



Photo by Scott Garrand

The new College of Pharmacy, located in the Basic Science Building, features glass walls that allow in plenty of sunshine.

‘Like night and day’: Students celebrate major pharmacy school, library upgrades

By HELEN ADAMS

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On a day when dignitaries gathered to mark the grand opening of a new home for MUSC’s College of Pharmacy and upgrades to the James W. Colbert Education Center and Library, students were already making the most of the changes. Third-year pharmacy students Alexandra Otto and Madison Price relaxed in a sunny study nook in their brand-new area.

The change in atmosphere from the old building to the new one is dramatic, Otto said. “Oh, my goodness. Like

night and day. The old pharmacy building has no windows, so it’s very hard to study in there. Here, you get all the natural lighting, and it’s very centralized. You’re on campus. We used to have to walk to campus from Calhoun.”

The old pharmacy school, at 280 Calhoun Street, sits on the edge of MUSC’s grounds. The new one overlooks the grassy central area known as the Horseshoe.

Provost Lisa Saladin, Ph.D., described how it became part of that prime location. “The College of Pharmacy is two floors added to our Basic Science Building to give the College of Pharmacy a new home that was desperately needed, since their old building was built in 1939.”

That new home has a lot of windows, as the students mentioned, plus:

- ☐ Meeting space that can serve as a convention hall.
- ☐ Three conference rooms with beautiful views.
- ☐ The Center for Clinical Evaluation, Teaching and Simulation.
- ☐ The Center for Experiential Education.
- ☐ Medication therapy management rooms.
- ☐ A catering kitchen.
- ☐ Study rooms.

MUSC President David Cole, M.D., said the opening was years in the making. “There were so many variables involved: supply chain issues, workforce challenges, unexpected things like a pandemic – all of the above.”

See OPENING on page 2



Photo by Zheng Chia

Provost Lisa Saladin speaks at the grand opening ceremony.

3 Innovation Week
April 24 kickoff
planned.

8 Values In Action
New monument
unveiled.

5 Meet Kaleen Becker
6 Eye drop scare
9 Global health winners

OPENING *Continued from Page One*

College of Pharmacy Dean Philip Hall, Pharm.D., was thrilled by the result. “This building gives a magnificent new face to the College of Pharmacy, one that looks to the future. Today’s pharmacists are part of a collaborative interprofessional health care field unimagined decades ago. Our new home is designed for attracting, educating the pharmacists of tomorrow, those who will lead the profession to new discoveries, new ideas and new endeavors,” Hall said.

The James W. Colbert Education Center and Library sits close to the new College of Pharmacy site. Saladin described the changes there as well. “We wanted to overhaul the James W. Colbert Education Center and Library to expand and enhance student learning and study space.”

- Saladin said that overhaul included:
- ❑ Doubling the number of study rooms.
 - ❑ Adding three more classrooms.
 - ❑ Bringing in almost 200 new furniture seating options for students to study in.
 - ❑ More than doubling the number of student lockers.

The library and education center also has a coffee shop, the Innovation Station tech store, University archives, fully equipped patient rooms for students to get firsthand experience, a simulation center, treadmill workstations and more.

James Lemon, D.M.D., MUSC Board

of Trustees chairman, said it was a welcome upgrade. “Our faculty, and especially our students, deserve this. They’re among the best and brightest in the country.”

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg paid tribute to the education center and library’s namesake. “Dr. Colbert was one of the leaders of this institution who set the stage for it to become what it is today. A national and a world leader in health care.” Colbert, the first vice president of Academic Affairs at MUSC, died in a plane crash in 1974.

The library and education center that bear his name are popular sites. The pharmacy students who were in the sunny nook during the grand opening ceremony were especially pleased to see the library reopen. Price said that in the old pharmacy building, there weren’t really any study rooms.

“So we had a student lounge where everyone would kind of go and hang out and eat lunch. But the rest was just offices, like faculty offices. So, really, our primary place to study was the library, which was also shut down at the time. So our library was translocated to the old Children’s Hospital. We were studying in old patient rooms, with like oxygen hookup right next to us.”

Not anymore. “It’s so nice,” Price said, enjoying study space in the College of Pharmacy, with the upgraded library just steps away.

Editor’s Note: For more coverage on the College of Pharmacy’s grand opening, read the story on page 7.



Photo by Tom Givens

Members of the Colbert family check out an IV simulation lab in the MUSC James W. Colbert Education Center and Library.



Photo by Zheng Chia

Dean Philip Hall speaks about the brand new facilities that College of Pharmacy students now have.

MUSC CATALYST news

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Innovation Week kicks off April 24 with contests, demos, creativity

BY REECE FUNDERBURK

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The fifth annual Innovation Week at MUSC, complete with fan favorite Shark Tank events, will kick off on April 24, and for the first time, it will be anchoring the last week of the first South Carolina Innovation Month. Hosted by the Office of Innovation during the last week of April, the event is designed as a weeklong celebration of MUSC's culture of innovation meant to inspire and empower the MUSC community to innovate. Throughout the week, the Office of Innovation will host a number of in-person events — also available online — as well as events presented by MUSC strategic partners.

“Innovation Week is a visible and tangible representation of the value that MUSC places on innovation,” said Jesse Goodwin, Ph.D., chief innovation officer at MUSC. “We want this week to be not only a celebration of our accomplishments but also act as a source of inspiration for our future potential.”

Festivities will begin on Monday, April 24, at the Urban Farm. There, the first 50 attendees can pick up some Innovation Week gear and a ticket for a King of Pops treat or bag of kettle corn that will be offered during the Innovation Showcase on the Greenway event scheduled for the next day.

Afterward, the week's sessions will kick off with back-to-back events in the Basic Science Building and will include opening remarks from MUSC leadership as well as the naming of the 2023 Blue Sky awardees. Winding up the day, students will be pitching their ideas for research grants in a virtual session that is open to all at 2 p.m. The winning group will receive \$2,500 to further advance its idea.

A staple of Innovation Week, the Charleston poster session will be held on Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the Greenway, where visitors will review

“Innovation is an enterprisewide value, and it's important for MUSC to be inclusive when working to build a culture that expands off of the peninsula.”

Jesse Goodwin, Ph.D.

ideas submitted by MUSC employees and students and select which should be evaluated at the Shark Tank event on Thursday, April 27.

In addition to the Charleston poster session, for the second year in a row, MUSC's Regional Health Network sites will host their own poster sessions, including the introduction of the MUSC Health-Midlands Division.

“Innovation is an enterprisewide value, and it's important for MUSC to be inclusive when working to build a culture that expands off of the peninsula,” said Goodwin. “I can't wait to see the ideas and projects pitched but also to incorporate the Midlands into this exciting week.”

MUSC strategic partners Medtronic, Microsoft and Siemens Healthineers will also be hosting sessions, which are all available online or in-person, throughout the week on a variety of topics. Medical device partner Siemens Healthineers will host events on Monday and Thursday addressing health care equity and advancements in imaging technology. Microsoft will host a presentation on Monday and health technology company Medtronic will also host events on Tuesday and Friday, discussing the use of artificial intelligence in health care analytics. Quai.MD will offer a demonstration on Wednesday on how the implementation



Photo by Jonathan Coultas

Innovation Week features fun events along with presentations and discussions about great ideas and innovations.

of its plugin can improve the detection of cardiovascular emergencies.

Thursday will feature events throughout the day, starting with a presentation from STEM-CREW, an exciting new initiative sponsored by the National Institutes of Health that is designed to increase the number of female entrepreneurs and inventors in not only South Carolina but also throughout the Southeast. CREW participants will be providing elevator pitches of their projects to judges for feedback, evaluation and coaching.

For those looking to decompress, Thursday will also offer the “Stress Less Bash,” at the Urban Farm, where all faculty and staff members and students can drop by to enjoy live music, games, stress-relieving activities, refreshments and more.

Finally, Thursday will end with the Charleston Division Shark Tank. This fun-filled annual event features teams that have been chosen as finalists to pitch their ideas to a panel of MUSC's executive leaders for an opportunity

to win bragging rights and funding to support the development or scaling of their concepts. The finalists are selected from the submissions to the Innovation Week poster session. Interested parties can attend in the Storm Eye Auditorium from 3 to 5 p.m.

Overall, Innovation Week will see four Shark Tank events and over \$90,000 awarded to advance winning ideas. Florence and Marion will hold a combined event in Florence on April 28. Lancaster and Chester will host theirs in Lancaster on April 26. The Midlands Division competition will be held in downtown Columbia on April 25.

“I believe the week and its events are important demonstrations of MUSC's commitment to building a culture of innovation,” said Goodwin. “We want our MUSC family to feel empowered to share their ideas and know that our senior leaders are seriously committed to considering and supporting ideas being brought forth by those that work here.”

MUSC Alcohol Research Center celebrates 30 years of NIH funding

BY HARRISON HUNTLEY

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The Charleston Alcohol Research Center (ARC) at MUSC, which is comprised of researchers in the Departments of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, was recently granted funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through 2025, which will be the Center's 30th anniversary. The Center opened in 1995 and is a P50 Center supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). But in light of a dramatic spike in alcohol use/misuse during the COVID-19 pandemic, work conducted in one of the nation's longest continually funded Alcohol Research Center has become more important than ever.

For more than two decades, the Charleston ARC team has made several notable discoveries regarding alcohol and the brain. For instance, team members found that alcohol disrupts nerve cell functioning and neural network activity in the prefrontal cortex, the area of the brain responsible for decision-making. They've also found that activation of the brain in response to alcohol cues is different in people with Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) compared to social drinkers. Findings like these have helped to reinforce the idea that AUD is a brain disorder and not just due to a lack in willpower or a character flaw.

"We no longer use the term alcoholic because it has negative connotations to it," said Howard Becker, Ph.D., director of the Charleston Alcohol Research Center. "It also emphasizes the fact that this is a medical condition, a brain disorder. Alcohol Use Disorder is something that can be diagnostically determined by a set of criteria about how much and how often you drink."

Becker explained that AUD can be diagnosed in people who drink too much, too fast and too often. The NIAAA offers a list of questions to help physicians and other health care providers to diagnose AUD in patients.

For those suffering from AUD, the COVID-19 pandemic did them no favors. Whether it was from anxiety about getting sick, losing their jobs or just being confined to their homes more often, alcohol consumption dramatically increased during the pandemic. "Over the course of the 2020, we saw a 40% increase in average monthly intake and a 25% increase in alcohol-related deaths," Becker said. "Increases in the number of emergency department visits;



Photo By Sarah Pack

Dr. Christina Lebonville checks a label as she prepares to measure the chemical to a specific weight on a micro balance scale.

increases in hospitalizations for alcohol withdrawal/detoxification; and increases in the number of fatalities associated with alcohol driving accidents have also been reported."

Becker also said that alcohol is known to suppress the immune system, leaving those with AUD more susceptible to viruses like COVID-19. "Then you add to this a viral pandemic that produced a great deal of mental illness, a lot of stress, distress, despair that only exacerbates the problem," Becker added.

Becker says that, sadly, less than 10% of people suffering from AUD seek treatment, a statistic that the staff at the Charleston ARC would like to improve. He said there are three kinds of treatment available.

First, there are three FDA-approved medications that reduce craving for alcohol. There are also behavioral treatments, including cognitive-behavioral therapy, in addition to support groups, like Alcoholics Anonymous. For best results, Becker suggested that these treatments be used in tandem with each other. "None of these are mutually exclusive," he said. "And most people would say it's probably a good thing to engage in them together."

Additionally, the Charleston ARC offers clinical

research studies that may be helpful to understanding and treating AUD more effectively. Clinical research studies in the ARC explore new treatment options that MUSC researchers think might stop the downward spiraling cycle of addiction and lead to better control over alcohol drinking. Currently, the Center has studies testing the effects of new medications as well as the use of magnetic stimulation to help those suffering with AUD to gain better control over their unhealthy drinking habits.

"If people come to the clinic here at MUSC, they are going to receive effective evidence-based treatment modalities, including some of the latest and best treatments that we are developing," Becker said, referring to the clinical component of the Center. "They can engage in some research projects that really are at the cutting edge of the kinds of therapeutic approaches that hold great promise in helping people battle what is a significant problem in a great number of individuals that we see."

Highlights of ARC research discoveries and accomplishments:

- Howard Becker, Ph.D.; Raymond Anton, M.D.;

See **ALCOHOL** page 10

MEET KALEEN



Kaleen Becker

Department; Years at MUSC
Enterprise Campaigns and University
Communications; 2 months

**How are you changing what's possible
at MUSC**

*By bringing a fresh new perspective to
communications and marketing*

Pets and their names *Two tabby cats,
Peach and Mario*

Hometown *Seattle, WA*

First summer memory *Three-week
family vacation to South Africa*

Best thing about living in Charleston
The weather – no more Seattle gray

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Putting the eye drop scare into focus

By HELEN ADAMS

adamshel@musc.edu

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns in The New York Times that a drug-resistant bacteria linked to imported eyedrops could become a persistent problem in health care sites and can spread person to person, the head of the MUSC Health Storm Eye Institute is keeping a close watch on the situation. “I’m highly concerned. But the good news is, so far, that at Storm Eye and in the Lowcountry, I know of no cases,” said Andrew Eiseman, M.D.

A spokesperson for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control said that as of the end of March, the agency wasn’t aware of any cases of the drug-resistant strain of bacteria in the state either.

So which eye drops are affected, what’s wrong with them and what do eye drop users and the people around them need to know?

THE EYE DROPS

The CDC said people should stop using EzriCare and Delsam Pharma’s Artificial Tears for now. The affected eye drops were made in India and imported to the United States. The Food and Drug Administration has inspected the Global Pharma site where they were produced and found issues with cleaning and maintenance processes.

In the most recent update on its website, the CDC reported that about 70 people across 16 states have been infected with a rare strain of drug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* associated with the contaminated eye drops. The majority of them had used EzriCare Artificial Tears.

Global Pharma has also recalled a

batch of Delsa Pharma Artificial Eye Ointment that was made in the same factory as the eye drops. And another company, Apotex, has recalled six lots of glaucoma drops called Apotex Brimonidine Tartrate Ophthalmic Solution, 0.15%, over concerns involving cracks in the containers’ caps.

Eye drops and eye wash are big business. According to Statista, by next year, the number of Americans who use them may top 123 million. Dry eye, one of the main reasons for using eye drops, affects enough people for the Storm Eye Institute to have a Dry Eye Center.

They can be a big help for people dealing with dryness, irritation and other mild problems, Eiseman said. “They have figured out which drops were responsible for the problems, and I think it’s still highly safe to use over the counter artificial tears available in the market.”

THE BACTERIA

Eiseman has seen plenty of people with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in his work at the Storm Eye Institute, but not the drug-resistant strain that’s stirred up so much worry. It’s never been reported in the United States before.

“We see *Pseudomonas* ulcers all the time. They are one of the top contact lens-related ulcers – not related to contaminated eye drops,” Eiseman said.

His team at Storm Eye, which he said offers the largest and most diverse academic ophthalmology practice in the state, takes eye ulcers very seriously. Ophthalmologists are doctors with extensive medical and surgical training in eye care.

“When we see corneal ulcers, we typically scrape the cornea and then we put those scrapings directly onto bacterial growth plates, and we culture it because we initially treat with broad



Photo by iStock

Recent recalls of certain brands of eye drops have left some users confused.



Photo by Brennan Wesley

Dr. Andrew Eiseman leads the MUSC Health Storm Eye Institute.

spectrum antibiotics to treat the most common offending infectious organisms,” Eiseman said.

“We then use the results of the cultures to tailor our treatment to the organism identified and to ensure that the organism is sensitive to the antibiotics available. Many corneal ulcers require that specially prepared compounded, fortified antibiotics are

used every hour around the clock.”

So that tells you how challenging *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* can be. Treatable, but tough. But that’s before the arrival of the new drug-resistant strain.

“What’s really scary is when it genetically mutates and is no longer sensitive to the normal antibiotics that

See EYE on page 11

College of Pharmacy celebrates grand opening with two-day party

BY ROBY HILL

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In circumstances filled with pomp, the new MUSC College of Pharmacy facility officially opened. Two days of grand opening celebrations graced the MUSC campus on April 14-15, as the college thanked its supporters and welcomed the community to tour the new building.

The April 15 celebration began with a sold-out program for the major donors to the building, followed by lunch and student- and faculty-led tours of the new building. The college welcomed the community in an open house and the day's festivities were capped by the alumni event and reunion at 5 Faber Street.

Feedback from the April 15 event shared on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram:

"Everything went splendidly," said

Dean Hall. "We had two days of gorgeous weather, and everyone was filled with excitement and emotion. Considering how many people worked so hard for so long to make this possible, it felt very humbling to be dean at such an historic time."

The program included:

- Dean Hall recognizing the building's debt to the deans emeriti in the audience, Drs. William Golod and Arnold Karig.
- Dean Hall honoring foundational gift donors, including Michael P. Araneo, Alycia Araneo Craft, the Pharmacy Network Foundation (PNF), Charles F. Cooper '64 and family, Barbara Harter Rippey, Heather D. Sharpe '00, Janice Childress McCrary and family, and former faculty member Leo Brueggman.
- PNF representative Jimmy Jackson giving a tribute to Peter Edwards '65.

See **OPENING** on page 12



Photo by Zheng Chia

Dean Emeritus William Golod; college benefactor Alycia Araneo Craft; and Col. (ret.) Michael Heath, founding chair of the Building Leadership Committee, at the April 14-15 Pharmacy grand opening.



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New Values in Action monument unveiled, employees recognized

By CINDY ABOLE

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On a breezy sun-filled morning in late March, MUSC leaders and guests gathered in the green space at the center of campus behind the Colbert Education Center and Library to celebrate the special employees who have gone above and beyond in their roles at MUSC. All met in the spirit of excellence to celebrate the President’s Values in Action (VIA) Awards and the dedication of a new monument and named brick walkway. The event recognized past and present, as well as future employees, who have committed themselves to living and demonstrating MUSC’s five core values – compassion, respect, innovation, collaboration and integrity.

At the heart of the new Values in Action memorial site is an 11-foot bronze sculpture, featuring building blocks stacked on top of each other and reaching toward the sky – symbolizing employee strengths, foundational culture and high-achieving goals.

The memorial’s design was the collaboration of President David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, and the MUSC Art Committee, which included a licensed art therapist, a curatorial and design specialist, a member of the Grounds Department and a student representative. Together, they reviewed and selected the sculpture design by a local artist who would then create the art piece to symbolize the spirit of the Values in Action Awards. After reviewing more than 30 sculpture artists, the group selected Lowcountry artist Becca Barnet with Sisal Creative.

“Every year, employees are nominated by peers, leaders, coworkers and individuals for demonstrating one of our five values in their daily lives at work as part of the MUSC family,” said Cole, at the March 30 event. “It’s important that these individuals are

recognized and honored, and their actions become examples to many others – like pebbles tossed in a pond and the first ripples that spread out. We’ve created a space where employees are publicly recognized, and people are reminded of MUSC’s five touchstones or values.”

A highlight of the celebration included comments made by previous VIA award recipients, such as Tenelle Jones, 2022 Compassion VIA recipient, who is a mental health clinician and licensed counselor working with employees and Lowcountry patients in the community through the MUSC Resiliency Program.

“I know that I couldn’t be able to let others know how valuable they are had not MUSC embraced compassion and resilience in our community. I’m so appreciative to be here to celebrate all the hard work that our care team members do and remind them that through the hard times of COVID and short-staffing and multiple changes that affected everyone, that they matter, and I’m excited to tell everyone that,” said Jones.

2019 Respect VIA winner Lisa Watkins, who is a patient-and-family liaison with MUSC Health, spoke about how much the award means to her.

“The work I do for more than 25 years at MUSC is a demonstration of my love for this institution and pride I feel in my heart for the services we provide to patients and families in the community. Receiving this recognition was a surprise, as I perform my role for my love of our patients, institution and pride for what MUSC stands for – changing what’s possible. I was elated because even though we won’t admit it, it does feel good to be appreciated for the work that we do. Having Dr. and Mrs. Cole and members of my care team present and giving me that recognition meant a lot to me – and



Photo by Sarah Pack

The bronze Values in Action sculpture features stacked blocks reaching toward the sky – symbolizing employee strengths, foundational culture and high-achieving goals.

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See VALUES on page 11

Interdisciplinary global health student team achieves best finish in case competition

By ADAM WISE

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A team of six MUSC students representing four colleges achieved an honorable mention at the Emory Morningside Global Health Case Competition, essentially earning fifth place and MUSC's best showing in its nine years of sending teams to compete in the annual case contest.

Pitting 30 teams representing universities across the globe against one another, the competition, which took place at Emory on March 18, challenges students to research, develop and recommend innovative solutions for a 21st-century global health problem. This year's MUSC team featured team captain Kaylee Simon of the College of Pharmacy; Adegboyega 'Tim' Adewale, colleges of Graduate Studies and Medicine; Shipra Bethi, College of Medicine; Mohamed Faisal Kassir, colleges of Graduate Studies and Medicine; Tammy Mahaney (Halladay), College of Nursing; and Savannah Skidmore, College of Medicine.

Kassir, a fourth-year student in the M.D./Ph.D., program and originally from Lebanon, moved to Charleston in 2019 to begin his dual doctoral-degree program to become a physician-scientist. After learning of the case competition via a student broadcast email in January, the scope and breadth of the challenge, paired with his background, quickly piqued his interest.

"In Lebanon, ever since I was a kid, I've witnessed global health initiatives that took place both with the local population, as well as the refugee population, and there are a lot of refugees with all of the conflicts in the area. I've witnessed firsthand the impact

of global health initiatives improving health care," he said. "The fact that this was an international competition with teams from all over the world and the fact there would be CDC officials and experts in health care, global health and public health, I thought it'd be a great place to learn and to represent MUSC to the best of my abilities."

Following an application process in January, Kassir and his five teammates were selected for the team, a process overseen and supported by the MUSC Center for Global Health. The students got to work. They organized a GroupMe team chat and got to know each other. While all team members have a strong interest in some aspect of medicine, they found other skills and experiences to determine how they could individually contribute to the team.

Skidmore, a second-year student, participated in the Clemson University debate team during her time as an undergrad, competing in over 30 countries, achieving great success.

"It's a big part of my background and something I don't get to do a lot in medical school – utilizing public speaking or a bit more of the cerebral side of debate," she said. "So, this was an amazing opportunity, where I got to use those skills."

On March 10, one week prior to the live presentation at Emory, the team learned the challenge they'd need to solve. Using a mock budget of \$1 million, case competition teams were tasked with drafting recommendations for how they'd improve maternal mortality rates in the central plateau region of Haiti, a rural, underserved portion of the country with limited access to health care. The MUSC team drafted an action plan that would



Photo Provided

Members of MUSC's Global Health case competition collaborative team include Savannah Skidmore, from left, Adegboyega 'Tim' Adewale, Mohamed Faisal Kassir, Kaylee Simon, Shipra Bethi and Tammy Mahaney (Halladay).

achieve that goal while also improving the blood pressure of pregnant women and empowering delivering mothers and their matwons, or skilled birth attendants.

Given the remote area of this region of Haiti, Kassir and his teammates knew they'd need to identify solutions that would not only work but that would be reasonably sustainable to address the problem amid incredibly difficult socio-economic conditions in the region. So rather than flying in surgeons and nurses for months at a time or committing major investment dollars to infrastructure, such as building a hospital in an area that is regularly ravaged by hurricanes, they sought more economically feasible medical interventions with long-term promise.

"Preeclampsia is one of the highest contributors to maternal mortality, especially in this area where they don't have access to blood pressure screenings, so what's recommended is to teach matwons how to do manual blood pressures," Skidmore explained. "These women would already be in the homes, involved in the pregnancy, so

it's easier to teach these people than to send nurses in."

Also, the team noted a published study involving a biomarker test utilized in southern India, similar to a home pregnancy test but using droplets of blood and not requiring a lab test. These strips would be easy to deploy to the community to diagnose associated health risks.

"The test will tell you whether or not you have positive or negative markers for preeclampsia – a test that has been shown to detect it in as early as 13 weeks gestation, which is months earlier than we can detect high blood pressure," she said. "We think this marker is going to become commonplace the same way we use home pregnancy kits. Since it was piloted in southern India, we have good data of it being used in a low-income setting."

Leading up to the competition in Atlanta, the team gathered for hours each night to work through their presentation. During a recent

See TEAM on page 10

ALCOHOL *Continued from Page Four*

Hugh Myrick, M.D.; and Robert Malcolm, M.D., demonstrated unique consequences and novel treatment strategies for people with a history of repeated alcohol detoxifications.

- Kathleen Brady, M.D., Ph.D.; and Carrie Randall, Ph.D., examined treatment strategies best tailored for people presenting with comorbidity of alcohol use disorder (AUD) and depression, anxiety, PTSD.

- Raymond Anton, M.D., developed clinical laboratory procedures to evaluate medication effects on alcohol craving and drinking and examine influence of genetics in response to treatments for AUD with an eye toward establishing a more targeted, personalized treatment approach.

- Howard Becker, Ph.D.; and Marcelo

Lopez, Ph.D., established novel models of alcohol dependence and relapse drinking that serve as valuable platforms for identifying and evaluating new and novel treatments for AUD.

- Raymond Anton, M.D.; Hugh Myrick, M.D.; James Prisciandaro, Ph.D.; and Lisa McTeague, Ph.D., used neuroimaging to examine how treatments (medications, transcranial magnetic stimulation) change altered brain activation and chemistry responses to alcohol cues.

- John Woodward, Ph.D.; Judson Chandler, Ph.D.; Patrick Mulholland, Ph.D.; and Jennifer Rinker, Ph.D., demonstrated that alcohol disrupts specific neural networks in the prefrontal cortex and pathways projecting to other brain regions related to excessive drinking.

TEAM *Continued from Page Nine*

debriefing of the team, all members noted how impressed they were with Kassir's graphic design skills and the impact that had on the quality of their presentation. Kassir made a clear connection between his experience as an MUSC student and his contribution to the team.

"As a Ph.D. student, one of the major challenges is we are doing very complicated stuff in the lab, but all of this stuff is worthless if we aren't able to portray and relay it to the layperson," he said. "During my Ph.D. experience, I've been trying my best to have graphical presentations so that anybody can digest without losing the content."

At the competition, the team presented to an initial panel of judges, receiving positive feedback on the concepts in their strategy, eventually earning an honorable mention. While members of the team might argue that their presentation was the best and most realistic compared with those of their fellow competitors, they were all proud of what they helped to achieve.

"I had never worked on a team that

had the level of respect and continuity that we did," Skidmore said. "It can be a challenge in our professional lives, working with people of different knowledge sets and skills, but this team really had such a high level of respect for each other. We worked together, split up tasks; nobody was sitting on the side. I was so proud of everyone."

Kassir said the team couldn't have achieved such success without the contributions and guidance provided by MUSC Center for Global Health leaders Michael Sweat, Ph.D., and Kathleen Ellis, who are faculty director and executive director of the center, respectively.

"Dr. Sweat met with us a couple of times. He couldn't provide input in terms of ideas, but his feedback was essential. He has on-the-ground experience in similar settings, so he could say what's realistic and what isn't, which really helped our approach," Kassir said. "Kathleen was great with her organization and in managing our deadlines and submissions. These were things we didn't need to worry about because she was on top of it all."

Ellis said she enjoys getting to work

Nurses Week Events

MUSC Health Charleston Division

May 6-12, 2023

Look out for Be the Match Live Drive

You Make a Difference

The best offense is a good defense to prevent HAI

6:00am-8:00am- Breakfast stations lobby SJCH, ART, MH, IOP
Rollie' Into Nurses Week
Lowcountry Highrollers
Charleston Area Convention Center Spms - Doors open at 4:30p
Use NURSE23 for \$8 tickets

SAT
May 6th
Sports Day

SUN
May 7th
Spread Love
not Germs

MON
May 8th
Dairy Day

TUES
May 9th
Tropical
Tuesday

WED
May 10th
Superheroes
in Scrubs

THUR
May 11th
Throwback
Thursday

FRI
May 12th
Carnival
Day

SAT
May 13th
Nursing School
Spirt Day

SUN
May 14th
Sailing out of
Nurses Week

The best offense is a good defense to prevent HAI

6:00am-8:00am- Breakfast stations lobby SJCH, ART, MH, IOP
Rollie' Into Nurses Week
Lowcountry Highrollers
Charleston Area Convention Center Spms - Doors open at 4:30p
Use NURSE23 for \$8 tickets

Wear pink! Spread the love, not germs

Wear your best floral for our DAISY celebrations

8:00am - DAISY Team & DAISY Leader Celebration, DAISY Garden
11:00 am - Nurse of the Year Ceremony, St. Lukes Chapel

Tropical Tuesday, wear a Hawaiian shirt

6:00am-8:00am- Breakfast stations lobby SJCH, ART, MH, IOP
8:00a-10:00am- Breakfast stations (Ambulatory sites)
7:30am/12:00pm/7:30pm Blessing of the Hands Main/ART Chapel
10:00am-1:00pm / 10:00pm-12:00am - Roving Photo booth

Everyday you are a superhero, today is the day to dress like one

8:30 am - Nursing Grand Rounds:
Kathy Cole, BSN, RN,
Diane Whitworth, MSN, RN, CWOCH, CSS
Skin Assessment in Patients with Melanated Skin
2 West Auditorium
1:00 pm - Nursing Grand Rounds:
Diane Whitworth, MSN, RN, CWOCH, CSS
Skin Assessment in Patients with Melanated Skin Gates 125

Celebrate the decades, wear the best from the 70's or 80's

11:00am-2:00pm- Food Trucks in the Greenway
8:00pm-11:00pm- Food Trucks in the Greenway
10:00am-1:00pm / 10:00pm-12:00am - Roving Photo booth

Wear your best carnival/festival shirt

One MUSC Festival

You earned the degree, show your CON spirit wearing your Alumni gear

Kickin' it with the Charleston Battery
7:30pm Patriots Point Soccer Complex, Mt. Pleasant
Use code NURSESWEEK23 for 20% off admission

Wear your best cruise gear as we sail out of Nurses Week and into Magnet

For detailed information: musc.edu/medcenter/nursing/homepage/index.htm
Questions? Contact Kim Pitsinger kpitsin@kimmusc.edu

MUSC Eats Food Drive to support the SJCH Food Pantry- Collect non-perishable goods throughout the week on your units

with student teams each year for the case competition, but this year's group was particularly motivated and excelled at working together. She was proud of their performance.

"Students tell us it's one of the best educational experiences they have

here because they get to actually solve a challenge by developing a health intervention," she said, "and they're getting an opportunity to package and persuade others about why this is a good solution. It is one of our favorite programs we offer."

VALUES *Continued from Page Eight*

I continue to cherish it today and for years to come,” said Watkins.

James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine’s Sorin Teich, D.M.D., the 2020 Integrity VIA recipient, was recognized for his commitment and collaborative spirit during the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic. Teich worked with a team of dental medicine colleagues, both local and nationally, to find and employ solutions for best ventilation practices, PPE use and aerosol airflow that would provide the safest environment for oral health patient care.

Teich remembered the special moment he accepted the VIA award. “I said that although I am honored and humbled with this surprise, I accept the award on behalf of the entire team. Engaging in these efforts kept our dental program functional, graduated our dental students and residents and provided a safety net for our community. Everyone in the dental school came together toward a common goal. This recognition also shows me what MUSC is all about – compassion, collaboration, innovation, respect and integrity. Our values are nonnegotiable, and we need to cherish and manifest them on a daily basis, especially when we face a difficult situation like the pandemic,” he said.

Lastly, Michael Sweat, Ph.D., spoke as one of the co-recipients of the inaugural VIA Impact Award. In 2021, the Coles created a special category – the Impact Award – to complement the five Values in Action Awards. They do not present the Impact Award annually. They award it on the rare occasion to an individual or individuals based on their exceptional work, dedication and values that uniquely affect MUSC and the greater community. The Coles presented this award to both Sweat and Cassandra Salgado, M.D., for their work and response to COVID-19 pandemic during 2020.

“The early months of the pandemic were a busy time for many of us. I got

a front-row seat with leadership to witness how they managed this situation within the institution. Compassion, respect, innovation, collaboration and integrity are what I witnessed from both leadership as well as many unsung heroes around MUSC. And all this was happening during a time of America’s worst public health crisis since the 1918 flu epidemic. It really moved me. Today, when I look up at my office shelf and see the Values in Action plaque that was presented to me, I don’t only think how great it is to be recognized – but what it really means is what a great place MUSC really is along with its amazing people. Thank you. And thank you to everyone for what they did during the COVID epidemic and all the support I received,” said Sweat.

The event concluded with Cole inviting the audience to walk around the memorial site, meet VIA recipients and locate bricks in the sidewalk with the names of the past 32 VIA winners while enjoying event refreshments and



Photo by Zheng Chia
2022 Values in Action Respect awardee Donnie Singleton by the brick bearing his name.



Photo by Sarah Pack

Dental Medicine’s Dr. Sorin Teich, 2020 Values in Action Integrity winner, shares his remarks along with MUSC President David Cole during the March 30 VIA dedication event.

giveaways.

“These bricks commemorate the current and future names of winners that will be placed. With empty bricks, there’s a lot of opportunity for all of us to move forward in excellence as an

enterprise,” Cole said.

To nominate an employee or for more information about the President’s VIA Awards, visit web.musc.edu/about/leadership/president/values.

EYE *Continued from Page Six*

we use. This new strain, unfortunately, is not sensitive to the most common antibiotics that we use. And that’s how it goes from the surface of the eye to inside the eye. And that’s how it can get to other places in the body.”

He said the tear drainage system goes through the upper and lower lid and then into the nose.

“So if you have contaminated bacteria on your eye, it can get into your nose and beyond. There are several lung infections associated with the drug-resistant bacteria. There are patients who had blood infections, which is basically what we term ‘sepsis.’ A couple people have died because of it. There have been several people who have permanently lost vision, and several folks had their eyes surgically removed because

the infection spread so significantly.”

WHAT’S NEXT?

Eiseman said the eye drop problem is waning as people get rid of the affected products. He’ll wait to see if it goes away entirely. He credits government investigators for their work in isolating the issue and getting the word out to consumers.

But Eiseman also knows the drug-resistant *Pseudomonas* can be really tough to get rid of because it loves moist environments such as drains and water faucets. And the CDC said the bacteria has another trick up its sleeve: It managed to spread person to person in a Connecticut health care center.

For now, Eiseman had this advice: “If you start using eyedrops and your eyes get red or irritated, you need to seek immediate care from an eye care specialist.”

OPENING *Continued from Page Seven*

- Founding Building Leadership Committee Chair Col. (ret.) Michael Heath praising the power of collective effort and asking all building donors of any level to stand and be recognized
- Dean Hall recognizing all the scholarship donors and Dean's Advisory Committee members

The program also revealed breaking news with two special announcements:

- Dean Hall announced a new endowed professorship – the Vincent T. Peng, M.D. Pharmaceutical Chemistry Professorship, which was awarded to the college's world-renowned medicinal chemist Patrick Woster, chair of drug discovery and biomedical sciences.

- Fred E. Lesh, Jr. '71 announced that a special fundraising effort by the Classes of 1968-1972 had fully endowed the Dr. William H. Golod Endowed Scholarship Fund.

An unplanned moment turned into a program highlight when Barbara Harter



Photos by Tom Givens

Dean Philip Hall addresses the standing-room-only crowd during the April 15 program.

Rippy, the benefactor behind the Bobby Gene '63 and Barbara Harter Rippy Lecture Hall, asked to speak. She moved the crowd with her heartfelt gratitude

to the college for her late husband's livelihood and to the gathered donors who had made possible the new building for today's students.



Pharmacy guest Barbara Harter Rippy with the College of Pharmacy mascot Phil the Pill.



"Marshall's team was fantastic! Helped with every detail of the sales process - super efficient and professional. I never knew selling a house could be so easy!"

- Lindsay G.



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