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 to include 10 pathologists and 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

Michael H. Weinstein, MD, PhD –
Director, Pathology Services
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 J. Snyder, MD –
Medical Director, Outreach Services
BS College of William and Mary
MD Medical College of Virginia
Residency & Fellowship Duke University Medical Center
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Hematopathology
Clinical Interests gynecologic and general surgical pathology, gastrointestinal pathology, cytopathology, hematopathology

Shrin Rajagopalan, MD, PhD –
Director, WakeMed North Family Health & Women’s Hospital
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 general surgical pathology and hematopathology

Matthew R. Plymyer, MD –
Director, WakeMed Cary Hospital
BS Lehigh University
MD Medical College of Pennsylvania
Residency Tripler Army Medical Center
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology with added qualification in Cytopathology
Clinical Interests cytopathology and transfusion medicine
Michael A. Huening, MD, PhD –
Medical Director, Core Laboratory,
WakeMed Raleigh Campus
BS Pace University
MD University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – New Jersey Medical School
PhD University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – New Jersey Medical School
Residency & Fellowship Duke University Medical Center
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology
Clinical Interests cytopathology, fine needle aspiration biopsy, gastrointestinal and general surgical pathology, hematopathology and molecular diagnostics

Ahren C. Rittershaus, MD –
Medical Director,
Anatomic Pathology
BS 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, cytopathology

Christine N. Sillings, MD –
Medical Director,
Transfusion Services
BS Loyola University
MD University of Louisville School of Medicine
Residency Emory University
Fellowship University of New Mexico
Board Certification Anatomic and Clinical Pathology
Clinical Interests hematopathology

George Clarke, MD
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

E. Grover Smith, PhD – 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