



# DRAH Anatomic Pathology Department



DESIGN BY: MEGHAN REID

## Leadership and Team

**Director(s):** Rebecca J. Varley, MD

**Manager:** Lauren Taylor

**Admin:** Martha John and Catherine Owens

**Number of lab team members:** 13 total.  
2 Cytotechnologists (now called Cytologists), 5 Histology Technologists, 3 Pathologist Assistants, 1 Clin Tech, and 2 Administrative Assistants.

(Left to right) Rob Hardaway, John Thomas, Catherine Owen (in the back), Johnny Mckethan, Jacqueline Abel, Lissette Escobar, Danielle Mimnaugh, Larry Brenneman, Marjorye Correa Castro, Jalitza King, Taite Caderas, Martha John, Lauren Taylor  
Not pictured: Donna Barlow

## Lab Focus

Anatomic pathology encompasses the diagnostic examination of organs and tissues by a variety of macroscopic, microscopic, and biochemical means. The Anatomic Pathology Department at Duke Raleigh is comprised of three areas: The Pathology, Histology, and Cytology Laboratories. Read below for a description of each lab's duties.

## Average Yearly Volume

### Histology

- 16,000 patient cases per year
- 70,000 blocks (tissue cassettes) to section in Histology per year
- 130,000 slides sectioned and stained per year

### Cytology

- 1200 FNA (Fine Needle Aspiration) cases per year
- 1200 NGYN (Non-Gynecologic) cases per year

## Location and Hours

- Duke Raleigh Hospital, 3400 Wake Forest Road. Room 1351, North Pavilion
- 10pm-5pm; Sunday-Friday (staggered shift)



(Left to right) John Thomas, Donna Barlow, Jacqueline Abel, Johnny Mckethan



## New in the Lab

We are currently participating in a pilot program for Digital Pathology. Digital Pathology uses computer-based technology to digitize glass slides using a whole slide image scanner for computer diagnostic capabilities. Benefits of Digital Pathology is that it improves lab efficiency, turnaround time, workflow, and allows for the Pathologist to view the images remotely for diagnostic purposes.

Apart from laboratory workflow, we also have a few new faces on our team! Our newest team members include Taite Caderas, a Pathology Assistant; Jalitza King, a Clin Tech II; John Thomas, a Histology Technologist; and a new manager, Lauren Taylor.

## Team Member Spotlight

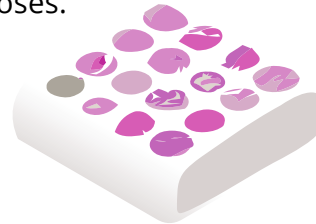
Our oldest team member, Larry Brenneman, is a sharp, spunky 84-year-old Pathologist Assistant who loves the American folk hero, Davy Crockett, the "King of the Wild Frontier". Larry participates in war and battle reenactments. He plays Davy Crockett at the Alamo every year in Texas & attends the Crockett family reunions as an honorary member of the Crockett family. Larry is a cherished treasure in our lab family!



Larry Brenneman as Davy Crockett

## What do we do?

In our Pathology section, we receive patient tissue submissions from our operating room, onsite units and offsite clinics. Each patient specimen is received, processed, and accessioned for grossing. The PA's, or Pathologist Assistants, gross or prepare surgically removed organs and tissues for submission of tissue sections for processing and ultimately microscopic examination by a Pathologist. They work closely with our Pathologists to examine and record the macroscopic findings that assist with clinical diagnoses.



Our Histology section performs histological techniques to process the patient's sample for microscopic examinations of the tissue to aid the Pathologist to diagnose cancer or disease. Our Histology Technicians process, embed, and section the patient tissues onto glass slides that are then stained with a hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) stain which allows the Pathologist to examine the morphology of the tissue in order to see any microorganisms, lesions, cancer cells, or any abnormalities. Our Histology Laboratory also performs an array of Immunohistochemical and special stains testing to help support or confirm the presence of microorganisms, disease or cancer, and in the classification of the tumor type.

In our Cytology section, our Cytotechnologists accompany our Pathologists and Clinicians to perform procedures to acquire bodily tissues & fluid samples from patients. Using cytological techniques, they process the samples into slides or cell blocks for examination and ancillary testing. Using a microscope, the Cytotechnologists inspect cell specimens to detect the presence or absence of disease. They collaborate with our Pathologists to provide an accurate and timely diagnosis that allows our clinicians to treat diseases earlier & more effectively.