



Office of Faculty Development

Pathology & Immunology

A native Californian, **Dr. George Wettach** has traveled extensively for business and the joy of exploration. For example, as an undergraduate at the University of California Berkeley on an NROTC scholarship, he raised mosquito larvae within coconut husks in French Polynesia. This helped measure the influence of vector control efforts on the fitness of disease-transmitting adult mosquitos in a malaria-endemic area.



His subsequent service in the U.S. Navy included time aboard three nuclear-powered vessels, two deployments to the Persian Gulf, a North Pacific deterrence patrol, as well as port visits to Australia, the Bahamas, and around the Mediterranean. He was also part of the NATO-led multinational peacekeeping force sent to Bosnia and Herzegovina following the Bosnian war.



His military professional specialty was supply-chain management and forward logistics. His training included inventory control, accounting, food service, hazardous material handling, and retail supervision. As a young lieutenant aboard his final command, he led a large division, financially accountable for a \$3.5 million sales and service operation. His division earned the Best Sales and Service Award from the Naval Exchange Service Command, contributing to his ship's Battle Effectiveness Award.

After medical school, Dr. Wettach trained at the Oregon Health & Science University, a high-volume tertiary referral center for the entire state. Its residents and medical students were immediately engaged in gross evaluation, immunohistochemistry selection, report generation, and one-on-one sign-out within a protected three-day cycle, now less common in resident education.

As a resident, Dr. Wettach was the lead author of the book *USMLE Road Map: Pathology* published by McGraw-Hill in 2009. He has also published original research in medical simulation, vector control, sleep medicine, and soft tissue pathology. For several years, he helped lead the Pacific Northwest Society of Pathologists, ultimately serving as its vice president before relocating to St. Louis.

Dr. Wettach has been a medical director of clinical laboratories continuously since completing his second fellowship. Currently, he is the Chief of Pathology for Southeast Hospital, with its affiliated molecular assay facility and cancer center. Southeast's expansive reference testing footprint encompasses over 680 clients in ten states.

Partnered with Southeast Missouri State University, the hospital provides hand-on training for upcoming clinical laboratory scientists. Dr. Wettach also mentors local pre-med and medical students interested in pathology.

In his spare time, Dr. Wettach has been engrossed in comparative linguistics. He is now learning to read Ukrainian and Japanese. He also enjoys martial arts, photography, and spending time with his growing family.

