Welcome to the Center for Healthcare Innovation

The Center for Healthcare Innovation accelerates the translation of medical discoveries into healthcare systems in order to increase hospital efficiency and improve patient outcomes. The center is comprised of forward-thinking clinicians, researchers, creators, innovators, and support staff, working together as collaborators and team members.
Leadership

**Jeff D. Williamson, MD, MHS**
Director, Center for Healthcare Innovation; Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology; Chief, Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine  
*Project: All*

Dr. Jeff Williamson is an internationally known geriatrician and clinical trialist. Dr. Williamson’s primary research interests include understanding relationships between chronic diseases, the prevention of age-related loss of independence and developing research methods for elderly persons in clinical trials. As the director of the Center, he leads and serves alongside diverse faculty and staff to identify opportunities in innovation and assists with design and implementation to bring more discoveries to patient care.

**Eric S. Kirkendall, MD, MBI**
Deputy Director, Center for Healthcare Innovation; Director of Digital Health Innovation; Associate Professor, Pediatric Hospital Medicine  
*Project: All*

Dr. Kirkendall is a highly trained and experienced clinical informaticist interested in novel applications of technology to improve healthcare and patient outcomes. Dr. Kirkendall helps lead the center and utilizes technology to accomplish its mission by collaboratively leveraging the unique talents and capabilities of Wake Forest’s innovators, digital health tools, scientific discoveries and clinical care delivery system.

**Paul Yelton, MSCS**
Program Director, Technology, Center for Healthcare Innovations  
*Project: All*

Paul Yelton has more than 17 years of software engineering expertise that ranges from software architecture to business strategy development. Yelton helps develop the Center’s technology team, collaborates with the Medical Center’s faculty and staff, and collaborates with industry partners to deliver new digital innovations into the healthcare space.

**Nicholas M. Pajewski, PhD**
Director of Statistical Analytics, Center for Healthcare Innovation; Associate Professor of Biostatistical Sciences; Division of Public Health Sciences  
*Project: All*

Dr. Pajewski is a biostatistician with diverse experience in clinical trials, health services research and the use of pragmatic data sources including administrative claims and data derived from the Electronic Health Record (EHR). Dr. Pajewski provides expertise in study design and evaluation, data management, statistical analysis, and predictive modeling to support population health management and clinical informatics initiatives for the Center.
Staff

Shawn Brim, MBA  
Research Administrative Coordinator
Shawn Brim has been with Wake Forest University Health Sciences for two decades in grants management. He facilitates the submission and subsequent post-award management for research, institutional and philanthropic endeavors grants and funds.

LaShanda Brown, PhD, GNP, BC  
Research Nurse Manager
LaShanda Brown has more than a decade of nursing education and research experience. She helps implement and disseminate workflow changes for Center projects within the inpatient and ambulatory settings; this includes ensuring nursing input for streamlining and making nursing and staff satisfaction a priority.

Sarah Hutchens  
Associate Administrative Coordinator for the Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine and the Wake Forest Center for Healthcare Innovation
Sarah Hutchens has more than 35 years of experience as an administrative professional. Her role in the Center includes helping coordinate meetings, events, onboarding of new faculty and staff and a myriad of other administrative needs.

Scott Lang  
Program Manager
Scott Lang helps coordinate day-to-day activities of Center members, oversee Center projects and plan and execute Center-sponsored meetings and events. Lang has 20 years of experience in various forms of communications and project management, including staff oversight, budgets, editing, websites, conferences and special events.

John D. McConnell, MD  
Chief Executive Officer Emeritus, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center  
Professor and Gordon Hanes Chair of Urology, Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
Executive-in-Residence for the Wake Forest Center for Healthcare Innovation
A urologist and translational researcher by training, Dr. McConnell previously served as CEO, where he had the overall responsibility for the Medical Center’s research, commercialization, education, and patient care programs. Dr. McConnell now serves as an advisor to the Center on strategies for operations, assessment and valuation of opportunities and external relationship management.

Jen McCraw, RN, NP, MBA  
Manager of Clinical Research
Jen McCraw manages collaborative innovation programs and product development for the center, working with leadership to plan, direct, coordinate, and evaluate the management of implementation protocols. McCraw has over a decade of experience as both a clinician and digital health leader respectively, taking her from level 4 metropolitan trauma centers to refugee clinics in the Dominican Republic, and from local EHR builds and implementations to product teams for global healthcare SaaS companies.

Jane Shen, PharmD  
Head of Innovation Sector Development
Digital Health Liaison for the Wake Forest Center for Healthcare Innovation
Dr. Shen’s career spans more than 20 years in clinical research, innovation, technology and strategic engagement. Dr. Shen works closely with the Center to identify and map assets internally to build and drive strategic relationships in areas that can be leveraged toward long-term growth strategy of the Innovation Quarter.

Hayden Simmons  
Application Developer
Hayden Simmons joined the Center after spending more than five years developing public-facing educational tools in the health savings administration space. Simmons assists with planning, designing and executing mobile health applications, web applications and new technologies for the Center’s projects.

Renee Woodard  
Associate Project Manager
Renee Woodard has been with Wake Forest Baptist Health since 2015 and was previously the educational coordinator for the Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine. Woodard works closely with faculty, departmental leadership and administrative staff in overseeing Center projects, as well as coordinates Center events.

Nancy Woolard  
Fiscal Manager for the Center for Healthcare Innovation  
Senior Manager for Clinical Research, Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine
Nancy Woolard has 30 years of experience in project management at Wake Forest, encompassing foundation-supported educational projects and large, NIH-funded, multi-site clinical trials. Woolard also serves as the financial manager for the Center, overseeing budgets, grant submittals and philanthropy.
Faculty / Staff Innovators

Adam Moses
Senior Applications Analyst, Internal Medicine Administration
Project: All

Ajay Dharod, MD
Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Section on General Internal Medicine
Project: mPATH, WHIRL, CSI Mentor

Alain Bertoni, MD, MPH
Professor, Public Health Sciences

Alexander Lucas, MD
Visiting Clinician, PHS, Social Sciences

Alysha Taxter, MD, MSCE
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Expertise: CSI Mentor

Amber Brooks, MD
Associate Professor, Anesthesiology
Project: Pain eHealth Platform (PEP)

Andrew South, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Ashish Khanna, MD
Associate Professor, Anesthesiology
Expertise: Physiologic Data and Monitoring

Bobbie Jo (Munson) Fowler, MPH
ITs Manager of Population Health and WakeOne Optimization
Project: CAI

Brian J. Wells, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Biostatistical Sciences, Division of Public Health Sciences
Project: Messaging for Better Diabetes Control

Chandylen Nightingale, PhD
Assistant Professor, Public Health Sciences
Project: CONNECT

Christopher M. Prouty, MBA
Director, Population Health

Clancy Clark, MD
Department of Surgery, Surgical Oncology
Project: Patient Mobility

Dan Cohen, PhD
John C. Whitaker, Jr. Executive Director, Wake Forest Center for Entrepreneurship

David M. Popoli, MD
Assistant Professor, Physical Medicine & Rehab
Project: Triage of TBI

David Miller, MD, MS, FACP
Professor of Internal Medicine and Public Health Sciences, Section on General Internal Medicine
Project: mPATH

Deepak Palakshappa, MD
Assistant Professor, Department Internal Medicine, General Medicine
Project: Social Determinants of Health

Elisabeth Stambaugh, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Gynecology

Elizabeth Linn, MBA
Director, Payer Relations and Strategy, Manager Care
Expertise: Member and Partner Outreach

Greg Pool
Director, Wake Forest Startup Lab; Visiting Assistant Professor of Practice, Entrepreneurship, Wake Forest University

Haley Gibbs, PharmD, MPH
Director, Health System Operations
Project: CAI, Patient Mobility

Hayden D. Simmons
Application Developer II, Center for Healthcare Innovation
Project: All

Heidi Clary, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Neurology

James Willard, MAS
Biostatistician II, Department of Biostatistical Sciences, Division of Public Health Sciences
Project: CAI, IMPACT, PATIENT Mobility

Jane Shen, PharmD
Head of Innovation Sector Development, Innovation Quarter
Expertise: Digital Health Strategy; Member and Partner Outreach

Jason Fanning, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Internal Medicine, Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine
Project: Pain eHealth Platform (PEP)

Jason Stopyra, MD
Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
Project: Time Machine EMS

Jennifer Gabbard, MD
Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine
Project: IMPACT

Jennifer Houlihan
Vice President, Value-Based Care and Population Health Administration
Project: All

Jennifer Roper, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine
### Faculty/Staff Innovators
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Project/Study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jillian Urban</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>Triage of TBI</td>
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<tr>
<td>John McConnell, MD</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer Emeritus, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center; Professor and Gordon Hanes Chair of Urology, Wake Forest University School of Medicine; Executive-in-Residence for the Wake Forest Center for Healthcare Innovation</td>
<td>Expertise: Executive in Residence - Strategic Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Brown, PhD</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Weight Management Center; Director, Telehealth and Patient Engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn E. Callahan, MD, MS</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine</td>
<td>CAI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn E. Weaver, PhD</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Social Sciences and Health Policy</td>
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<td>Kenneth W. Russell</td>
<td>Director, Medical Devices, Wake Forest Innovations</td>
<td>Project: HN-STAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Stanbery, MSN, RN, NEA-BC</td>
<td>Chief Officer, Nursing Administration</td>
<td>Patient Mobility</td>
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<td>Kristie L. Foley, PhD</td>
<td>Professor and Chair, Department of Implementation Science; Associate Director for Population Sciences</td>
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<td>Kristin Macfarlane Lenoir, MPH</td>
<td>Biostatistician III, Department of Biostatistical Sciences, Division of Public Health Sciences</td>
<td>CAI</td>
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<td>Kristina Lewis, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Epidemiology and Prevention</td>
<td>Sugar Sweetened Beverages</td>
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<td>LaShanda Y. Brown, RN, PhD</td>
<td>Research Nurse Manager, Center for Healthcare Innovation</td>
<td>CAI, IGLOO</td>
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<td>Leon Lenchik, PhD</td>
<td>Professor and Chief of Musculoskeletal Imaging, Department of Radiology</td>
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<td>Metin Gurcan, PhD</td>
<td>Professor, Center for Biomedical Informatics, General Internal Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Pauca, PhD</td>
<td>Professor, Computer Science; Faculty Director Lelia and David Farr Faculty Chair, Wake Forest University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean Hernandez, MD</td>
<td>Instructor, Department of Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Social Determinants of Health, Career Dev</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simon Mahler, MD</td>
<td>Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>Time Machine EMS</td>
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<td>Susan Reeves, MPT</td>
<td>Clinical Director of Physical and Occupational Therapy, Physical and Occupational Therapy/Rehabilitation Services</td>
<td>CAI, Patient Mobility</td>
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<td>Tim Ketchum</td>
<td>Director, Corporate Revenue Analytics and ARM</td>
<td>Project Intake and Valuation</td>
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<td>Todd Ponzio</td>
<td>Associate Vice President, WF Innovations Operations</td>
<td>Project Intake and Valuation</td>
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<td>Yates Lennon</td>
<td>Chief Transformation Officer, Cornerstone Administration</td>
<td>mPATH</td>
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<td>Yuri Cabeza, MD</td>
<td>Department of Internal Medicine, Section on General Internal Medicine</td>
<td>IGLOO</td>
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*Note: Professors who are also faculty directors or chairs may have additional responsibilities related to their leadership roles.*
Contact Us

Ready to get started? Connect with Scott or Renee to launch your project, today.

Scott Lang
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336-716-1803

Renee Woodard
Associate Project Manager
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336-716-8515