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.

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.

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.
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
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.

Adam Moses
Senior Applications Analyst, Internal, Medicine Administration
Adam Moses has nearly 10 years of IT Operations experience, ranging from training and support to developing front-end systems to enhancing the clinician and patient experience. Moses is primarily involved with integration into the EHR as well as data and analytics surrounding the Center’s projects and initiatives.

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 a 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

**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  
*Expertise:* Heart, Population Health

**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, Department of Pediatrics  
*Expertise:* Nephrology, Kidney Disease Research

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

**Andrew South, MD**
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics  
*Expertise:* Nephrology, Kidney Disease Research

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

**Bob 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  
*Project:* IGLOO

**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  
*Expertise:* Entrepreneurship, Education

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

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

**Heidi Munger Clary, MD, MPH**
Assistant Professor, Neurology  
*Expertise:* Digital Health

**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  
*Expertise:* Pediatric Hypertension
Faculty/Staff Innovators
(Continued)

Jillian Urban
Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering
*Project:* Triage of TBI

John 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
*Expertise:* Executive in Residence - Strategic Planning

Josh Brown, PhD
Associate Professor, Weight Management Center; Director, Telehealth and Patient Engagement
*Expertise:* Telehealth, Remote Monitoring

Kathryn E. Callahan, MD, MS
Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine
*Project:* CAI

Kathryn E. Weaver, PhD
Associate Professor, Social Sciences and Health Policy
*Project:* HN-STAR

Kenneth W. Russell
Director, Medical Devices, Wake Forest Innovations
*Expertise:* Dissemination and Commercialization

Kimberly Stanbery, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Chief Officer, Nursing Administration
*Project:* Patient Mobility

Kristie L. Foley, PhD
Professor and Chair, Department of Implementation Science; Associate Director for Population Sciences
*Expertise:* Implementation Science

Kristin Macfarlane Lenoir, MPH
Biostatistician III, Department of Biostatistical Sciences, Division of Public Health Sciences
*Project:* CAI

Kristina Lewis, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Epidemiology and Prevention
*Project:* Sugar Sweetened Beverages

LaShanda Y. Brown, RN, PhD
Research Nurse Manager, Center for Healthcare Innovation
*Project:* CAI, IGLOO

Leon Lenchik, PhD
Professor and Chief of Musculoskeletal Imaging, Department of Radiology
*Expertise:* Imaging Informatics

Metin Gurcan, PhD
Professor, Center for Biomedical Informatics, General Internal Medicine
*Expertise:* Imaging Informatics, BMI

Paul Pauca, PhD
Professor, Computer Science; Faculty Director Leila and David Farr Faculty Chair, Wake Forest University
*Expertise:* Entrepreneurship, Computer Science

Sean Hernandez, MD
Instructor, Department of Internal Medicine
*Project:* Social Determinants of Health, Career Dev

Simon Mahler, MD
Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
*Project:* Time Machine EMS

Susan Reeves, MPT
Clinical Director of Physical and Occupational Therapy, Physical and Occupational Therapy/Rehabilitation Services
*Project:* CAI, Patient Mobility

Tim Ketchum
Director, Corporate Revenue Analytics and ARM
*Expertise:* Project Intake and Valuation

Timothy Charles Orr
Research Engineer, Center for Healthcare Innovation
*Project:* Next Gen Blood Pressure Device

Todd Ponzio
Associate Vice President, WF Innovations Operations
*Expertise:* Project Intake and Valuation

Yates Lennon
Chief Transformation Officer, Cornerstone Administration
*Project:* mPATH

Yuri Cabeza, MD
Department of Internal Medicine, Section on General Internal Medicine
*Project:* IGLOO
Contact Us

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

Scott Lang  
Program Manager  
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Renee Woodard  
Associate Project Manager  
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