leapfrog Group, peer evaluations, accreditations and CMS measures. North Hospital’s data was incorporated into tabulations with Raleigh Campus because the two facilities operate under the same CMS license.

Money: Excellence in Geriatric Care

Cary Hospital has been recognized as one of *Money’s* Best Hospitals for Geriatric Care of 2026. *Money’s* ranking includes hospitals that have a proven track record of providing high-quality care to older adults, as measured by quality metrics, geriatric focus, patient satisfaction and price transparency. Cary Hospital was one of just 75 hospitals to earn this distinction and received the highest ranking of the three North Carolina hospitals on the list.

Cary Hospital is home to Wake County’s first Level 1 accredited Geriatric Emergency Department. The facility earned American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Gold Level 1 accreditation – the highest designation possible – in 2024 in recognition of the comprehensive, patient-centered emergency care it provides to older adults.

The Joint Commission: Stroke Center Recertification

Raleigh Campus has received re-certification as an Advanced Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center from The Joint Commission. The certification follows a two-day survey that took place in April and involved WakeMed staff sharing protocols, processes and capabilities in providing care to patients presenting with stroke symptoms, including advanced interventional procedures and post-procedural care.



Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center certification is the second highest of the four advanced stroke certifications offered by The Joint Commission in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. Hospitals achieving Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center Certification must meet rigorous standards for performing endovascular thrombectomy and providing post-procedural care.

“When I think about where we were just a few years ago and where we are today, the progress of our stroke program is truly impressive,” said **Chuck Harr**, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Raleigh Campus. “We’re continuing to excel, and Comprehensive Stroke Center certification is within reach. I’m incredibly proud of this team and grateful for your passion and commitment to delivering the highest level of care to our patients.”

Raleigh Campus earned designation as a Primary Stroke Center in 2006; Cary Hospital has held the same designation since 2012.

AHA/ASA: Get with the Guidelines



WakeMed physicians and staff were recognized once again for delivering the highest level of care for patients experiencing heart failure and stroke. The Get With The Guidelines quality achievement awards are earned by hospitals that demonstrate a commitment to treating patients according to the most up-to-date guidelines as outlined by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. Raleigh Campus and Cary Hospital teams both meet or exceed national guidelines for ensuring stroke and heart failure patients receive the most appropriate treatment and education according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability.

Both **Raleigh Campus** and **Cary Hospital** received: Get With The Guidelines – Heart Failure GOLD PLUS with Target: Heart Failure Optimal and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll and Get With The Guidelines – Stroke GOLD PLUS with Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite, Advanced Therapy and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll.

Congratulations to our care teams and thank you for all you do on behalf of our patients!

The Lown Institute: National Leader in Social Responsibility

Raleigh Campus Honor Roll recognition in the 2026-27 Lown Hospitals Index for Social Responsibility, which recognizes national leadership in socially responsible healthcare. Raleigh Campus was named the most socially responsible acute care hospital in North Carolina. To compile the list, the nonpartisan healthcare think tank assessed 2,718 acute care hospitals, 900 critical access hospitals and 331 health systems nationwide across more than 50 metrics related to health equity, value of care and patient outcomes. This is the third year that Raleigh Campus has been listed on the Lown Institute Honor Roll.



New Internal Medicine Residents

WakeMed recently welcomed our sixth Internal Medicine Residency cohort, who will spend the next three years as part of our clinical care teams. Pictured, left to right, are **Rob Hall**, MD; **Victor Brozovsky**, MD; **Isabel Constantino**, MD, PhD; **Brook Chmiel**, DO; **Nina Daneshvar**, MD; **Neha Yerubandi**, DO; and **Matt Gwinn**, DO.





# Congratulations

## 2026 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 benefit WakeMed employees by providing funding for eligible dependents who plan to pursue post-secondary education and training.

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 or attain certification or training in the areas of health sciences, elementary or secondary education, computer sciences or information technology.



- This year’s applicant pool was highly competitive with a total of 50 applications and the largest awarded class to date with 13 total scholars. We are pleased to share the 2026 recipients of the Megan Champ Morgan Scholarship Fund:
- ▶ Rayan (Parent: **Taufic Abubakar**, RN, 1C Clinical Evaluation Area – Raleigh Campus) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill.
  - ▶ Yani (Parent: **Lou Gibbs**, Mothers’ Milk Bank) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill.
  - ▶ Maddy (Parent: **Amanda Cox**, Pharmacy – Raleigh Campus) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill.
  - ▶ Allie (Parent: **Wendy Dunn**, Patient Case Management – Raleigh Campus) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at UNC-Charlotte.
  - ▶ Maggie (Parent: **Kerrie Gottschall**, Mothers’ Milk Bank) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at Western Carolina University.
  - ▶ Chase (Parent: **Jessica Pierce**, Pharmacy – Raleigh Campus) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at North Carolina Central University.
  - ▶ Makayla (Parent: **Tiffany McDonald**, Hearing Screening – Newborns) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at East Carolina University.
  - ▶ David (Parents: **Nicole McNeil** and **David McNeil**, Hospital Coding) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at Herzing University.
  - ▶ Ava (Parent: **Monica Moore**, Pharmacy – Raleigh Campus) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at East Carolina University.
  - ▶ Elizabeth (Parent: **Nicole Cary**, RN, Nursing Education) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at UNC-Wilmington.
  - ▶ Madison (Parent: **Jovan Smothers**, Patient Case Management – Raleigh Campus) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at UNC-Wilmington.
  - ▶ Abigail (Parent: **Holly Stephens**, Rehab Hospital Admissions) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill.
  - ▶ Ashlyn (Parent: **Angela Windley**, RN, Labor & Delivery – Raleigh Campus) is pursuing a degree in Health Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Applications for the next award cycle are due April 30, 2027. For more information, visit the Foundation MyWakeMed page.

## WHAT AN EMPLOYEE!

**Stephanie Sessoms**, executive vice president and Chief Financial Officer, and **Amanda Edwards**, PA, assistant chief quality officer, were named among the Top 50 Raleigh Women Leaders in Business! Their leadership, expertise and commitment to excellence continue to make a meaningful impact across WakeMed and the communities we serve.

**Kelly Thompson-Brazill**, DNP, (Heart and Vascular) co-presented Advanced Chest Imaging: Integrating CXR, CT Chest, and Lung POCUS into Diagnostic Reasoning at the American Association of Critical Care Nurses’ (AACN) National Teaching Institute in San Diego, CA. She was also featured in AACN’s NTI Voices publication for her work on the Advanced Practice Institute Program Planning Committee.

**Amanda Heitman**, BSN, RN (Surgical Services – Cary Hospital), was chosen as a winner of the AORN National Individual Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Perioperative Education: Clinical. This national honor recognizes her many years of leadership, innovation and passion for perioperative nursing education.

**Malorie Evans**, NP (Heart & Vascular), received the WakeMed APP Spotlight Award for April and **Sara Matthews**, FNP (Hospitalist), received the award for May.

Congratulations to **Donna Avery** (Center for Community Health) on completing her Master of Business Administration degree with honors.

**Julie Cardin** (Heart & Vascular – Fuquay-Varina Medical Park) recently graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree.

**Thomas Konyn** and **Michele Fitzgerald** (both of Respiratory Care Services – Cary Hospital) graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in respiratory therapy (BSRT). **Johny Hoare** (also of Respiratory Care Services) earned a Master of Science degree in respiratory therapy.

**Jason Dehn**, RN (3B CVIC), earned cardiovascular nurse certification.

Home Health congratulates their physical therapists **Brenda Biggs**, **Debora Hage**, **Ivy Baldemoro**, **Michelle Brown**, and **Sarah Lovegreen** for receiving Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT) certification.

Congratulations to **Kristen Girardi** and **Keturah Beckham** (both of Population Heath) for receiving case management certification.

**Beth Demarchi**, RN, was promoted to manager of the North Hospital Emergency Department.

**Savannah Horvick**, RN (Clinical Nursing Resource Services), accepted a new role as a program specialist for WakeMed’s Intensive Care Units.

Corporate & Community Health congratulates **Lauren Naugle** on her promotion to supervisor and **Kalin Soper** and **Nia Swinton** on their promotions to community health specialists.

## COMINGS & GOINGS

The Emergency Department – Raleigh Campus welcomes **Alicia-Ley Matthews**, RN, and **Nikki Fortner**, RN, as new clinical educators/supervisors.

3B CVIC welcomes **John Ahenda**, RN; **Lucia French**; **Gloria Beth McLamb**; **Lawanda Harvey**, RN; **Nequilla Greene**, RN; **Aeriale Martin**, RN; **Meadow Brown**; **Ashlyn Haynes**, RN Resident; **William Stabler**, RN Resident; **Jessica Gorczynski**, RN Resident; **Jenna Hill**, RN Resident.

Home Health welcomes **Kimara Wilson**, LPN; **Marlene Garcia Fuentes**, RN; **Marie Bodenschatz**, and **Michael Roberge**.

1C Clinical Evaluation – Raleigh Campus welcomes **Falicia Davis**, RN.

5 West Surgery & Trauma – Cary Hospital welcomes **Miguel Ocampo**, RN, **Colin Smith**, **Kersha Smith**, and new internal transfers, **Christopher Harper**, **Katie Francis**, RN Resident, and **Alysha Tullar**, RN Resident.

2E CVICU welcomes new RN Residents **Gracie Thompson** and **Melissa Bell**.

STICU welcomes new nurse residents **Ava McKoy** and **Leo Santiago Vasquez**.

Primary Care – Oberlin welcomes **Arianna Coles** and **Briana Sanchez-Murguia**.

Urgent Care – Oberlin welcomes **Phil Blackman**.

Nursing Education welcomes **Gary Linder**.

6C Surgery & Trauma welcomes **Mackenzie Hurst**, **Cadence Powell**, **Ava Farrell**, **Emily Almond**, RN Resident, and **Jayla Boyd**, RN Resident. They also wish farewell to **Amy Beasley**, who will be departing WakeMed after 34 years of service.

## ADDITIONS & ATTACHMENTS

Congratulations to **Deborah Blackwell** (3C Rehab Nursing) on her marriage on May 17.

**Anna Shuler** (Marketing & Communications) welcomed daughter Maisie Eve on July 6.

## IN MEMORIAM

This month we remember and honor three valued members of the WakeMed family, pictured left to right.



**Annie Faison** (5C Med/Surg Intermediate Care), **Shirley Bartee** (Guest Services) and **Carla McCormick** (Claims and Billing) left a lasting impact through their dedication, compassion and commitment to those they served. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends and colleagues as we remember and celebrate their lives.

# CLINICAL RESEARCH UPDATES



WakeMed Heart & Vascular physicians **Ashish Patel**, MD, and **Kevin Manocha**, MD, with support from the Heart & Vascular Research Team, are leading two studies aimed at improving treatment options for patients with atrial fibrillation (AFib).

- ▶ OMNY-AF study is testing a new treatment that uses a specialized catheter to deliver short bursts of electrical energy to treat abnormal heart signals. Researchers are evaluating how safe and effective the treatment is for patients who are not good candidates for certain heart rhythm medications. Participants are followed for one year to track outcomes and quality of life.
- ▶ The SIMPLAAFY trial is evaluating various blood-thinner strategies for patients with AFib who are at increased risk of stroke. The study is for patients who receive a WATCHMAN FLX Pro device along with medical management, and compares different medication approaches after the device is implanted to compare safety and efficacy. WakeMed has enrolled 10 patients who are currently being monitored as part of the study.





# 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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# WakeMed

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## KIDNEY STONE CENTER MARKS 10 YEARS



The WakeMed Kidney Stone Center was established in 2016 with a dedicated phone number (The Stone Phone) under the leadership of **Carmin Kalorin**, MD, and **Scott Lisson**, MD (both of Urology). The goal was to provide coordinated, comprehensive, patient-centered care focused on both the treatment and prevention of kidney stones. Through a multidisciplinary approach that combines advanced treatment, metabolic evaluation, dietary counseling with lifestyle changes, and long-term prevention strategies, the Kidney Stone Center has helped over 45,000 patients reduce stone recurrence and improve their overall kidney health.

“The program’s continued expansion over the past decade reflects our team’s unwavering commitment to increasing access to specialized kidney stone care. This model has had tremendous success in delivering evidence-based, personalized treatment to patients throughout the community,” commented **Shams Zia**, MD, medical director of the Kidney Stone Center (Nephrology).

## Follow us

TO WELLNESS!



WakeMed & WakeMed Children’s



@WakeMedHospitals



@WakeMed

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### ONE TEAM. MANY VOICES.

#### July is Disability Pride Month

National Disability Independence Day is celebrated on July 26 to honor the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990 and to promote equality, accessibility, and empowerment for people with disabilities. While National Disability Independence Day celebrates the advancements made through the ADA, it also reminds us that inclusion is an ongoing journey. To help build greater awareness and understanding of disability experiences, we’ve curated learning modules that explore accessibility, disability etiquette, inclusive communication and more.

#### Featured Learning Opportunities in WakeMedU

- Using Disability-Inclusive Language
- How to Identify and Stop Using Ableist Language

#### Fall Beyond Our Walls Cohorts Are Open!

Join WakeMed’s Beyond Our Walls health equity program to learn about health inequities affecting historically marginalized communities and collaborate on strategies to address them. Fall 2026 cohorts begin in September. Visit the Diversity & Inclusion Intranet Page for details, register in WakeMedU under “Beyond Our Walls,” or email [diversity@wakemed.org](mailto:diversity@wakemed.org) with questions.

### EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

**The Scoop on Nutrition**  
Join a Corporate and Community Health registered dietitian in a 30-minute detailed dive into a wide variety of nutrition. See MyWakeMed for times and details to join the discussion.

**Fueling Your Body: Nutrition for Energy, Exercise and Strength**  
**Aug. 5 & 6**  
Whether you’re just getting started or already exercising regularly, discover how the foods you eat can fuel your workouts, boost your energy and support your fitness goals.

### NURSING EDUCATION

- Upcoming Nursing Education Courses**
- **Using 5S, Waste Walk, and PDSA: A Guide to the Tools and Tenets** – Mon., Aug. 10, 11 am to 12:15 pm, Raleigh (Nursing Ed Room A)
  - **The Role of the Competency Validator: A Key Piece in the Competency Process** – Mon., Aug. 10, 2 to 4 pm, Raleigh (Nursing Ed Room A)
  - **The Impact of Giving & Receiving Effective Feedback** – Thurs, Aug 20, 1 to 2:30 pm, Raleigh (Nursing Ed Room C)
- Register for the above classes via WakeMedU

**WAKEMED TRAUMA CONFERENCE**  
**Sept. 10, 2026**  
Registration is now open for the 2026 WakeMed Trauma Conference, which will be held on Sept. 10 in the Andrews Conference Center. Register at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) by searching “WakeMed Trauma Conference” in the search bar.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Evening Spotlight on Pediatrics: Champions for Children**  
**Thursday, July 23, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Andrews Center**  
Discover the world of pediatric care and the many ways professionals support children – from newborns to teens. This interactive session is perfect for high school students interested in science, medicine, and making a real impact on young lives.

**Advance Your Career – College Representatives On-Site This Summer and Fall!**

Nursing Education and Workforce Development are excited to bring our educational partners directly to you. Representatives from a variety of colleges and universities will be on-site in the cafeterias at the Raleigh, Cary and North campuses during lunch hours (11 am to 2 pm) on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month through October. Check the Workforce Development site for the schedule as well as the Benefits site to learn more about the Tuition & Specialty Certification Reimbursement Program.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Invest in yourself with WakeMed Organizational Development! Check out the courses below to build skills in communication, teamwork, respect and accountability – key Wake Way every day behaviors that drive success. To register for these courses and to view future course offerings, visit WakeMedU today.
- **Navigating Through Change:** July 23
  - **Crucial Accountability:** July 24
  - **Disrupt Everything: Innovate for Impact:** Aug. 11
  - **People See Things Differently:** Aug. 12
  - **EmpowerEd Bites-Real Life Resilience:** Aug. 21
  - **Change: How to Turn Uncertainty into Opportunity:** Aug. 27

**Caregivers Connection Group – Boundaries and Guilt: What Healthy Caregiving Looks Like**

**Friday, Aug. 28, Noon to 1 pm**  
Join us for an honest virtual conversation about what healthy caregiving looks like and how to balance caring for others while also prioritizing your own well-being. See WakeMedU for details/registration.

### WAKE AHEC EVENTS

- **Leading Teams through Humanity, Honesty, & Humility** – Aug. 12
  - **Creating an Inclusive Workplace** – Aug. 19
  - **Restorative Practices** – Aug. 26
  - **Aging Strong: Advanced Care Strategies for Older Adults Across the Continuum** – Aug. 28
- For a complete list of events, please visit [www.wakeahec.org/courses-and-events](http://www.wakeahec.org/courses-and-events).