D. Wilkin Parke III, MD

Born in Houston, Dr. Parke grew up in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. After graduating high school as the valedictorian, he attended Princeton University. He majored in history with a focus on Civil War era U.S. history and also completed a pre-medical focus. His senior thesis considered the role of physician organizations in shaping health policy since 1950. He then attended Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. There he developed an interest in ophthalmology, enjoyed extensive basic science research experience at the Cullen Eye Institute, and graduated Alpha Omega Alpha with high honors in 2007.

This was followed by a one-year internship in internal medicine at the University of Oklahoma. He then completed ophthalmology residency training at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. Bascom Palmer was at that time and is currently the #1 ranked ophthalmology residency and eye hospital in the country.

After residency he was selected to stay at Bascom Palmer for a two-year vitreoretinal surgery fellowship, the second year of which was as chief resident and director of the ocular trauma service. During that year he ran the resident retina service, performed and staffed retina and complex cataract surgery, and managed a high volume of eye-related trauma.

In 2013 Dr. Parke joined RCM and moved with his wife to Minneapolis. He is fully board-certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology and is an active member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Retina Society, American Society of Retina Specialists, Minnesota Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Vitrectomy Buckle Society, and American Eye Study Club. He has received a number of distinctions and awards during his time in ophthalmology from Bascom Palmer, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Retina Specialists, Vitrectomy Buckle Society, and the Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. He is former president of the Minnesota Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, and former board member for the VitreoRetinal Surgery Foundation. He has been a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Young Ophthalmologist Info subcommittee and ONE Network retina section, and is on the VISION and State Affairs committees. He has published more than fifty original, peer-reviewed scientific articles and text book chapters and he reviews article submissions for multiple major ophthalmology journals.

Dr. Parke specializes in the clinical and surgical care of the entire spectrum of vitreoretinal disease. He has a particular interest in retinal detachment repair, ocular trauma, endophthalmitis, and surgical pharmacotherapy. He is an active participant in the RCM clinical trials division and the principal site investigator for high profile trials of new pharmaceutical and gene therapy studies for common retinal diseases like diabetic macular edema, macular degeneration, and retinal vascular occlusions. He also has an interest in surgical device development and has worked to advance several new operative techniques and instruments.

Education remains a very important aspect of Dr. Parke's career. He teaches ophthalmology residents from the University of Minnesota and Mayo at the Minneapolis VA Hospital. He is co-director of the RCM vitreoretinal fellowship. He has also spent time practicing international ophthalmology and training local residents in Ethiopia. Outside of work, he spends as much time as he can with his wife and three children. His hobbies include fly fishing, golf, tennis, watchmaking, and travel.