

## Angel Tree program gets rolling at MUSC Health

BY HELEN ADAMS

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Sometimes, a kid's bike can be too tempting to resist. "Whee," said unit secretary Crystal McKenzie as she took one for a spin just outside a neonatal nursery at MUSC Children's Hospital.

There are quite a few children's goodies starting to pile up there, thanks to a group of nurses, technicians, secretaries and other people who work in the hospital's neonatal nurseries. They've teamed up to help a mother and her three kids through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program.

Taking part in the program is a tradition at MUSC, where last year, employees collected gifts for about 1,800 kids. Elizabeth Williams, quality and outcomes manager of the MUSC Health Blood and Marrow Transplant Program, runs the MUSC Angel Tree effort. "We're the biggest contributor in the Lowcountry," she said. "Between adopted angels, monetary donations and other toys people bring in, we impact the lives of about 2,000 children."

To "adopt" an Angel Tree child, people choose tags that list each child's first name, age and clothing size; his or her needs, such as underwear, socks and a coat; and the child's toy wish list. The tags are hanging on Christmas trees and walls around campus. Then the employees shop and bring in the gifts to

MUSC to be collected by the Salvation Army and delivered to the children.

The neonatal group decided to work together to help a family with three kids.

Nurse Cameron Dixon said most of the team members are parents themselves who can imagine what Angel Tree families are going through. "We want to help kids have a great Christmas."

Amanda Geiger's kids should have a wonderful Christmas, thanks to Dixon's group, which has "adopted" them. Geiger is grateful for the help. She's a mother of three who works two jobs and has one day off a week – Sunday. And on that day, she takes her kids to church at the Salvation Army in the West Ashley area of Charleston.

"Ever since I walked in the door here, my life has changed," she said. "It's been the help I need, the extra push."

Geiger's family has weathered a lot of challenges. Her 11-year-old son, Michael, has hypotonia. The condition, also known as floppy baby syndrome because it causes babies to be limp, means he has low muscle tone. He also has hypothyroidism, asthma and developmental delays.

You'd never know it to see or talk to him as he clowns around with his brother Jeremy, who's 8, and sister Montana, who's 6. Extensive, ongoing physical therapy is paying off. "He's done really well," his mother said. "They said he'd never walk."



Photos by Sarah Pack

The NICU's Crystal McKenzie rides a bike brought in for an Angel Tree child while Mary Laura Smithwick, from left, Charlotte Edwards, Jessica Haselden, Michelle Anderson and Cameron Dixon pose with toys.

Michael became a patient at MUSC Children's Health after the family moved to the Charleston area from Florida about a year and a half ago. Geiger's brother was moving here for work. She and her kids were ready for a change, so they joined him.

She's glad they did. "MUSC is so much better than the Florida hospital we had. There, just to get in to Michael's endocrinologist, it took three or four months. Here, they were asking me to come in the next day."

Finding a hospital they're happy with is important, because Michael needs

ongoing care. Geiger said hip surgery is in his future because hypotonia affected his growth. "There's a lot of pain involved in that. He walks, but he can't stand up or walk for too long because he gets real tired."

And health problems aren't the only thing this family has been dealing with. Geiger said Michael was bullied at the first school he attended after the family's move. "He came home crying every day," Geiger said.

She shifted him to a different school,

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## TREE LIGHTING KICKS OFF SEASON



Photo by Anne Thompson

MUSC Children’s Hospital Volunteer Services manager Melissa Kubu, left, and event guest Heather Snipe applaud after lighting the campus’ holiday tree of life, commemorating the births of thousands of babies born at MUSC, as well as the MUSC–Salvation Army Angel Tree program kick off. The Snipes family’s son Liam has been a patient of the Peds Cardiology ICU Unit since Aug. 1. MUSC President Dr. David Cole led the celebration, which included caroling by the Isle of Palms Coastal Belle Singers and the presentation of angel tags by Salvation Army’s Major Tom Richmond to hospital CEO Dr. Patrick Cawley.



## Employees: A few tips to achieve calendar ‘Zen’

BY MEGAN FINK

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If you’ve seen a meeting disappear or received an update from someone other than the event organizer, you’re not alone. These issues have been reported by many organizations using Microsoft Exchange, Outlook, Outlook for Mac and mobile devices. While there is not yet a simple solution, Microsoft sages share their wisdom and calendaring best practices.

Following these suggestions will help keep calendars more accurate.

If possible, use Windows Outlook or the Outlook Windows App (OWA) rather than Outlook for Mac or Apple Mail when modifying recurring meetings.

- Have only one person manage a calendar (Either you or your assistant do it – but not both.)
- Keep recurring meetings simple. If one meeting in a series is different, create a separate meeting.
- Enter an end date for recurring meetings.
- Meeting series should end after one year. If you need to schedule a meeting series for longer than that, create a new series.
- Store attachments and meeting documents in a secure file-storing space, such as Box. Share large files with a simple link in the meeting body and control access with permissions you set.
- Send updates to all recipients.

### Suggested calendar functions by technology for the best experience

	Windows Outlook	Outlook Windows App (OWA) – also referred to as “Exchange” (exchange.musc.edu)	Outlook on Mac	Mobile Devices
Single calendar	Create event Modify event View event	Create event Modify event View event	Create event Modify event View event	View event
Multiple calendars	Create event Modify event View event	Create event Modify event View event	View event	View event
Recurring meetings	Create event Modify event View event	Create event Modify event View event	View event	View event

For immediate assistance with your calendar, contact the Help Desk at 792-9700. MUSC OCIO continues to test possible solutions with Microsoft and will share any insights with users.

## THE CATALYST

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The Catalyst is published bi-monthly. Paid advertisements, which do not represent an endorsement by MUSC or the State of South Carolina, are handled by Island Publications Inc., Moultrie News, 134 Columbus St., Charleston, S.C., 843-958-7480 or 843-937-4803. E-mail: sales@moultrienews.com.



### Holiday Blues & Managing Stress

The holidays are here! This time of year often evokes happiness for some or depression for others. As health care team members, the way we handle stress impacts all aspect of our lives, including our relationships with each other and the way we deliver care to our patients and families. Join us for some upcoming programs:

12/06 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. “Stressed Out” 300-Clinical Sci Bldg. (Register via MyQuest)

Gather for Prayers and Community with a Chaplain  
12/8 9 to 9:30 a.m. Main Hospital (4th floor chapel)  
12/19 9 to 9:30 p.m. ART (4th floor chapel)

# Social worker is 2016 Health Care Team Member of Year winner

BY CINDY ABOLE

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Employees and MUSC Health leadership gathered to recognize excellence Nov. 2 at the MUSC Health Care Team Member of the Year celebration held at the Drug Discovery Auditorium.

A total of nine Medical Center employees were recognized as finalists at the annual event, with social worker Kelly Finke selected as the 2016 winner. Finke works in Women's Services and the 5East Level 2 nurseries.

Eight award finalists were also recognized during the ceremony: Jennifer Teston, RN; Greg Sizemore, Ruthel Williams, Yolanda Bermudez, Natausha Cancer, Christopher Kling, LaShawn Ellis and Katherine Quinn, RN.

"Social workers go into this field because we love what we do," said Finke. "It's a profession where we don't always deal with happy topics or happy people and we don't always get to see happy outcomes. With that being said, I have never wanted to do anything else. This award means more to me than any other award I have ever received during my career in social work because I was nominated by someone I work with every day — one who sees the ups and downs of what I do. In addition, to have my colleagues' vote and acknowledgement means the world to me. I am truly blessed to work with such a great group of nurses, PCT's, doctors, administrative staff and fellow social workers."

Medical Center CEO Patrick Cawley, M.D. praised all finalists at the ceremony. "This is my favorite duty as hospital CEO," he said. "I get to spend time with some of MUSC's most talented and caring people. The awards ceremony is a time when we can celebrate the best of who we are. We're not MUSC without our people. There are many things that happen here every day, and the people nominated for this award were recognized by people that work among us, and each of these nominees deserve high levels of recognition. Everyone nominated should see this as a win, because to me everyone

is a winner. Congratulations to all the nominees and especially the CREW (Collaboratively Recognizing Everyone Within MUSC) for coordinating this effort and for their great work," he said.

Catherine Decker, an employee who works in 5East's Mother Baby Unit in Women's and Children's Services, submitted Finke's nomination for the award. "Kelly is by far the best social worker I have ever worked with. She is constantly coming up with innovative solutions to out of the box issues," wrote Decker.

"Recently we had a patient who needed supplies for a wound infection. I paged Kelly on a Friday afternoon at 5 p.m., and she returned my page, when not on call, and walked me through the steps to get the patient what she needed. Then on Monday, she followed up with the now-discharged patient to make sure the patient had received everything. Her service to our patients is truly admirable," she wrote.

Decker cited other examples of Finke's dedication. "On busy days, Kelly will work from our nurses' station, helping to answer call bells and phones. This is not part of her job, but she does it with ease and grace just to help our staff have a better day. Kelly always goes above and beyond with the best quality, putting our patients' needs first," she continued.

Finke has worked as a social worker at MUSC since 2006. Prior to that, she worked with the Dorchester Alcohol and Drug Commission and Dorchester Children's Center. She received her master's degree in social work from the University of South Carolina in Columbia and earned her bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Georgia.

All nominees for this award were selected through a process coordinated by the CREW team, according to Jennifer Gowder, CREW team coordinator. Medical Center employees were asked to nominate fellow care team members online during a two-week period in early summer. More than 61 total nominations were compiled, which included 30 former care team members of the month winners. All nominees



Photos by J. Ryne Danielson

2016 Health Care Team Member of the Year finalists were honored at the Nov. 2 ceremony. They include Katherine Quinn, from left, Kelly Finke, LaShawn Ellis, Natausha Cancer, Yolanda Bermudez, Christopher Kling, Ruthel Williams, Greg Sizemore and Jennifer Teston.



Left, 2016 Health Care Team Member of the Year winner Kelly Finke receives a check for \$500 and other gifts from MUSC Health CEO Dr. Patrick Cawley at the celebration.

were reviewed and rated using a grading scale, which ranked them. The top nine nominees were selected as finalists, and hospital employees participated in an online vote for Care Team Member of the Year. This year's Care Team Member

of the Year winner received 37 percent of total votes.

Finke was presented with a beautiful crystal award, a check for \$500, a designated MUSC parking spot with free parking for one year and other gifts.

## 2016 Health Care Team Member of the Year Finalists

- Jennifer Teston, RN II for the Pediatrics Procedure Area (Nominated by Wayne Wellington)
  - Greg Sizemore, MRI tech in the East Cooper Radiology Clinic (Nominated by Chris Lanham)
  - \*Ruthel Williams, customer service representative, Patient Access Center (Nominated by Caren Finkelstein)
  - \*Yolanda Bermudez, house concierge II in the Guest Services Department (Nominated by Janet Byrne)
  - \*Natausha Cancer, patient care tech II, ART 7 Hematology/Oncology Department (Nominated by Allison Jones)
  - \*Christopher Kling, respiratory therapy coordinator, Sleep Center (Nominated by Carla Harvey)
  - \*LaShawn Ellis, zone maintenance tech, Facilities/Hospital Maintenance (Nominated via letter addressed to Dr. Cawley from a patient family member)
  - \*Katherine Quinn, RN II in the Adult Emergency Department (Nominated by Missy Davis)
  - Kelly Finke, social worker in the Women's Services & Level 2 Nurseries (Nominated by Catherine Decker)
- \*Former Care Team Member of the Month winner

# Construction to begin on new MUSC Apple campus store

By J. RYNE DANIELSON

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Construction is scheduled to begin after December finals on MUSC's new Apple campus store. The store will offer Apple and Dell products to students and employees at educational discounts and will serve as the ordering point for university and hospital departmental sales.

Located on the first floor of the Colbert Library, the store will feature a space similar to Apple's Genius Bar, where staff from the Office of the Chief Information Officer will provide technical support for iOS-based health care apps.

"The broader goal of this space will connect with our focus on innovation, which is part of the Imagine MUSC 2020 strategic plan," said OCIO's Chief Operating Officer Casey Baker. "We plan to partner with stakeholders across campus to serve as a testbed for new and unique platforms. We want the tech store to be a hub for innovation. Ultimately, we'd like to offer tech kits that include apps and smart devices tailored to specific health care needs, almost like technological prescriptions."

Apple partners with universities across the country to sell their products at educational discounts, offering campus development funds if those institutions meet specific criteria such as employing students, offering technical support and meeting certain sales requirements. MUSC will be Apple's first partnership with a dedicated university medical center, which Baker said has both partners excited.

"MUSC has had tech stores in the past," she said. "But never with a strategic partner like Apple. Apple is unique in offering this type of partnership, and they aren't restrictive of what else we sell in the store. All non-Apple products we sell in the store will be available to the general public. The only restriction from Apple is that we only sell their products to students, faculty and staff of MUSC because of the educational discount they offer."

A year ago, MUSC President David Cole, M.D., FACS, MUSC Health CEO



A 3-D rendering shows the look of the completed MUSC Apple campus store, which will offer Apple and Dell products and feature a health care innovation space similar to Apple's "Genius Bar."

Graphic provided



Patrick Cawley, M.D., Chief Information Officer Michael Caputo and Enterprise IT Architecture Director Mark Daniels made a trip to Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, California, to exchange ideas about the role of technology in the future of health care. It was out of that exchange

that the idea for the campus store's focus on health innovation was born, Baker said.

"This partnership with Apple exemplifies our strategy around innovation and will foster similar corporate ventures focusing on novel

*"We imagine this store will bring people together to share ideas and find the right technology to transform their vision into value for our community."*

Michael Caputo

health care solutions," Caputo explained. "We imagine this store will bring people together to share ideas and find the right technology to transform their vision into value for our community."

The store will be staffed by two full-time employees, and OCIO plans to hire between eight and 10 students as needed. Advisory committees associated with the Student Government Association and other stakeholders have been set up to ensure the store will meet the needs of the communities it is intended to serve.

"This will be a place where people new to technology can come to learn about opportunities they may not have known about before," Baker said. "The store will be a catalyst for innovation, conversations, and networking across the campus."

The store opening is tentatively scheduled for April 1. OCIO is currently holding a naming contest, and the winner will receive a new iPad pro. Enter your name here for a chance to win: <https://redcap.musc.edu/surveys/?s=HMJ33PRADC>

**Human resources specialist Courtney Cullum tours the new campus store in virtual reality at the MUSC benefits fair held in September. The new store will occupy the first floor of the Colbert Education Center and Library. Construction will begin after December finals with an opening scheduled for April 1.**

## Center for Genomic Medicine Seminar

featuring  
**Edison Liu, M.D.**  
president and CEO,  
The Jackson Laboratory

## "Genomic Chromotypes in Breast Cancer Biology"

Friday, Dec. 2, 2016  
10 a.m.  
Bioengineering Bdg. Room 110

## MEET CHRIS



**Christopher Cowan, Ph.D.**

**Department; How long at MUSC**  
*Neuroscience; six months*

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

*My lab is working to understand the role of critical brain development genes, and by doing so, we seek to better understand the underpinnings of autism and intellectual disability, and we hope to find new treatments for these developmental disorders. We also study how brain development genes influence the development of drug addiction, and ultimately, we hope to find new therapeutic strategies to assist in the recovery from addiction.*

**Family and pets**

*Wife, Jessica; kids, Lucy and William; a cockatiel, Cinco; and two budgies, Seashell and Cheerio*

**Hobbies**

*Woodworking, home improvement projects*

**Who in history would you like to meet**  
*Benjamin Franklin — one of the most brilliant, interesting, influential and most creative persons to have ever lived*

**Coffee Hour** **Monday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30<sup>am</sup> - 9:30<sup>am</sup>**

**Bioengineering Bldg.**  
Graduate Studies Conference Room  
**Room 101**

Featuring **Marvella Ford, Ph.D.**  
Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences  
Associate Director, Cancer Disparities, Hollings Cancer Center

**All Are Welcome!**

For questions or additional information contact:  
wsinfo@muscedu

Sponsored by The Women Scholars Initiative and the Center for ARROWS  
Diversity & Ethnic Relations Committee

<http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/muscdiversity>  
<http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/arrowinitiative/arrows>

**Strategies for Addressing Biases & Barriers**  
in Advancing from Postdoc to STEM Leadership

**Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> / 9:00 - 11:00 AM**  
**Bioengineering Room 112**

Join Dr. Elizabeth Travis, Associate Vice President, Women Faculty Programs, Mattie Allen Fair Professor in Cancer Research, and Professor in the Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Cynthia Simpson, Chief Business Development Officer, Association for Women in Science, in this interactive presentation. Discussions will focus on the biases and barriers which exist in STEM, the strategies that are needed to address and overcome these issues, and the tools and techniques that can be utilized for sustained career success.

**Attendance counts towards the required Diversity & Inclusion training**  
**Registration is required: <https://is.gd/arrowsbias>**

Sponsored by: **ARROWS** and the Department of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

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# Saluting campus veterans for their military service

By MIKIE HAYES

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The MUSC Public Safety Color Guard processed in, presenting the American flag in all her glory and setting the tone for a very emotional event. With heads bowed and hands over hearts, veterans and guests sang the national anthem and said the Pledge of Allegiance with heartfelt passion. For MUSC veterans, and the guests there to honor them, respect and admiration for the flag were a given.

Veterans Day: a national commemoration honoring the men and women who serve or have served in the United States Armed Forces. Every year, MUSC pauses to honor and celebrate the dedication, courage and sacrifice of its veterans. While many who wanted to attend were already committed to fulfilling MUSC's mission in operating rooms, patient rooms, classrooms and labs, nearly 150 people gathered on Nov. 10 in the Drug Discovery Building auditorium to be a part of this year's special ceremony.

Veterans of all conflicts involving the United States dating back to World War II and those honoring them listened to keynote speaker Theresa Gonzales, DMD, a

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*Photos by Anne Thompson*

MUSC interim provost Dr. Lisa Saladin, left, and event keynote speaker Dr. Theresa Gonzales, right, join MUSC veterans and guests at the annual Veterans Day ceremony.

**SALUTE** *Continued from Page Six*

retired Army veteran. Her message: Freedom is not free, and it has never been. Gonzales is a professor of oral pathology, director of MUSC Orofacial Pain Management and associate dean of Curriculum and Strategic Communications for the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine.

Achieving the rank of colonel, Gonzales served her country in posts around the globe, including Egypt, Iraq and Korea. She commanded formations in Europe and the United States. Recently, she retired from the U.S. Army Dental Corps after a long and distinguished career, and previously had served as the director of strategic communications for the Army surgeon general. In 2009, Gonzales graduated from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the Army's senior educational institution.

Gonzales opened her remarks, thanking two special guests, men in their 80s and 90s, who fought in the Korean War and World War II. When she introduced the elder of the two, Staff Sgt. Robert Floyd Henderson, who fought in WWII, she said, "You are part of a vanishing breed, sir."

She also introduced SFC James Schuyler, who served in the Korean War. She thanked them for their courage and service.

"I'm the accidental American, the accidental patriot, the accidental Carolinian," Gonzales said. Her mother, Constance Walker-Webb, was a Londoner, and when the trajectory of



her life changed as a result of WW II, so would it affect her future offspring. Gonzales' father, William "Sargeant" Sullivan, was not a Brit, but an American from Walhalla, South Carolina — a tiny town in the northwest corner of the state. It was through a chance meeting at Charing Cross Station that led to a romantic war time love story and Gonzales' personal story.

"My parents," she said, "were members of the Greatest Generation." Her mother was a professor of classical literature in London — she taught at St. Catherine's College at Oxford. She'd lost her fiancé, a regimental officer, and two brothers at the Battle of Dunkirk. "Indelibly etched into the tapestry of our family narrative is Dunkirk," Gonzales said.

For a time, her mother worked on her doctoral degree in Germany, but returned home at the behest of her

father, due to safety concerns. Berlin was not a safe city for Jews in the 1940s. Back in London, she taught at Kings College during the day, and at night, she, like many other patriotic citizens, rolled bandages at Charing Cross Station in the underground Tube Station in the center of London. As London was bombed

Dr. Theresa Gonzales, center, joins WW II Staff Sergeant Robert Floyd Henderson, left, and Korean War Veteran SFC James Schuyler, right, as she thanks them for their service at the Nov. 10 MUSC Veterans Day ceremony held in the Drug Discovery Building Auditorium.

repeatedly, if one had to evacuate from the war-torn streets of London, the Tube shelter provided safety and safe passage. "And while you were there, you did the work of the war," Gonzales added.

As many young Americans did during

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**SALUTE** *Continued from Page Seven*

that time, her father came through Charing Cross Station. He was intrigued by many things, none more so than Gonzales' mother who was busy rolling bandages. While it was unusual for an infantryman, he also rolled bandages at night and finally mustered the nerve to ask her out on a date.

"He rolled enough bandages to tamponade any combat wound in the free world," Gonzales said with a laugh. But each time he asked her on a date, she declined. "She had paid too great a price on the altar of freedom."

Operation Overlord, also known as D-Day, was the code name for the Battle of Normandy. This operation launched the successful invasion of German-occupied Western Europe. Gonzales' father would push out in the first wave.

Before he left, he had but one final plea. Gonzales shared the tale that secured her parents' future together. "He said to my mother, 'If you won't see me now, promise me if I survive the war, I can come back.' She knew what channel crossings were like, and was under no illusion he would survive. She reluctantly said, 'Yes.'"

In 1945, her father returned having seen combat at the Battle of the Bulge. He hopped the next flight to Lakenheath Air Force Field in London and took a train back to where her mother was still rolling bandages at



*photo by Anne Thompson*

**The Department of Public Safety's Color Guard presented the colors.**

Charing Cross station. Even though the war was over, he went AWOL in order to see her. When he finally met up with her mother, he said, "I survived the war, can I date you?" She replied, "When?" He said, "Not now, I'm AWOL." And back he went that evening to Ramstein Air Force Base in southwestern Germany where he caught the first convoy headed back to the Ardennes Forest – this time with more than simply

hope in his heart. Constance kept her word. Sullivan returned home, and after the war, the couple married in the U.K., moved to the U.S. and had five children – all of whom served their country. Her mother and father were married for 67 years.

She said, "I want to share two things: 16 million Americans fought in WW II. Today, a mere 885,427 remain. They die at the rate of 492 per day, and we venerate their service. They stared Nazi Germany in the face and lived to tell about it. Thank you for underwriting our freedom and our national effort.

"Our nation would not be tested again, though we thought we'd get a break," she continued, "but then came the Korean Conflict. It wasn't even called a war." She directed her attention to SFC Schuyler on the front row and asked, "I bet it seemed like a war to you, James, didn't it?" Later, she said, the name was indeed changed to the Korean War. She thanked him again.

"I am the fifth generation of Army veterans in my family, and to all of those who wore the cloth of this nation, I would like you to stand and be recognized – all veterans," she said to the audience. Well over 100 veterans stood while guests acknowledged their service.

Gonzales asked Vietnam veterans to continue standing. "This nation owes something to you that you didn't get upon reentry. We venerate your service," she told them.

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She said that her grandmother once told her, “In war there are no unwounded soldiers.’ I didn’t know what that meant, but I would figure it out over the next 30 years of my own service. My father said all five of his children must serve in the US. Army and all must participate as volunteers at the collective defense of our nation. And all did.”

Her father, who friends called “Sarge,” served not only in WWII, but also in Korea and other conflicts throughout Europe and Africa. He earned a Campaign Medal with 7 bronze service stars, a Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished United Badge and Bronze Star Medal with the Oak Leaf Cluster.

Gonzales said that South Carolina has always produced patriots. “Like 19-year-old Ralph A. Johnson,” she said, “for whom our VA Hospital is named – an African-American male from Columbia, who fought as a volunteer for his country, before his own civil rights were realized.”

“On this Veterans Day, we publicly recognize and proclaim that America became and continues to be a free nation under God because of our veterans. And we acknowledge, as did the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, that the people of the United States have a special obligation to their veterans. And with that she shared part of Lincoln’s second inaugural address given on March 4, 1865.

“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all

which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

And while she praised the efforts of veterans of bygone eras, she also included the most recent to have served.

“This generation of servicemen, this 9/11 generation, has born the burden of our safety during a decade of sacrifice. Only 27 years old on average, this 9/11 generation – these young men and women – have shattered the false myth of their generation’s apathy – for they came of age in an era when so many institutions had failed to live up to their responsibilities. But they chose to serve a cause greater than themselves. They saw their country threatened. They signed up to confront that threat. They felt the tug. They answered the call. They said, ‘Let’s go. Let’s roll.’ And so they went. And they have earned their place in the military pantheon, among the greatest of generations.

“So to all of them, to our veterans, to our fallen and to their families, there is no tribute, no commemoration, no praise that can truly venerate the magnitude of your service and sacrifice. Your courage and tenacity was forged in the crucible of war, and it is duly noted.”

She read the World War I poem “In Flanders Field,” her voice faltering at times.

“May God bless the alliances that help secure our prosperity and our security. And may God continue to bless these United States. Gonzales out.”

A lone trumpet played taps. All stood to remember the fallen. After a moment of silence, a moving video highlighting the many heroic actions of all branches of the United States military was shown to a grateful audience.

# Conversation Café

## A monthly conversation about Sustainability and Recycling at MUSC



*Sustainable and Healthy Holidays  
with the Office of Health Promotion*



**Dec. 8th**

**Colbert Library  
first floor  
(across from PJ's)**

**1PM**

[recycle@musced](mailto:recycle@musced)



Go  
Green

# Researcher makes inroads in spinal cord injury research

By J. RYNE DANIELSON

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Spinal cord injuries are life changing. Resulting from automobile collisions, gunshots or other physical trauma, they can impact all areas of an individual's life, often causing full or partial paralysis and a range of complications, from depression to respiratory failure.

MUSC researcher James Krause, Ph.D., associate dean for research and director of the Center for Rehabilitation Research in Neurological Conditions, knows this firsthand. As a teenager, he was paralyzed while diving into a swimming pool.

For more than 40 years, Krause has studied the long-term effects of spinal cord injury (SCI) with the goal of increasing lifespans and standards of living, while coming to terms with the implications of his own injury.

Now, five new grants totaling more than \$2.6 million will help him continue and expand that work.

"These grants are all very different from each other in methodology and will allow us to attack the problem of what happens to people after spinal cord injury in different ways," Krause explained.

The first of four grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living (HHS/ACL) will help extend

Krause's ongoing 45-year longitudinal study on aging and spinal cord injury. A longitudinal study gathers data from the same subjects over time and can reveal patterns that shorter "snapshot" studies cannot, helping researchers identify long-term trends. For example, when participants first enrolled in Krause's study in the early 1970s, medicine was far different than it is today. The life expectancy of people with spinal cord injuries was believed to be very short, and the aging process for those with a disability was poorly understood.

Krause's project is now the most longstanding study of disability outcomes anywhere in the world. With more than 750 participants contributing self-assessments every four or five years, this data helps reveal the complex relationship between aging and quality of life for those with spinal cord injuries.

A grant from the Department of Defense will allow Krause and his team to conduct in-depth interviews with spinal cord injury survivors to better understand and predict life-changing and life-threatening health events as they age.

A qualitative, open-ended dialogue with participants will allow Krause's team to uncover short-term phenomena that his longitudinal study might miss, he said.

"A lot of times, we see that people with spinal cord injuries are healthy for a very

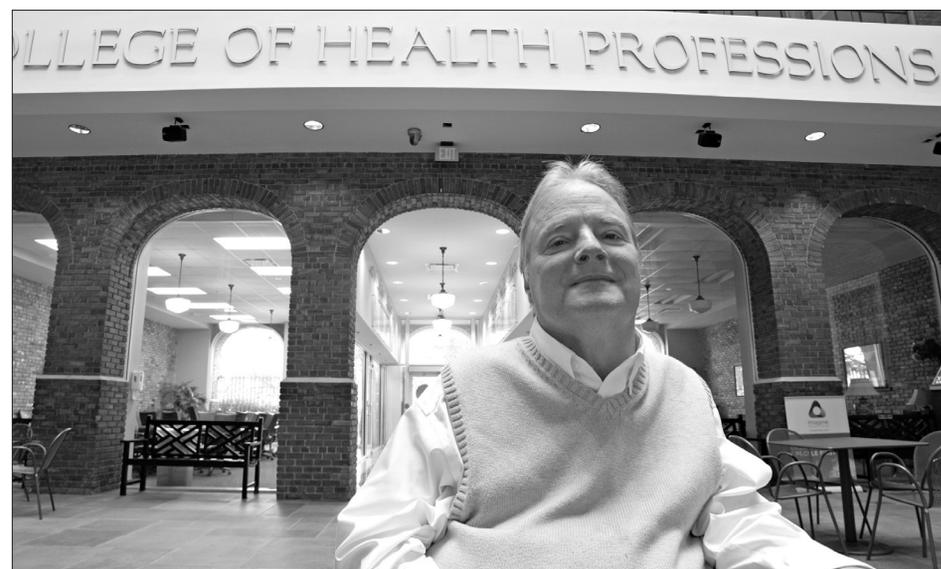


Photo by J. Ryne Danielson

**Dr. James Krause, associate dean for research and director of the Center for Rehabilitation Research in Neurological Conditions in the College of Health Professions, is principal investigator on five recent spinal cord injury research grants.**

long time," Krause continued. "But all of the sudden, one thing will go wrong, which leads to another and another, and they just aren't able to recover."

Krause calls this a negative health spiral and hopes to identify the common

risk factors that may precipitate it. If he can do that, he hopes he can help individuals with SCI avoid acute problems that can quickly snowball.

*See INJURY on page 11*

## INJURY *Continued from Page Ten*

A third grant, also from HHS/ACL, will allow Krause to triangulate his research with yet another method of gathering data: administrative billing records from hospitalizations.

“What we hope to be able to do with this study is link risk factors determined by our self-report assessments to hospital records, which sounds kind of mundane, but what that gives us are the causes and the costs of acute hospitalizations,” Krause said. “We’ll be able to look at, for instance, the effects of exercise, smoking and other lifestyle factors. We’ll be able to determine the risks and costs of each. We’ve never had that sort of data before.”

His fourth grant will allow the team to examine emergency department visits, related hospitalizations and reasons for Emergency Department utilization after spinal cord injuries. Awarded by the HHS/ACL, this grant will pair MUSC with the Atlanta-based Shepherd Center, a private, not-for-profit hospital and federally-designated SCI model system that specializes in spinal cord and brain injury treatment and rehabilitation. “To be a designated model system, you have to be on the cutting edge of treatment and have a focus on research,” Krause said. “Model systems share a common national database, so by linking our data to data from the Shepherd Center and other model systems, this grant keeps our work connected to national efforts.”

Krause’s final HHS/ACL grant is the one he is most excited about. It will fund the development of web-based tools

to help people living with spinal cord injuries and their providers assess risk factors to make better behavioral and treatment decisions. These tools will incorporate data from Krause’s other projects to provide as complete a picture as possible of life after spinal cord injury.

“People will be able to go online and answer questions about themselves and their circumstances, and this tool will tell them how that affects their likelihood of ED visits and hospitalizations, their longevity, their quality of life,” Krause said. “It pulls everything together. People with spinal cord injuries will be able to say, for example, how will smoking affect my longevity? How does my employment status affect my health? And it will give them the information to either change their behavior, or not. They will be able to accurately evaluate their own behaviors based on data, and providers will be able to make evidence-based treatment decisions.”

He said he hopes to rely on stakeholders’ feedback to make these tools much more specific and user-friendly than any that currently exist.

Krause believes an important strength of these five grants is that each builds upon the others and uses a different methodology to answer the same sorts of questions.

Previous spinal cord injury research, Krause said, has focused too much on health factors that people have little control over. His research looks not just at health, but also economic, psychological and behavioral factors.

Each of his grants will provide researchers, providers and people with SCI unique tools, both at the individual

and policy levels.

“At the individual level, we want to help people become aware of their risks and identify those things they can do to prevent negative health events,” Krause said. “At the policy level, we hope to help policymakers understand how to more effectively use resources to save money and improve lives.”

For example, income and employment status are among the best predictors of life expectancy and quality of life among those with spinal cord injuries.

“Income brings tangible benefits,” Krause explained. “And when people go to work, they have a routine, a support network. They’re healthier, and they’ll cost the health care system less in the long run. Programs to keep people healthy and working are just good business.”

If hospitals, health insurance companies and legislators in Washington, D.C., and Columbia understand that, he hopes they will invest in employment and educational programs to help individuals with spinal cord injuries make healthy changes that

will benefit everyone.

As this type of research grows in importance nationally, Krause’s ambition is to continue to expand MUSC’s capability to conduct SCI research and treat those with SCI. His five grants go a long way toward making that happen.

“It’s nice to get the money,” he said. “It’s a testament to the scope and quality of the work we’re doing, but ultimately, it’s going to give us the resources to help people with spinal cord injuries. And that’s what’s important.”

### **Strategies for Addressing Biases & Barriers in Advancing from Postdoc to STEM Leadership**

*Friday, Dec. 16  
9 to 11 a.m.*

*Bioengineering Room 112*

**Registration is required: <https://is.gd/arrowbias>**

*Sponsored by ARROWS, MUSC Women Scholars Initiative & the Dept. of Diversity & Equity & Inclusion*

## STUDENTS HOLD VOTER DRIVE



Photo by J. Ryne Danielson

The Student National Medical Association held a voter registration drive on the portico Sept. 28 and 29. “As future health care leaders, we understand that health care is greatly impacted by politics,” said COM student Elizabeth Ogunrinde, who helped organize the drive. “We’re not only helping people exercise their civic duty, but also potentially influencing the future of health care policy.”

## ANGEL *Continued from Page One*

where he’s thriving. “He’s happy now.”

Geiger has been the family breadwinner since the kids’ father, a truck driver, developed serious health problems related to diabetes. With the holidays coming, she got to the point where she knew she needed help.

“I’d never done anything like that before, but I’d do anything for my kids,” Geiger said. “I stood in line for the Angel Tree, and they just stepped up and were willing to help. They welcomed us, and it’s been a real blessing.”

With her kids signed up, Geiger knew they’d be taken care of for Christmas. What she didn’t know is that they’d be selected by the neonatal team at MUSC Children’s Hospital. Unit secretary Michelle Anderson said the level of enthusiasm has been amazing. “As soon as we sent the email to our team about the Angel Tree kids, we got tons of responses right away. ‘Yes, let’s do it.’ ‘I can do this, I can do that.’ It’s just been enormous.”

Williams said there’s still time for other people who want to “adopt” the



Photo by Helen Adams

Amanda Geiger’s children Montana, Jeremy and Michael Henretty recently moved with her from Florida to the Charleston area.

remaining Angel Tree kids. “This truly helps the most in need,” she said. “The Salvation Army worked hard to ensure that.”

The effort will wrap up Dec. 2 at noon with a big parade on the MUSC campus. Geiger’s kids have been chosen to ride on a float. “That is right up their alley,” Geiger said. “They’ll be so excited.”