



Medical University of South Carolina and Medical University Hospital Authority Board of Trustees President's Report

December 2023



MUSC ENTERPRISE



- The president's 2023 Values in Action Award recipients were selected from among a crop of highly deserving candidates representing MUSC's values. This year's winners are Mike M. Mallah, M.D., Department of Surgery: Collaboration; Patricia Carter McLeod, R.N., MUSC Health-Pee Dee Division: Collaboration; Ren Rountree, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences: Compassion; Gigi Smith, Ph.D., APRN, Office of the Provost: Impact; Jennifer Dahne, Ph.D., Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences: Innovation; Julie Hendrix Anderson, R.N., Department of Surgery – Transplant: Integrity; Malachi Nelson, Sterile Processing, Ashley River Tower: Respect.
- MUSC launched the Well-being Collective, a comprehensive program to support the mental health needs of employees in diverse roles across the enterprise. Its purpose is to ensure that every MUSC family member is encouraged and supported to do great work in an environment that prioritizes holistic well-being. The digital hub will connect employees to a broad spectrum of support programs across six dimensions, including information about who to call or text in a mental health crisis. Going deeper into the site reveals a robust support system organized into easy-to-navigate categories.

MUSC ENTERPRISE

- A new rewards and recognition program called Celebrate! is launching. This platform was created to shine a spotlight on the efforts, commitment and achievements of MUSC employees and also to deepen our sense of community. No matter where they are or their roles, they are integral parts of OneMUSC.
- MUSC was named a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award (HEED) winner by Insight Into Diversity Magazine for the seventh consecutive year, highlighting MUSC's continued dedication to fostering a welcoming and inclusive campus and health system.
- Marvella Ford, Ph.D., the associate director of Population Sciences and Cancer Disparities at the Hollings Cancer Center, was recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of 2023's Top Diversity Leaders. Ford joins health care professionals who are influencing policy and care delivery models across the country.
- This year's LOWVELO is shaping up to be the most successful in the event's five-year history with more riders, teams, volunteers, sponsors and community involvement than any other year. More than 1,250 riders took part in the event on Saturday, Nov. 4, and that number is expected to rise with some post-ride satellite events. Fundraising continues through the end of the year, but early totals are already tracking well ahead of previous years. LOWVELO23 will be a record-breaking event on many levels.



RANKINGS

- MUSC was named the No. 1 hospital in South Carolina for the ninth year in a row by U.S. News & World Report.
- Two MUSC Health specialty areas were ranked as the best in the entire country: Obstetrics and Gynecology (No. 19) and Ear, Nose and Throat (No. 23) by U.S. News & World Report.
- An impressive 17 MUSC Charleston-based programs are considered high-performing specialties, procedures or conditions by U.S. News & World Report: Cancer; Gastroenterology and GI surgery; Rheumatology; Urology; Colon Cancer Surgery; Heart Attack; Heart Failure; Hip Replacement; Kidney Failure; Knee Replacement; Leukemia; Lymphoma and Myeloma; Lung Cancer Surgery; Ovarian Cancer Surgery; Pneumonia; Prostate Cancer Surgery; Stroke; Uterine Cancer Surgery.
- The NIH ranked the College of Health Professions as No. 3 in the nation for schools of health professions.
- As a testament to the success of the Pediatric ECMO Program, it recently was again a Platinum Level Center of Excellence Award in Life Support from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO), an international body dedicated to evaluating and improving ECMO therapies in children and adults. Globally, only 40 hospitals are designated platinum level centers. MUSC Health has received two of these awards for both the adult and pediatric ECMO programs and is one of only 16 pediatric hospitals globally to receive this award.
- U.S. News & World Report ranked MUSC's regional health network in Florence as high performing in heart failure, kidney failure, stroke, and heart attack.
- U.S. News & World Report ranked MUSC's regional health network in Lancaster as high performing in heart failure.
- U.S. News & World Report ranked MUSC's regional health network in Columbia as high performing in heart failure and hip replacement.

MUSC BICENTENNIAL

- Beginning in January of 2024, MUSC will celebrate a momentous milestone – the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Medical University of South Carolina. Many special events are planned, including lectures, art exhibits and a time capsule, among others.



- For the first time, all MUSC alumni – from every class year and every college – are invited back for a packed three-day weekend to celebrate MUSC’s 200th birthday! Festivities will kick off on Thursday, Feb. 29, with a cocktail reception, culminating in a big bash for all alumni on Saturday, March 2. Throughout the weekend, there will be opportunities to see what’s new on campus, get inspired, earn credit at our new symposium, celebrate class reunions and so much more.

ACADEMICS – EDUCATION

- The college opened the Center for Rural Oral Health Research and Community Engagement in Mullins to serve as the regional site for the college’s research, professional development and oral health outreach activities in rural communities.
- Ten dental students in the Dental Community Fellowship traveled to Honduras and provided supervised care to hundreds of patients who otherwise never would have received care.
- Joe Vuthiganon, D.M.D., was named a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, the industry’s leading professional organization. Only 6% of general dentists in the U.S. and Canada become fellows.
- The college/Department of Biomedical and Community Health Sciences associate professors Joni Nelson, Ph.D., and Deirdre Williams, D.D.S., received a new grant from CareQuest to cultivate faculty champions at the state’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to promote pre dental clubs and dental careers. In September, they convened a statewide launch at the college’s Center for Rural Oral Health Research and Community Engagement at MUSC Health Marion Medical Center.
- The college received a \$1M gift from an alumnus to provide stipend support for talented Ph.D. students. This is the largest gift the College has ever received.

ACADEMICS – EDUCATION



- The Speech-Language Pathology program celebrated the graduation of its inaugural class of 41 students.
- The dean joined 30 medical students who spent the day at St. Stephen Middle School, serving more than 100 families in need. Students performed health screenings, provided food to families and had a wonderful time playing with the kids in the gymnasium.
- The College of Nursing named Catherine Durham, DNP, APRN, as the new dean, effective Oct. 24. She previously held the role of assistant dean for Graduate Practice Programs and associate professor in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program in the college.
- Carrie Cormack, DNP, APRN; Susan Newman, Ph.D., R.N.; and Martha Sylvia, Ph.D., R.N., were inducted into the American Academy of Nursing's 2023 Class of Fellows during the Academy's annual Health Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Joy Lauerer, DNP, APRN, was recognized as the 2023 recipient of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Award for Excellence in Practice – APRN, during its annual conference.
- Governor Henry McMaster signed a proclamation officially making October Pharmacists Month in S.C., stating that pharmacists provide both expertise and accessibility, which are crucial to patients.
- Barbara Rippy and her late husband, Bobby – a 1963 graduate of the College of Pharmacy – have been longtime supporters of MUSC. She recently pledged \$750,000 to launch the first endowed full-ride scholarship at the college. This gift came in addition to a \$1 million commitment to the college in support of its mission and vision.

ACADEMICS – FACULTY



- Gov. Henry McMaster recently recognized the work of researchers James Krause, Ph.D., and Lindsay Squegla, Ph.D., awarding them the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Scientific Research and the Governor’s Young Scientist Award for Excellence in Scientific Research, respectively.
- Alec Chessman, M.D., was named chair of the Department of Family Medicine. His history with the department and understanding of the role that family medicine plays at an academic health sciences center make him the ideal chair, said Dean Terry Steyer, M.D. Chessman plans to expand the clinical mission, while better integrating mental health into primary care; identify a vision for a research program; and continue strong educational traditions across the state.
- Diann Krywko, M.D., chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, was accepted as a member of the 2023-2024 class of Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) fellows, a year-long part-time fellowship program for women faculty in schools of medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy. The national program is dedicated to developing the skills required to lead and manage in today’s complex health care environment, with special attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions.
- Carol Feghali-Bostwick, Ph.D., professor and SmartState and Kitty Trask Holt Endowed Chair for Scleroderma Research, received a national award from the Association for Clinical and Translational Science for Contributing to the Diversity and Inclusiveness of the Translational Workforce.

ACADEMICS – FACULTY

- Raymond DuBois, M.D., Ph.D., director of Hollings Cancer Center, was inducted as a fellow into the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) in London, England. Fellowship of the RCP is an accolade held by some of the most inspirational and innovative physicians in the world.
- Paula Ramos, Ph.D., has been selected as an inaugural award recipient of the Team Science Leadership Scholars Program in Women’s Health, Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Diseases. The program is supported by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, the Office of Research in Women’s Health and the Office of Data Science Strategy. She is one of six in the inaugural class.
- Ryan Tedford, M.D., professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, was named deputy editor of The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation.
- Besim Ogretmen, Ph.D., professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the College of Medicine and the SmartState Endowed Chair in Lipodomics, was awarded the 2023 Peggy Schachte Research Mentor Award.
- Carla Kmett Danielson, Ph.D., has been selected by the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies as the recipient of the 2023 Robert Laufer Memorial Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement for her work with the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, where she developed the Risk Reduction through Family Therapy and EMPOWERR programs.
- Dave Fitzgerald, DHA, was awarded the Richard L. Prager Lecture Award during the Michigan Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons and Michigan Perfusion Society’s annual Quality Collaborative Meeting. He was also awarded the Commitment to Excellence in Interprofessional (IP) Education and Collaborative Practice Award at the IP Fellowship Recognition Program.



ACADEMICS – RESEARCH

- MUSC Research hosted its first Precision Health Research Symposium, featuring presentations, discussions and panels on the latest cutting-edge research on genomics, genetics and all things precision health from national leaders and experts in these fields. With stellar marks, it is destined to be an annual event.
- MUSC startup company GlycoPath Inc. won InnoVision’s “New Technology Development” award. InnoVision is South Carolina’s premier awards program focused exclusively on celebrating and enabling innovation through technology. GlycoPath Inc. works to revolutionize biomarker research by creating innovative solutions to roadblocks in biomarker discovery. By discovering new markers, physicians gain access to early-warning systems for a patient’s health.
- Steven Kautz, Ph.D., was awarded a \$7.86 million construction grant from the NIH to build two research floors in the new College of Health Professions-D building to establish the Clinical Research Center for Restoration of Neural-Based Function in the Real World (RENEW).
- The National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center received an \$8.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice that will extend its work, seeking to aid victims of mass violence and the communities in which they happen, building on lessons learned in the aftermath of the tragedy at Emanuel AME Church in downtown Charleston.
- Raymond DuBois, M.D., Ph.D., director of Hollings Cancer Center, was awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed grant for \$6.25 million.
- The South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research (SCTR) Institute was recently awarded an administrative supplement supporting the SCTR-Blumberg Academic Entrepreneurs Program (AEP), which leverages the expertise and resources of the Baruch S. Blumberg Institute of the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center to host innovators and help them to translate and move their discoveries along commercial development paths.



MUSC HEALTH

ENTERPRISE

- Tom Crawford, Ph.D., systemwide chief operating officer (COO) of MUSC Health, was named one of Becker's 75 exceptional hospital and health system COOs to know – 2023. Crawford, an experienced health care executive, has successfully built systemwide strategic initiatives that helped to grow systems clinically and financially, leading to enhanced patient safety and improved employee satisfaction.
- Eugene Hong, M.D., systemwide chief physician executive of MUSC Physicians, was named one of Becker's 130 Hospital and Health System Chief Medical Officers to Know. Chief medical officers are responsible for managing the delivery of safe, high-quality health care at their hospitals and health systems.
- MUSC won a Notable Impact Award for streamlining its patient registration process with artificial intelligence (AI). This award recognizes health systems that are leveraging automation to redefine the status quo and create world-class digital experiences. MUSC is the 2023 winner in the Notable Achievement in Patient Access category.



CHARLESTON DIVISION

- The MUSC Health Primary Care-Daniel Island location has received a certificate of recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) as a Patient-Centered Medical Home. This program highlights clinicians demonstrating that they provide high-quality, patient-centered primary care.
- The year-old partnership between MUSC Health and The Citadel recently entered a new phase. Services offered by The Citadel's Mary Bennett Murray Infirmary have been expanded to include counseling, additional sports medicine offerings and on-site physical therapy as well as access to MUSC Health's 24/7 Virtual Urgent Care platform and improved availability to clinical care, integrated imaging, lab and pharmacy services.

MUSC HEALTH

CATAWBA DIVISION (Formerly Lancaster Division)

- MUSC Health-Lancaster Division was excited to announce its name change to MUSC Health-Catawba Division. This marks the beginning of a new chapter for all its employees as they grow across the region. With significant initiatives in the pipeline for Lancaster, Chester and Indian Land, leaders felt an inclusive name change was necessary.
- Sam Stone, M.D., was recently recognized as a Champion of Rural Medicine by the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine at the National Rural Medicine Conference. This award acknowledges physicians and health care professionals who have spent their careers of 30 years or more serving underrepresented and rural populations and creating policies and partnerships that improve health care accessibility and services.
- Catawba Division welcomed nurse executive Rachel Drake, R.N., as its new chief nursing officer. She officially joined the team in late September.
- Renovations for the Women’s Behavioral Health Unit at Lancaster Medical Center are complete, and patients began arriving in August. The opening of this unit is a significant milestone in the ongoing partnership with the S.C. Department of Corrections (SCDC), exemplifying their shared commitment to providing comprehensive care to this specific patient population. This specialized 12-bed inpatient unit includes behavioral health services for female patients. SCDC officers provide security. Patient rooms are monitored, and the unit is locked down.

ORANGEBURG

- MUSC Health-Orangeburg launched its new orthopedic clinic location at a recent open house featuring the latest orthopedic technology and expanded urgent care treatment. It introduced new foot and ankle specialists to the community, who discussed the latest treatment options and program additions.



- MUSC Health Sports Medicine announced the expansion of orthopedic services and its sports medicine contract, serving now as the official health care partner for athletic training and sports medicine for Orangeburg County School District, to increase access to orthopedic care in the area.

MUSC HEALTH

MIDLANDS DIVISION

- Midlands Division has partnered with Veterans Affairs (VA) to schedule appointments in such a way as to address the challenges of navigating patient care across both system and organizational boundaries to bridge commercial and federal health care. To date, MUSC Health has scheduled 232 appointments through this platform, including 180 neurosurgery appointments, 26 pulmonary, 20 cardiology, two gynecological, two orthopedic, and one each for neurology and urology.

PEE DEE DIVISION (Formerly Florence Division)

- MUSC Health Florence Women's Pavilion was named a Blue Distinction + Center for Maternity Care by Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated hospitals that show expertise in delivering improved patient safety and better health outcomes based on objective measures developed with input from the medical community.
- MUSC is launching a new graduate program in Florence that will begin at the MUSC Health Florence Medical Center in July of 2024, with eight internal medicine resident physicians spots being introduced for the program annually. Leaders are also planning for eight family medicine residents to be added the following year. Currently, OB-GYN and rural-track emergency medicine programs are also being considered. Rami Zebian, M.D., chief medical officer of the MUSC Health-Pee Dee Division, said the new program will benefit both the medical residents as well as the patients.

ANNIVERSARIES AND PARTNERSHIP UPDATES



- Hollings Cancer Center (HCC) officially opened its doors 30 years ago in August of 1993. In that time, it has faithfully served the people of South Carolina for a full range of complex cancers. Today, it serves nearly 6,000 patients per year. In 2009, it achieved the National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation and remains the only NCI-designated cancer center in S.C. HCC has a research portfolio exceeding \$44 million annually and is involved in 200 active clinical trials.
- MUSC has engaged in a formal partnership with the Greenwood Genetic Center to enhance the knowledge of providers related to genetics. To that end, an online survey has been launched to gather information that will help in developing targeted educational programming.
- The Catawba Division celebrated the one-year anniversary of its kidney transplant program. Led by Prince Anand, M.D., director of Transplant Services and medical director of the Transplant Nephrology for the MUSC Health Transplant Program-Mid-Carolinas, the kidney program was a necessity in the region to address limited access in surrounding communities. In total, 101 transplants have been performed.

MEDIA UPDATES



- VIPs from the Department of Justice visited campus in October to award nearly \$9 million to the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center. Amy Solomon, assistant attorney general in the Office of Justice Programs in the DOJ, made the announcement, explaining that “This new grant from the Office for Victims of Crime will continue the center’s vital work by expanding our foundation of evidence-based practices centered on addressing the behavioral health needs of survivors.”
- MUSC held a press conference to highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Representatives from numerous offices, including S.C. Legal Services, City of Charleston 9th Circuit Solicitor’s Office and the City of Hanahan, spoke about the importance of recognizing and educating the public about domestic violence in the community.
- All local news stations covered the Capitol Hill congressional briefing by Lori McMahan, Ph.D., vice president of Research, who was on the Hill from Nov. 11 to Nov. 15, to educate Congress on the importance of brain research. Funding, she explained, is needed for further discovery. McMahan is a leader in fundamental discovery and patient care surrounding PTSD.
- FOX News Network interviewed Donna Roberts, M.D., a professor in the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences and the deputy chief scientist for the International Space Station National Lab, to discuss her project to accelerate diagnostic studies by equipping an ambulance with a portable MRI to speed up stroke response times.





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