Year in Review

Bruce Thompson, left, meets Dareus Brown for the first time Jan. 12 as part of a first-of-its-kind internal living-donor kidney transplant chain involving two donors and two recipients at MUSC Health. The act saved two lives and created countless friendships. Photo by Sarah Pack

Patient defies odds
Patient with half a brain lives life to fullest.

Vaping
Researchers share important message.

4 MUSC Innovators
5 Meet Amy Connolly
8 Year in Review — 2018
Taking a low-tech road may be better when it comes to toys

By Helen Adams
adamshel@musc.edu

Which is a better gift for a young child when it comes to brain development?

- A bag of old-fashioned building blocks made out of wood.
- An electronic device that lets the child put together colorful virtual blocks with a swipe of the finger and makes fun noises.

They may not sound like as much fun, but the old-school wooden blocks may be the smarter buy. That’s according to researchers in a new report in the American Academy of Pediatrics’ journal “Pediatrics.”

MUSC Children’s Health pediatric critical care specialist Elizabeth Mack is a spokeswoman for the AAP. “Select a toy or gift that promotes interaction with other children or parents, that leads to joint attention.”

Joint attention, when two people are focusing on the same thing and interacting with each other, starts to develop when a baby is 5 months old. Areas all over the brain are involved as the child begins to understand how to control his or her attention and actions and what others are doing during their social interactions. Problems with joint attention are linked to neurodevelopmental disorders.

Mack says it’s something to think about as you shop for toys this holiday season. “Making the child feel loved, appreciated and understood is very important. Toys that lead to in-person human interaction foster these important connections. This starts at a far younger age than we ever imagined before.

As children get older, their developmental needs change. Screen time is part of most schools’ curriculum now, with kids using technology in the classroom and for homework. But Mack says parents still need to keep an eye on things.

“When you look at a child engrossed in electronics, it’s as if nothing could distract them. That is a testament to how much our brains are really engaged with electronic devices. What would they be doing if they weren’t watching a movie or playing a game on a phone? Would they be looking at nature or reading a book or something that’s healthier for brain development?”

American Academy of Pediatrics’ Tips

- Virtual toys are sometimes marketed as educational when there’s little or no evidence to back that up.
- The line between traditional and virtual toys has blurred. Toys can now do things humans would normally do, like read stories aloud.
- Screen time means less time for active play and may mean a higher risk for obesity.
- Right now, there’s no evidence showing interactive media are as good for kids as active, creative, hands-on play with traditional toys.
- There are smartphone apps designed to increase social and physical interaction, but we need long-term studies to look at what effect they have.

Hearing research study seeks adults, 55 years-plus

The Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery is seeking adults ages 55 and older with normal hearing or hearing loss to participate in a hearing research study.

Payment for participation is provided.

For more information or to set up a screening appointment, call 843-792-7977 or email edwam@musc.edu.

MUSC Catalyst News on holiday break

The MUSC Catalyst News will not be published Friday, January 4, 2019 and will resume its bi-monthly publication schedule on Friday, January 11.

To share news, story ideas or for information, email or call Cindy Abole, editor, at Catalyst@musc.edu or 843-792-4107.

For advertising information, contact the advertising team at The Moultrie News at 843-958-7480 or 843-958-7384.
Employees from across campus came out to the MUSC Portico Dec. 12 to enjoy festivities celebrating the 25th anniversary of MUSC’s Hollings Cancer Center. Participants were invited to sign a commemorative anniversary sign honoring a friend or a loved one diagnosed with cancer, capture a moment in the photo booth, enjoy the pet and art therapy activities, sip hot chocolate, sign up for health screenings, learn more about clinical trials and more. The cancer center also celebrated its recent accomplishment of MUSC Health being named No. 24 in treatment of cancer in U.S. News & World Report.

Hollings Cancer Center Celebrates 25 Years

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Campus launches new MUSC innovator campaign

Sponsored by the Office of Innovation, the “I am an MUSC Innovator” campaign is designed to raise awareness of the many forms that innovation can take, to inspire others and to publicly recognize individuals/teams that are making an impact. Each quarter, the campaign will showcase innovative educators, researchers, care team members and service team members that have been nominated by a college dean, department chair, administration or innovation support team. For additional information, contact Jesse Goodwin, Chief Innovation Officer (goodwijs@musc.edu).

Walter G. Renne, DMD
Professor, Assistant Dean for Innovation & Digital Dentistry
James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine

Donna Kern, M.D., Associate Professor, Senior Assistant Dean for Patient Safety
College of Medicine

Na Jin Seo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Division of Rehabilitative Sciences-Occupational Therapy Program, College of Health Professions

Walter G. Renne, DMD, College of Dental Medicine
Nominated by: Dean Sarandeep Huja, DDS, Ph.D., Dental Medicine
Problem: new technology can enhance patient care and experience
Innovation: Incorporation of Digital Dentistry focus into CDM
Impact: international recognition for educational program; better trained students

Donna Kern, Medicine
Nominated by: Dean Ray DuBois, M.D., Ph.D., College of Medicine
Problem: traditional model for medical education has not changed in decades
Innovation: Led the team that developed the 3-Year FLEX curriculum
Impact: opportunities for students to tailor their learning to their interests and future career specialties.

Na Jin Seo, Ph.D., College of Health Professions
Nominated by: Dean Zoher Kapasi, Ph.D., PT
Problem: stroke recovery is life-long process

See Innovators on page 13
Meet Amy

Amy Connolly

Department and how long at MUSC
College of Graduate Studies; 24 years

How are you changing what’s possible at MUSC
Being part of the support team for the CGS students while they are learning to be the best researchers and doctors they can be

Pets
George, a rescued lab mix

What inspired you to be on the MUSC Angel Tree Committee
For 25 years, my daughter and I would adopt a family at Christmas. Working with the Angel Tree project was an opportunity to help even more children and families

Your idea of a dream vacation
Cruise around Italy and the Greek Isles

Favorite holiday movie
It’s a tie between The Polar Express and The Santa Clause.

Greatest moment in your life
When my daughter received her master’s degree in Physician Assistant Studies
Patient defies odds, living with half a brain

Patient reunites with neurosurgeon after 34 years

BY CINDY ABOLE
aboleca@musc.edu

Christina Foxworth has lived a “glass half-full” life.

The Andrews, South Carolina, native lives a normal life. Foxworth drives a car. She cleans and does housework. She helps take care of her young cousin, Hailey Mihalakis, after school. She even works with her mother in the family construction business, answering phone calls and working on the computer.

Thirty-nine years ago, no one could have predicted that she could do these things and more, living with half a brain.

A recent chance encounter brought the neurosurgeon who saved Foxworth’s life back together with his patient. Foxworth and her mother, Anita Mansfield, were sitting in the waiting room of a Lowcountry podiatrist’s office when she recognized a familiar voice.

“That’s Dr. Vera,” she whispered to her mom. They approached Cristian Vera, M.D., and his wife, Mara Calderon, Ph.D.

The unexpected meeting left Vera speechless. He hadn’t seen his patient in about eight years; it had been 26 years since Foxworth’s hemispherectomy surgery. “Seeing her was both a surprise and remarkable. She’s beautiful,” said Vera of his former patient at a Nov. 15 neurosurgery checkup at MUSC Health. “And what is so amazing is that Christina knew me, recognized my accent and voice from memory.”

Foxworth’s story began weeks before her birth. Her mother was pregnant with her first child in 1978. One Friday, she made an unplanned visit to her obstetrician in downtown Charleston complaining of sickness. Her doctors believed she was suffering from the flu and sent Mansfield home. Some time later, she was rushed to the emergency room with severe pain and stress Mansfield was suffering from. Her pediatrician referred them to a specialist who suggested they monitor the newborn’s baby’s heartbeat, possibly caused by the pain and Christina was delivered via emergency Cesarean section on Dec. 31.

Retired neurosurgeon Dr. Cristian Vera asks Christina Foxworth to squeeze his fingers as he confirms no mirror or voluntary movement in her hand. Foxworth underwent a hemispherectomy surgery in 1984 to treat severe epileptic seizures as a toddler. She celebrates her 40th birthday Dec. 31.

“See Reunion on page 15

“I would highly recommend David Kent. He is incredibly knowledgeable and extremely accommodating. He truly has the buyers’ best interest at heart and is a pro at negotiating.”

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Heart team helps patient with kids have happier holidays

By Helen Adams

adamshel@musc.edu

“Oh, man.” Gerard Green looks at the pile of presents in the back of his car, beautifully wrapped by the MUSC Health heart team for his five children.

“It just brought tears to my eyes,” he says later of seeing the generosity of the doctors, nurses and others who got to know him while he recovered from having a left ventricular assist device, or LVAD, implanted.

Nurse practitioner Dawn Pasquarello, DNP, says everyone wanted to get involved when they heard the story of the Ridgeland, South Carolina, man and his family. Green has had heart problems since he was a teenager and has been in and out of the hospital. He stayed at MUSC Health for more than two months this fall, getting the LVAD implanted and recovering.

“He’s a very sweet guy. Very humble. Doesn’t ask for much of anything. Just want the ability to be able to live and take care of his family,” Pasquarello says.

“We gave him the opportunity to live longer. Now to give him the opportunity to have a great holiday season is something we wanted to do. I think what was most impressive about this is how everyone came together. We had people from all areas of the heart team — the VAD team, heart transplant, heart failure — come together to help out. It’s a great feeling to be able to help someone who’s part of our community.”

Ventricular assist device coordinator Leslie Gilbert agrees. “It’s nice when we can give back to our own patients. It’s a really good feeling. It’s what the holiday spirit is all about.”

Green’s wife, Shannon Fields, has been by his side as MUSC Health. They were high school sweethearts. She says he has not had an easy time of it lately. “He hasn’t been able to work. Before he got the device, he was short of breath. He couldn’t walk for five minutes. He had to sit down. Now he’s doing well, not short of breath. He can walk upstairs.”

It’s the latest in a series of ups and downs for Green. “It started as a heart murmur when he was in his teens,” Fields says. “Over time it just developed and got worse. This is his third operation. He’s always come here. We just feel comfortable because they know everything about him. They’ve been very helpful with his journey through all this.”

MUSC Health’s Heart and Vascular Center specializes in mechanical circulatory support for people with severe heart failure. Gilbert describes how Green’s LVAD works. “It basically functions as the left side of the heart. The pump itself sits in the apex of the left ventricle and then, via a graft, it goes up to the aorta and pushes blood out to the rest of the body.”

It will help Green enjoy being a father again. “They’re 11 years old to 7 months,” he says, describing his kids’ age range. The baby, Tanylah, is with him and his wife as they load up the car.

Green imagines how the older kids will react on Christmas day when they see the gifts. “Jaws dropping. They know daddy was in the hospital for the past 3 months. It’s a big toll on them too. But they’re very supportive of me.”

So is the MUSC Health heart team, he says. “I thank them from the bottom of my heart. I’m very grateful for the job that they do.”

The kids aren’t the only ones the heart team thought of. A basket full of holiday goodies will go home for Green and his wife, too.

A cart loaded with gifts from the heart team rolls up as patient Gerard Green and his wife, Shannon Fields, watch.

Nurse practitioner Dawn Pasquarello, DNP, RN, was among a team of MUSC Health Heart and Vascular Center staff who helped the Green family enjoy a special Christmas this year.

Photos by Son Nguyen
"A big part of trauma is what happens outside, before the patient comes in, and the only way to make that better is to reach out like this."
Dr. William DeVoe on the Stop the Bleed program that trains school nurses in combat-style care.

"Microhospitals offer a patient-friendly care model that drives high-quality care, a compassionate and premium patient experience and higher patient satisfaction."
Dr. Patrick Cawley on plans to partner with Beaufort Memorial Hospital to open a microhospital in Bluffton.

"Our mission is to improve health across the state, and to do that, we need to be in areas across the state."
Matt Severance on MUSC Health's announcement it intends to purchase four community hospitals in Chester, Lancaster, Florence and Marion counties.

MUSC set a new record in biomedical grant funding, leapfrogging over the previous record of $259 million.

"Our global work will be nothing short of transformational."
Dr. David Cole announcing MUSC's partnership with Siemens Healthineers.

"What we want to do is bring medical services that also address a lot of the social determinants that are really important for this community."
Dr. Anita Ramsetty on Google funding work by the MUSC CARES Medical Clinic in rural St. Stephen.

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EJ Wright, a 3-year-old on the heart transplant list, enjoyed the unusual snow in Charleston this January.

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MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting

UPDATE

MUSC and Medical University Hospital Authority (MUHA) Board of Trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting to review the institution’s progress as the mid-point of fiscal year 2019 approaches.

Among the academic highlights shared with the board, MUSC President David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, noted the organization has received initial accreditation and is seeking applicants for a new Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program. The one-year training program was approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education for two fellowship slots annually with training starting in July.

“The new fellowship program will address a critical need in South Carolina by training physicians to become specialists in the care of older adults,” Cole said. “This is especially important because South Carolina is one of the most rapidly aging states in the U.S.

In legislative matters, Cole said, “Our organization is committed to expanding access to care through as many avenues as possible. In fact, MUSC team members representing the College of Nursing helped shape Bill 345, which expands the scope of practice for advanced practice nurses in our state. The legislation is designed to help address the shortages in primary care providers by expanding the health care services these specialized nurses are able to deliver.”

“The next calendar year will see this institution take unprecedented steps to transform and grow in keeping with the whirlwind of change sweeping through the health care industry,” said Charles W. Schulze, CPA, chairman of the MUSC board. “This board is working in partnership, more closely than ever, with the administration to plan thoughtfully and act strategically for the near term and for the future.

The recently announced purchase of four community hospitals in Chester, Florence, Lancaster and Mullins is one example of MUSC’s forward-looking initiatives focused on transformation and growth. Earlier this week, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster responded to a reporter’s question about the proposed acquisition, saying, “I think that’s a good idea. The rural areas need health care, and a lot of what MUSC is doing is trying to prevent bad health instead of just fixing it when you have it. They want to try to educate, inform and catch things early with people. We need to do that all over the state. I think that’s a step forward.

The governor added, “We are lucky to have a fine institution like MUSC. They’re at the top of the list among organizations all over the United States as well as the world. It’s good to have that kind of power to be able to bring good medical attention and health care into rural areas, where it’s really needed.”

Boards need some support to avoid overeating or making poor nutritional choices?

Under the Nutrition and Weight Management category in the Imagine U module, you’ll find challenges like Improving Diet Quality, Moderate Portions of Carbs and Cook a Healthy Recipe.

Could you use some guidance on what steps to take to support your future good health?

Visit the Preventive Care category in the Imagine U module to learn how to cultivate sound sleep.

Are you giving enough attention to your emotional well-being?

Check out the Psychosocial Health category and learn about challenges like Learn to Recognize the Signs of Depression, Alcohol Risk Reduction and Practice Positivity.

Imagine U Challenges

Imagine U truly offers something for everyone. Challenges that you can work into your busy life. Challenges that will help move you toward meeting your personal goals and needs. Oh — and did you know you can earn some fantastic prizes by completing just one challenge in many cases?

So as you navigate this holiday season, don’t forget to give yourself the gift of self-care and well-being. Log on to muse.netDimensions.com, click on ‘Browse a Catalog’, then scroll down for the Imagine U module to search for your perfect challenge. Here’s to you!
MUSC Health leadership talks community hospital acquisition

New facilities will bring value to organization

By Leslie Cantu
cantul@musc.edu

Growth is an essential characteristic of life, both in biology and business. That was the message of Matt Severance, MUSC Health chief of affiliations and network development, during an employee Q&A concerning the recent announcement that MUSC Health intends to buy four community hospitals.

MUSC announced Nov. 19 that the board of trustees voted to purchase hospitals in Chester, Lancaster, Florence and Marion counties. For-profit Community Health Systems (CHS) currently owns the hospitals and affiliated outpatient facilities. The deal still must pass through several regulatory and financing mileposts, but leaders should finalize the deal next year, sometime between March and June.

Severance acknowledged the announcement caught many off guard and said the regulations around the publicly-traded CHS meant leadership couldn’t discuss the deal before the board voted. But, he said, the acquisition is perfectly in line with MUSC’s strategic plan.

“We’re the Medical University of South Carolina. We’re not the Medical University of the Lowcountry or the Medical University of Charleston. So our mission is to improve health across the state, and to do that, we need to be in areas across the state,” Severance said.

Already, a slim majority of the contribution margin, or the revenues available to pay fixed costs, come from outside the Tri-county region, Severance said. But there’s no guarantee that will continue. Many people in the northern part of the state travel to North Carolina to either Duke Health or UNC Medical Center, he said. MUSC needs to plant its flag beyond the Lowcountry and take advantage of its good reputation in the area by extending its services.

Severance said the expansion would open up opportunities for additional academic

See Hospitals on page 13
School highlights possible hazards of vaping, Juul

By Helen Adams
adamshel@musc.edu

The lecture, “Vaping, Juuling and drugs” at a private girls’ school in Charleston, couldn’t have been timelier. Just a week after the Dec. 10 talk at Ashley Hall, a study is out showing the percentage of 12th graders across the country who vaped in the last month leaped from 11 percent in 2017 to 21 percent this year.

“Very concerning,” says MUSC researcher Matthew Carpenter of the Monitoring the Future report. He’s a tobacco control scientist and one of two professors in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences who gave last week’s talk at Ashley Hall. The other, Carla Knott Danielson, specializes in adolescent addiction prevention and treatment. She also happens to have a daughter who goes to Ashley Hall.

Carpenter and Danielson highlighted how e-cigarettes, including the market-dominating Juul, need to be scrutinized by scientists and discussed by families.

“This is a fast-moving science,” Carpenter told the parents. “It’s very hard to keep up with this.”

While Juul just came on the market three years ago, “It has stormed the e-cigarette industry,” Carpenter said. “It’s appealing to youth. It’s easy to conceal. It looks like a USB drive. There’s a very technological feel to this, right? There’s sort of a hip or gadget kind of flavor to it.”

Questions to ask your children:

• What do you think about vaping?
• Is it something that any of your friends talk about?
• The statistics make it sound pretty common. Have you ever thought about it?
• What about your friends — who and what influences your opinions on vaping?

Parents should also set clear household rules about substance use, Danielson said. “Kids are less likely to use tobacco, alcohol and other drugs if their parents have established a pattern of setting clear rules and consequences for breaking those rules.”

• Spell out specific consequences for e-cigarette use
• Involve the child in setting those consequences.
• Write them down.
• Follow through.
• Avoid arguments, threats and lectures.

Also, talk with kids about how to react when someone offers them an e-cigarette or any other substance your family is concerned about. “Practice and role play,” Danielson said.

If you realize a child is vaping:

• Ask how you can help the child make a better choice next time.
• Talk about how the vaping came about – what were the circumstances?
• Monitor the child’s behavior.
• Review your rules and consequences. Carry out the consequence.
• Get treatment if needed.

Packages of Juul now include a warning about nicotine.

A lot of people – about 2/3 of Juul users aged 15 to 24, according to one recent study – don’t realize that it contains nicotine. “Nicotine is the addictive property of any tobacco product,” Carpenter said. “Nicotine is what gets you hooked.”

And while he described e-cigarettes as safer than traditional cigarettes, he also noted: “These things are not safe. There are levels of toxicants even in this e-cigarette vapor.”

Federal regulators recently called vaping an epidemic and gave e-cigarette companies two months to come up with ways to keep young people from vaping. Juul announced it was pulling flavored products from stores and getting off of social media.

Carpenter wondered aloud if it was too little, too late. “Adolescents are really driving the popularity of this product.”

He’s encouraged to hear that, the U.S. surgeon general is calling for new local restrictions such as taxes and indoor vaping bans to try to keep young people from using e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes run on batteries, heating liquid nicotine into a vapor that users can inhale.

The surgeon general says nicotine can affect learning in young people and raise the risk that they will try traditional cigarettes.

So what should parents do to keep kids from vaping, and how should they react if a child does give e-cigarettes a try?

Danielson told the audience at Ashley Hall that parents need to discuss vaping with their kids. “Not talking about it doesn’t work. Neither do ‘scared straight’ programs or signing contracts.”

Danielson also presented data on the high prevalence of alcohol and marijuana use from the 2017 Monitoring the Future study, which was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She said parents can apply her prevention and intervention strategies to those substances as well.

Carpenter hopes the new national focus on vaping, along with local discussions such as the one at Ashley Hall, will have an impact. “I have a simple, take-home message. Anyone, including youth or adults, who is a nonsmoker should be discouraged from using e-cigarettes. Period, end of sentence.”
Hospitals  
Continued from Page Eleven

with only finite number of therapy sessions
Innovation: stroke rehabilitation device/app
Impact: patent, startup company, Phase I
clinical trial

William Meggett, Mitzi Fettner, Ranada Rivers,
Brandon Grimes, David Napier, Emily Mills,
Audrey Mack - University Surplus and Asset
Accounting, Finance and Administration
Nominated by: Lisa Montgomery
Problem: Manual accounting and scheduling
of transfers and surplus
Innovation: Developed online Asset Management - Surplus
Module
Impact: Online catalogue, easier accounting, automated
reports

Coleen Martin (created with Jennifer Byrne, no longer at
MUSC)
Nominated by: Jesse Goodwin
Problem: Lack of infrastructure (wellness committees) in the
schools to promote wellness, available resources were arduous
and complicated
Innovation: Boeing School Wellness Checklist

Lynn    Daniels    Bullilngton

Impact: Used by over 250 schools across South Carolina and
25 schools in Pottstown, Pennsylvania

Emily Lynn, Marveta Daniels, Jessica Bullington, Medical
Acute Critical Care Servie Line, MUSC Health
Nominated by: Nursing New Knowledge & Innovation
Council
Problem: Limited opportunities for social interaction and
communication for patients in TCU
Innovation: Implementation of transitional care patient
activity sessions
Impact: Improved opportunities

Smooth transition so that, for example, billing
 Secuence said an integration can happen on Day One and facilities can pay
 employees without interruption.

The CEOs of each institution will report
to Patrick Cawley, M.D., CEO of MUSC
Health and vice president of Health Affairs,
University. MUSC Health also recently hired
Bob Harrington, M.D., to serve as chief
medical officer of the affiliate network. In
this role he’ll be the liaison between medical
staff on the peninsula and the other sites.
MUSC Health leaders will also offer a
webinar for those who could not attend in
person.

MUSC Wellness Center to
follow holiday hours

MUSC Wellness Center will be open
Monday, Dec. 24 from 5:30 a.m. to
1 p.m. and closed Tuesday, Dec. 25
(Christmas Day) and resume regular
hours Wednesday, Dec. 26 through Dec.
31.
On Monday, Dec. 31, the center
will open from 5:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.
and closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1 (New
Years Day). Regular hours resume on
Wednesday, Jan. 2.
In other board presentations, Gustavo W. Leone, Ph.D., director of Hollings Cancer Center, said he’s thrilled that MUSC Health was named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation’s top 25 hospitals in the treatment of cancer. “We are honored, privileged and committed to fulfill the expectations of being one of the very top-tier cancer centers in the nation,” Leone said. “We have arrived as a leading academic institution, delivering impactful scientific discoveries and the highest quality cancer care at Hollings Cancer Center in a culturally diverse population. Such success is fueled by brilliant researchers, physicians and our expert staff.”

To read more about Hollings Cancer Center, visit: https://web.musc.edu/about/news-center/2018/08/14/hcc-celebrates-ranking-as-one-of-the-nations-top-25-hospitals-in-cancer-treatment

In Development and Alumni Affairs, during the first half of fiscal 2019, which began July 1, MUSC has raised more than $11.5 million in new gifts and pledges. While contributions were made to a broad variety of MUSC programs and departments, a significant portion of the funds were donated to support the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital. Since the July 2014 launch of the fundraising campaign for the new children’s facility, MUSC has raised more than $138.3 million. Scheduled to open in fall 2019, the $385 million hospital will provide the most technologically advanced facilities available for the children of the city, state and region.

Anton Gunn, chief diversity officer and executive director of Community Health Innovation for MUSC Health, provided a thorough update of the institution’s progress toward its goal to Embrace Diversity and Inclusion. Among the highlights Gunn shared information on:

• MUSC’s receipt of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award for Health Professions from Insight Into Diversity magazine.
• The success of the second annual Inclusion to Innovation conference, which drew more than 80 participants from across the country in November.
• Efforts to recognize and mitigate unconscious bias in hiring.
• The 24th annual call for nominations of students, faculty and staff for the Earl B. Higgins Leadership in Diversity and Inclusion Award.
• The launch of an enterprise-wide plan for digital accessibility to comply with federal requirements.
• Initiatives to recognize veterans who are part of the MUSC family, serving as faculty, staff and students as well as those veterans who are patients and visitors.

The MUSC/MUHA Board of Trustees serve as separate bodies to govern the university and hospital, holding two days of committee and board meetings six times a year. For more information about the MUSC Board of Trustees, visit: http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/leadership/board/index.html.

MUSC Health and Wellness seeking volunteers for Dec. 22 screening

MUSC Health and Wellness is seeking student and employee volunteers who can help perform blood pressure checks and activities for a community outreach project with Chicora/Cherokee community in the Charleston neck area.

Volunteers should plan to bring your own equipment (stethoscope/cuff). Free lunch is provided. Interested volunteers may email or call Glenda Backman at backman@musc.edu or 843-514-1257.
Anita Mansfield is moved to tears as she reunites with Dr. Cristian Vera, professor emeritus in the Department of Neurosurgery, from left, Dr. Sunil Patel and Dr. Fraser Henderson Jr. at a Nov. 15 appointment. The MUSC Health’s Neurological Surgery team has been involved in the care of Mansfield’s daughter, Christina Foxworth, for almost 40 years.

A 2011 scan of Foxworth’s brain today. Foxworth went through a hemispherectomy in 1984 removing the right hemisphere of her brain to control severe epileptic seizures that were caused by an in-utero stroke.

who visited her in the hospital. Christina spent about a month in recovery and rehabilitation at MUSC Children’s Health.

Back home, Mansfield heeded Vera’s advice. He told her to treat Christina just like any other child.

Mansfield was also realistic about her daughter’s medical needs. Living almost 20 miles west of Georgetown and more than an hour away from MUSC Children’s Health, Mansfield knew she needed to be ready for anything.

“I adopted the mindset that I had to be prepared if I wasn’t near a hospital like MUSC or the availability of medical specialists during an emergency. It gave me a different perspective about my responsibilities, especially to Christina.”

Under her mother’s watchful eye, Christina thrived. She went to school, studied and did homework — earning As and Bs. She took special education classes at Georgetown High School, attended music concerts and activities with friends, attended prom and successfully graduated.

“What’s incredible about this story is that as physicians, we’re trained and educated that certain parts of our brain function for this or that and nothing else. But the brain can do so much more. It can adjust to its surroundings. Christina’s life after the surgery – living with her mother, being active in the world has stimulated this. The result is a well-evolved left hemisphere of Christina’s brain that has given her the life that she lives today. Her story is enormously significant,” Vera said.

Looking ahead, Foxworth is excited that she’ll be celebrating her 40th birthday in a special way. She’ll be treated by her mom and mom’s fiancé at the “Dancing With the Stars Live” show Dec. 31 at the North Charleston Coliseum where she hopes she’ll have the time of her life.
**Beards for Babies Supports SJCH**

Officers with MUSC’s Office of Public Safety participated for the fourth year in the Beards for Babies campaign. Throughout November, the group raised $3,892.55 for the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital. They also received support from sponsors George Sink Injury Lawyers, the Trail Center (North Charleston) and the Fraternal Order of Police—Tricounty Lodge 3.

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