College of Medicine increases NIH funding by 22 percent

The pace of research funding and discoveries in the MUSC College of Medicine continued to accelerate in 2016. In an intensely competitive environment, the College of Medicine increased annual National Institutes of Health research funding by 22 percent, for a total of $96,558,858.

Looking at NIH data for federal fiscal year 2016, the COM now ranks 42nd among all U.S. medical schools, jumping five places and positioning MUSC above medical schools at Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest, and the University of Florida. MUSC ranks an even more impressive 21st among public medical schools.

MUSC College of Medicine Dean Raymond DuBois, M.D., said this is a landmark achievement and the highest level of extramural funding achieved by the COM since its founding in 1824.

"Congratulations go to our faculty, our students, our staff and our department chairs for this outstanding achievement. In one of the most competitive research environments in the history of the NIH, we have performed extremely well. One of the reasons I decided to join MUSC as the dean of medicine last March is because of its potential to really ramp up our impact and presence on the national scene. We still have more work to do as we continually strive to develop the most innovative and entrepreneurial research programs in the country."

Craig Crosson, Ph.D., senior associate dean for research in the COM, said it's gratifying to see how well the COM has done. “This dramatic growth represents the accomplishments of many people in the College of Medicine and results from our efforts over several years to grow research in a strategic, team-based manner. Working together, our researchers are making an impact and addressing the major diseases that affect the citizens of South Carolina, across the country, and around the globe.”

Of particular note are several individual departments that showed exceptional results in attaining funding:

- The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences increased funding by 27 percent, resulting in $28 million in funding, placing it 8th nationally.
- The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology increased funding by 63 percent and moved up from 38th to 27th nationally with over $7 million in funding.
- The Department of Public Health Sciences more than tripled its funding, rising to 19th in the country, with almost $5.9 million in research funding.
- The Department of Neuroscience continued its top 10 national ranking, with over $12 million in funding.

Council recommends MUSC board accept IG recommendations

On Jan. 30, Donald R. Johnson II, M.D., chairman of the MUSC Board of Trustees, presided over a meeting of the review council created to assess board spending policies in order to define and align with best practices going forward. The review council discussed three recommendations made in a recent report by the state inspector general (SIG) who was authorized to review MUSC board spending by the Commission on Higher Education.

- Consider eliminating its policy providing daily meal reimbursements ($163 limit) for spouses or significant others.
- Consider moderating its current travel and expense policy to more “ordinary and necessary” business expenses consistent with the public’s expectation of reasonable travel related expenses for state officials.

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Mentoring in Action

President, AHH honored

Interim provost recognized for her career, helping others.

Dr. David Cole and an MUSC student group receive MLK Awards.

Letter of Gratitude

Meet Dr. Alexis Nagel

FDA News
**Construction Update:**

Bee St. Garage entrance closed till Feb. 25

Staff Report

Due to the ongoing construction activity for the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital, the driveway to access the Bee Street Garage adjacent to Cherry Street will be closed Feb. 6 through Feb. 25. Full access to the Bee Street Garage via Bee Street and Cherry Street will remain fully operational during this time. Entry into the garage from the west side will be available via Cherry Street.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and thank you for your continued patience with us during the construction of the new children’s hospital.
In a nutshell, MUSC arborist receives Golden Acorn Award

BY ALYSSA FRANCHAK
franchak@musc.edu

MUSC arborist Nate Dubosh was the 2016 recipient of Trees SC’s Golden Acorn Award, which was presented to him at the organization’s annual conference.

Trees SC is a statewide nonprofit organization. According to its website, its team aims to foster the stewardship of South Carolina’s urban and community forests through education, advocacy and networking.

The Golden Acorn Award is one of two special awards presented by Trees SC annually and is given in recognition of an individual’s contribution to the state’s urban and community forests.

Dubosh has been a member of Trees SC for the last five years and says that is where he was introduced to being an arborist and learned everything he needed to know.

According to Robin C. Smith, MUSC’s grounds supervisor, “Nate has transformed the MUSC campus in a way that has already greatly impacted everyone here, but will also greatly impact our future generations as well.”

Despite his dedication to the beautification of the MUSC campus, Dubosh said winning this award was a complete surprise and something he feels undeserving of. “I don’t feel like I’ve been in this industry long enough,” he said humbly. “But it’s a recognition, I guess, of the hard work and the passion I have for the trees and the industry.”

Peggy Schachte Research, MUSC Foundation Developing Scholars awards due April 1

A call for nominations for the Peggy Schachte Research Award and the MUSC Foundation Developing Scholars Award has been issued by the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Nominations for both of these awards are due by April 1, 2017.

The deadline for nominations is April 1. Nominees are invited to submit supporting materials, and a committee of faculty and students will select the recipients for this year’s awards. Nomination guidelines for the Schachte Research Award at http://tinyurl.com/jqsc3p6 and Developing Scholars Award at http://tinyurl.com/hr7wplw.
Role model, insightful, encourager, committed: words of praise used multiple times to describe MUSC Interim Provost Lisa Saladin, Ph.D., PT, who was recently named the 2016 Women Scholars Initiative Advancement of Women Award recipient.

The WSI is focused on the advancement of women faculty across all missions and colleges of MUSC. Throughout the year, it offers numerous programs, workshops, mentoring sessions and a newsletter to support the career development of women faculty. It also presents three prestigious awards each year.

According to Lynne Nemeth, a professor in the College of Nursing who co-chairs the WSI awards selection committee, the recipient of the Advancement of Women Award must excel in three main areas: demonstrating personal commitment to the advancement and promotion of women faculty at MUSC, actively mentoring women faculty and encouraging and supporting their advancement, and serving as a role model for others. Saladin’s star shines brightly in all three areas.

Mentoring faculty has been a cornerstone of her career. Prior to being named interim provost in July 2016, Saladin served as the dean of the College of Health Professions for the preceding five years. She understands and appreciates the importance of initiatives like MUSC’s WSI. In her acceptance speech at the January 17 event, she said, “I can’t thank you enough for this honor. Mentorship is something that I value personally, and I am extremely grateful to the women and the men who have mentored me throughout my career.”

She continued, “Mentorship helps us improve and allows us to see ourselves from another’s perspective.”

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, a lack of good mentoring has hindered women from achieving tenure status or leadership roles at the same rate as their male counterparts.

While the development and mentoring of female faculty is a priority at MUSC, across the nation, growth has been slower. According to the report Gender Differences at Critical Transitions in the Careers of Science, Engineering and Mathematics Faculty, published by the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, women are not applying for tenure-track jobs at research-intensive universities at the same rate that they are earning Ph.D.s. The report determined that women who had a mentor did better in this regard than women without one.

Mentoring, research suggests, is one of the most effective ways for one generation of women in science and medicine to impart their knowledge to succeeding generations, and having a mentor is not only an important factor in successful career advancement, conversely, a lack of mentorship can be a factor in a career not being fully realized.

A mentor takes an active role in nurturing an up-and-coming scientist or clinician’s professional development and provides support, guidance and feedback. Having a sincere interest in a protege’s growth and development and the willingness to commit time and emotion to the relationship are equally important — all things Saladin excels at, according to some of her mentees.

“She encourages, promotes, and assists women and other faculty to achieve their full potential. As I reflect on my own professional career, I am able to see a leader that I can strive to become through her mentorship, encouragement and example,” said Gretchen Seif, associate professor in the Division of Physical Therapy in the College of Health Professions.

These sentiments seemed to sum up how many felt about her.

Nancy Carson, Ph.D., PT, associate dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs in the College of Health Professions, echoed Seif’s comments. “Over the years, Dr. Saladin has had the opportunity to promote women faculty in many ways,” Carson said. “She has consistently demonstrated a personal commitment to the advancement and promotion of women faculty at MUSC. She is very mindful of the representation of women in leadership roles in the college and university and encourages women to pursue opportunities to gain skills to advance their careers. She represents a strong female leader and encourages other women to be strong leaders.”

In the College of Health Professions, 50 percent of leadership positions are occupied by women. Saladin created a position, assistant dean for mentorship and career development, to ensure all faculty have a career plan and appropriate mentorship to achieve their goals. Actions speak louder than words, as the adage goes, and her leadership and dedication to their progress and promotion were not lost on her faculty.

Angela Mund, DNP, president of the MUSC faculty senate and associate professor in the Division of Anesthesia for Nurses, wrote in support of Saladin’s nomination. “Dr. Saladin serves as a role model by her ability to engage in thoughtful discussion, provide professional encouragement and create an environment where all women faculty are recognized for the value they bring to the College of Health Professions and the university. Dr. Saladin is a role model for open and effective communication. She has created an atmosphere where women faculty are welcome to share ideas on how we can build on our own strengths and work on our weaknesses.”

Saladin thanked the WSI for its leadership in furthering the development of women in science and careers in medicine at MUSC. She stressed to guests gathered at the event just how important it is to become a mentor. “I echo it back to all of you. Friends, colleagues — that’s what we’re all about — creating a sense of family here at MUSC. It’s what makes us want to come to work here. I can’t thank you enough, and I encourage each of you to assume the mantle of mentorship and pass it down. This is something we all have to take on as a personal responsibility.”
MEET ALEXIS

Alexis K. Nagel, Ph.D.

Department: How long at MUSC
Office of Research Development; 6 years

How you are changing what’s possible at MUSC
I assist faculty with the preparation of successful research proposals to advance scientific discovery at MUSC.

Pets and their names
Cats, Khirsah and Zuzzy

2017 New Year’s Resolution
To expand my toddler–centered exercise routine.

Music that’s in your player right now
Florence + the Machine, but Muse is a trusty standby

Favorite type of food
Pizza, it’s so versatile. After that, tacos, for the same reason

Food that’s a must-have in the pantry
Spicy mint chutney instead of hot sauce

Your idea of a dream vacation
Biking across a European country
Black History Consortium honors MUSC president, students

BY J. RYNE DANIELSON
daniejer@musc.edu

The Black History Intercollegiate Consortium honored MUSC President David Cole, M.D., FACS, with its Martin Luther King Jr. Award and recognized an MUSC student group, the Alliance for Hispanic Health, with its Student Leadership Award. The event was held Jan. 17 on the campus of Charleston Southern University in North Charleston.

The BHIC was founded in 1988 by MUSC’s then-director of Minority Affairs, Earl B. Higgins, as a way to celebrate both Black History Month and the legacy of civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. Higgins proposed a partnership between area colleges and universities to include Charleston Southern, Trident Technical College, The Citadel and the Medical University of South Carolina.

This year’s other MLK award winners included Mary Thornley, Ph.D., president of Trident Tech; Roberta Black, a student intervention coordinator and professor of journalism and political science at Charleston Southern; and Charles D. Foster, the first African-American graduate of The Citadel, who was recognized posthumously. In addition to MUSC’s Alliance for Hispanic Health, Trident’s Roneisha Rogers, Charleston Southern’s Keenan Woodward and The Citadel’s Caded Ra’Shaud Graham won student leadership awards.

MUSC student Prescilla Burgess read a tribute to King’s legacy, calling him “one of the most important moral voices of the civil rights movement.

“As an advocate for civil disobedience,” she explained, “King helped produce the most dramatic social change in America since the Emancipation Proclamation. A partner with unlikely partners, he led a revolution. A scholar and a minister, he found ways to unite the country and its leaders around one common belief: All men — and women — are created equal.”

King gave voice to those left out of the American dream, Burgess said, and challenged “systems that denied everyday folks, particularly black folks, equality.”

MUSC College of Pharmacy student Nicole Lyde presented the Student Leadership Award to the Alliance for Hispanic Health. “Between 1965 and 1968, Dr. King shifted his focus to economic justice,” she said. “His work during these years culminated in the Poor People’s Campaign, a broad effort to assemble a multiracial coalition to advocate for economic change. In 1966, Dr. King publicly spoke about health care injustice, calling health care injustice the most shocking and inhumane form of injustice.”

She said the Alliance for Hispanic Health had embraced King’s call for service in addressing health care inequity in meaningful and impactful ways.

Founded in 2004, the group consists of MUSC students, staff and faculty. Its mission is to provide a forum for collaboration to address the health needs of the Hispanic community in Charleston, including health care services, cultural awareness, student needs and recruitment and research.

To date, the alliance has hosted 156 meetings to educate the public about health care disparities, and every year, the group sponsors approximately 15 outreach projects that include free health screenings, school supply and clothing drives and community baby showers for the underserved. Since the group’s founding, its members have volunteered nearly 5,000 hours and served more than 8,000 members of the Hispanic community.

MUSC College of Nursing student Allye Prather presented the Martin Luther King Jr. Award to President Cole. “It’s a privilege to introduce Dr. Cole,” she said. “You can read all about his exemplary professional career, but that doesn’t begin to demonstrate who he is as a servant-leader or why he was selected as this year’s recipient. In just 2-1/2 short years under his leadership, there has been an unprecedented commitment to making MUSC an academic health care center.”

April Favela, left, and Emily Franko–Tobin, co-presidents of the Alliance for Hispanic Health, accept the MUSC student leadership award on behalf of their organization. The award was presented by College of Pharmacy student Nicole Lyde, far right. AHH members have contributed nearly 5,000 hours of community service since the group was founded in 2004.

See Award on page 9
MUSC chapter celebrates campus’ top innovators

By J. Ryne Danielson
daniejer@musc.edu

MUSC’s local chapter of the National Academy of Inventors inducted 12 new members in a ceremony at the Drug Discovery Building Jan. 18. The group also honored College of Pharmacy biomedical researcher Craig Beeson, Ph.D., who was named a national fellow of the NAI in 2016.

The NAI, a nonprofit organization founded in 2010, advocates for inventors and encourages them to commercialize their ideas.

“Election to NAI fellow status is the highest professional distinction accorded to academic inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society,” according to the organization’s website.

MUSC’s chapter held the induction ceremony Jan. 18 in the Drug Discovery Building.

Included in the inductees was College of Pharmacy biomedical researcher Craig Beeson, Ph.D., who was named a national fellow of the NAI in 2016. Beeson has also been named Inventor of the Year by MUSC’s Foundation for Research and Development for his work with molecular medical technologies, which included the development of eye drops to halt retinal degeneration – an irreversible cause of blindness. Capitalizing on his discoveries, he co-founded two local startup companies, MitoHealth and Mitochem Therapeutics, which promise exciting new treatments for patients with kidney failure, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other diseases.

“Dr. Beeson has made his mark in metabolic and mitochondrial diseases,” said Michael Rusnak, executive director of the FRD. “His academic record is exemplary. He’s authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles. He’s been principal investigator or co-PI on over 30 funded grants. He’s mentored eight Ph.D. students, six MSTP students, six post-docs and more than 30 undergraduates and has been involved in 500-plus thesis committees. In his spare time, he’s co-founded two companies.”

Beeson gave the ceremony’s keynote address. “The best thing I ever did in my career was to come to MUSC,” he said. “I come from a very large Hispanic clan in New Mexico, and I was the first of my generation to go to college. Early in my career, whenever I would go to family reunions, I’d have everyone asking me what I do. And, I’d say, I’m a chemist, I make drugs. And, they’d say, ‘Oh, that’s great — uncle so-and-so has this disease,’ or aunt so-and-so has this disease.’

“But though I was happy with what I was doing, I knew that most of the compounds I was working on would never actually go to patients.”

At MUSC, he explained, that’s not the case. He’s now working on drugs and other medical technologies that he knows will one day go to the patients who need them. He praised the university and the FRD for their support.

“MUSC encourages innovation and encourages its researchers to be brave,” he said. “It’s a lot of fun.”

“Creativity and innovations are the cornerstones of progress,” said Kathleen Brady, M.D., Ph.D., MUSC’s vice president for research. “And when they are in the service of improving human health, they are particularly spectacular.”

Some of the 2017 inductees to the MUSC chapter of the National Academy of Inventors at a ceremony held Jan. 18.

Dr. Craig Beeson gave the keynote address at the NAI Induction ceremony. He was made a national fellow in 2016.

MUSC Chapter of NAI 2017 Inductees

• Theirry Bacro, Ph.D., College of Medicine
• Ryan Downey, Ph.D., Health Professions
• Amanda Giles, OTD, Division of Occupational Therapy
• Teresa Kelechi, Ph.D., Nursing
• Les Lenert, M.D., Medicine
• Anthony Leonard, M.D., Ph.D., Graduate Studies
• Coleen Martin, R.D., Boeing Center for Children’s Wellness
• Sachin Patel, Nursing
• John Schaefer, M.D., Medicine
• Beju Shah, PharmD, Pharmacy
• Frank Treiber, Ph.D., Nursing
• Brandon Welch, Ph.D., Public Health Sciences
Black History Month Noon Day Lecture

“Are we worthy of our children?”

Featuring: David Johns

Former Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans
Former Senior Education Policy Advisor to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)
Adjunct Professor at American University

Wednesday, February 08, 2017
12:00 Noon
Basic Science Building Room 502

Lunch provided for the first 50 attendees

Sponsored by the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Reserved seating available for those who pre-register via MyQuest.
1 hour diversity and inclusion credit for attendance.
For more information 843.792.1072

MUSC
Medical University of South Carolina
Changing Worlds Possible
MUSC Health cautions heart bypass patients in wake of FDA news

Staff Report

Providing high-quality and safe care is MUSC Health’s top priority, and leadership has been concerned with recent reports that heater-cooler equipment used in open-heart procedures were infected with potentially harmful bacteria in the manufacturing process. To date, MUSC Health has found no evidence of any heater-cooler-related infections in affected patients. However, clinicians, staff and leadership want to assure patients and the public that MUSC Health has followed and will continue to follow guidance from the Federal Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to minimize any risk of infection and notify affected patients of the potential risks related to these devices. The MUSC Health team is also working to replace these devices while taking steps to mitigate potential exposure to patients.

The FDA has been monitoring the infection risk associated with use of the Stockert 3T Heater–Cooler System, which controls the temperature of blood during some open–heart surgeries. Some patients across the country have contracted an infection called Mycobacterium chimaera after exposure to infected devices. MUSC Health, along with 60 percent of all the nation’s heart surgery programs, uses this equipment during surgeries such as coronary bypass and heart or lung transplantations.

The infection is slow growing and difficult to diagnose and cannot be spread person-to-person. It is possible to develop symptoms years after surgery, so it is important for those affected to be aware of those symptoms. Patients who have undergone surgery requiring the use of heart bypass devices should discuss any symptoms they may have with their primary care provider.

Symptoms of this kind of infection may include night sweats, muscle aches, unexplained weight loss, fatigue, and unexplained fever. MUSC Health encourages concerned patients, family members and the public to reach out with additional questions by calling 792–5555. A member of the MUSC Health team will return any calls within two business days. If someone feels that a medical emergency is underway based on the aforementioned symptoms, MUSC Health encourages those individuals to contact their primary care provider or visit an emergency care provider immediately.

For more information, visit https://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/heater-cooler.html.

A College of Health Professions student receives training in the simulation lab on a heart–lung device used for cardiopulmonary bypass surgery.

Photo by J. Ryne Danielson

institution where everyone is welcome and feels a genuine sense of belonging.”

Cole said the recognition was truly humbling, his voice breaking for a moment as the emotion overwhelmed him. “Dr. King was one of history’s most transformational leaders, and one of his strengths as a leader was that he kept his values front and center. To me, there’s no better leader than one who leads from the heart, with values as his or her compass. It doesn’t mean you won’t make mistakes, but it does ensure your decisions are grounded in something meaningful.”

He shared with the audience that MUSC’s core values are compassion, collaboration, respect, integrity and innovation. “I’d like to focus tonight on respect. Dr. King once said, ‘The time is always right to do what is right.’ Sometimes as a leader, the hardest part is discerning what is right. But once you know the path, it’s far easier to walk down it.”

“Looking back on my first years as the president of MUSC, it was clear that the right thing to do was to elevate the value of respect through our diversity and inclusion initiative and to put it as one of our five strategic goals. Now, after two years, I believe we are truly on the brink of transformational and powerful positive cultural change at MUSC, and it is my hope it will extend to the communities beyond our doorstep.”

“This is who we need to be,” Cole explained. “Diversity makes us all stronger. Diverse organizations perform better and better meet the needs of those they serve. And diversity and inclusion changes our future because innovation is born from diversity — diversity of ideas, expertise, education, culture, background. I will tell you, as an academic surgeon, my best ideas haven’t come from me sitting in a room by myself, trying to come up with something. They come from interaction with people to understand different thoughts and ideas.”

After 23 years serving the Charleston community as a surgeon, Cole said he believes it is a privilege to be given the opportunity to care. “As the president of MUSC, life has now provided me the opportunity to care on a larger stage. The work that we’re committed to, diversity and inclusion, is important. And we’re going to move forward one step at a time as a community and as a nation. I’ll end by quoting Dr. King: ‘Not everyone can be famous, but everyone can be great. Because greatness is determined by service.’

MUSC Health Care Theater on Feb. 14
Health Care Theater for February focuses on signs of domestic violence and how sometimes patients are victims. Learn about domestic violence from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Feb. 14 at the Clinical Science Building.
Research Grant Highlights

Dental Medicine, Oral Health Sciences
James Cray
A Novel pGicNAc Nanofiber Scaffold to Augment Bone Healing, $123,112, from AO Foundation, Aug. 12, 2016 to Aug. 11, 2018

Health Professions, Department of Health Science and Research
James S. Krause
Understanding, Predicting and Preventing Life-Changing and Life-Threatening Health Changes Among Aging Veterans and Civilians with Spinal Cord Injury, $747,210, from DOD (W81XWH1610629), Sept. 30, 2016 to Sept. 29, 2019

James S. Krause
Aging and Spinal Cord Injury: A 45-year Longitudinal Study, $598,923, from DHHS/Administration for Community Living (90IF01190101), Sept. 30, 2016 to Sept. 29, 2019

James S. Krause
Number, Primary and Secondary Diagnoses and Costs of Inpatient Hospitalizations in Population-Based Cohort of People with Spinal Cord Injury, $598,992, from DHHS/Administration for Community Living (90IF01190101), Sept. 30, 2016 to Sept. 29, 2019

James S. Krause
A Multisciplinary Approach to Translating New Knowledge into Practice to Promote Health and Well-Being after Spinal Cord Injury, $746,631, from DHHS/Administration for Community Living (90DP097061), Sept. 30, 2016 to Aug. 31, 2018

College of Medicine
Cell and Molecular Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
Ann-Marie Broome
Borvo Lenus-Lipid encapsulation of drug assay selected compounds, $104,650, from Borvo Lenus Pharmaceuticals Inc., Sept. 1, 2016 to Aug. 31, 2017

Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery
Dirk Elston
A 2-Part Phase 2 Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of BIIB059 in Subjects with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and Active Skin Manifestations and in, $200,220, from Quintiles Pacific Inc., Sept. 22, 2016 to June 30, 2018

Family Medicine
Vanessa Diaz
Primary Care Training and Enhancement, $2,403,173, from HRSA (6T)BHP300030101), July 1, 2016 to Sept. 30, 2020

Medicine
Carolyn D. Britten
Pehase 1b/2 Study of Pf04136309 in Combination with Gemcitabine and Nab-paclitaxel in Patients with Previously Untreated Metastatic Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinom, $217,763, from PPD Development, Oct. 31, 2016 to Oct. 12, 2020

Daniel H. Steinberg
Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) with the Medtronic Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement System (TAVR) in Patients at Low Risk for Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement (SAVR), $148,200, from Medtronic Inc., July 15, 2016 to July 31, 2022

Diane Kamen
Environmental Determinants of Lupus among African Americans, $862,035, from NIH/NIAMS (1K24AR06840601A1), Sept. 9, 2016 to July 30, 2021

Eric Stafford Zollars
A Multicenter, Randomized, Doubleblind, Placebocontrolled, Phase 3 Study Evaluating the Efficacy of Safety of SLE biologic product in Adult Subjects with Active Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, $438,567, from PRA International, Oct. 19, 2016 to Oct. 18, 2018

Greg A. Hall
Integrating routine HIV and HCV screening into a non-expansion state ED, $321,700, from Gilead Sciences Inc., July 26, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2017

Council

Establish a formal mechanism for University Medical Associates to authorize payment of Board of Trustees expenses. (*UMA is the private faculty practice plan that pays expenses for members of the MUSC-MUHA Board of Trustees. UMA funds were confirmed by the SIG report as private resources, not public funds.)

The review council decided to recommend that the MUSC-MUHA board eliminate payments to cover meals for spouses of board members, reduce the daily meal reimbursement rate for each board member from $163 to $100 per day and develop a formal memorandum of understanding between the board and UMA. The review council’s recommendations will be presented and discussed at the next MUSC-MUHA Board of Trustees meeting Friday, Feb. 10.

The review council members included:

- Board members: William A. Baker Jr., and Donald R. Johnson II, M.D.
- Administration members: Thomas P. Anderson, chief executive officer for the MUSC Foundation, and MUSC President David J. Cole, M.D. FACS
- Faculty member: Paul Lambert, M.D., chair and professor, Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- Community members: Wilbur Johnson, J.D., managing partner with Young Clement Rivers, LLP, and Anita Zucker, businesswoman and philanthropist
- Council advisory members representing several areas of MUSC: Legal: Allyson Abernathy, University Medical Associates general counsel and Annette Drachman, J.D., MUSC general counsel

Finance: Susie Edwards, university controller, and Lisa Montgomery, executive vice president, Finance and Operations

Compliance: Susan Barnhart, director, Internal Audit, and Reece Smith, adjunct instructor, Medical University Hospital Authority compliance

Faculty senate Dannah Wray, M.D., adjunct instructor, Medical University Hospital Authority compliance

Director of Research: Eric Jordan, Ph.D., associate professor, Infectious Disease Division

*Editor’s note: University Medical Associates is currently known as MUSC Physicians or MUSCP.
To the MUSC Family,

In light of the recent executive order issued by President Trump, which may affect members of the MUSC community, let me remind you that Embracing Diversity and Inclusion is a pillar goal of our institution. Intrinsic to this is supporting each other, including our international students, faculty and staff and those who have immigrated to the United States. Through our shared commitment to Diversity and Inclusion, the Medical University of South Carolina is building a richer, more vibrant and more sustainable community for ourselves and in partnership with our larger, extended community.

In the coming days, we will be closely monitoring how this order may affect our community. Any MUSC team member with questions about the potential impact of the executive order should contact Denise Smith, program manager of Immigration in the MUSC Center for Global Health, at fowled@musc.edu or (843) 792-7083.

Yours in service,

David J. Cole, M.D., FACS
MUSC President

The Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will host the annual Earl B. Higgins Achievement in Diversity Awards event April 5, and this year the committee has introduced a new category.

The Earl B. Higgins 2017 MUSC Health Leadership in Diversity Award has been added to the list of honors that will be presented at the event. It aims to recognize health care professionals who contribute to MUSC’s broad goal of embracing diversity. In addition to this new category, the Earl B. Higgins 2017 University Leadership in Diversity Award will be presented to a university employee and Earl B. Higgins 2017 Student Leadership in Diversity Award will be presented to an MUSC student.

The Earl B. Higgins Awards have been presented at an annual event since its first occurrence in April 1996. The awards are a tribute to Dr. Earl B. Higgins, MUSC’s former director of Affirmative Action and Minority Affairs, who passed away on Aug. 30, 1992, while serving the university.

According to Willette Burnham–Williams, Ph.D., university chief diversity officer, each year the selection committee solicits nominations for individual students, faculty, staff and health care professionals who have made a significant and positive contribution to campus diversity and inclusion in at least three of the five categories listed on its website.

Submissions must include the nomination form, a resume and two letters of endorsement for each nominee. Electronic submissions should be emailed to Burnham–Williams at burnham@musc.edu no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 6. Visit http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/dei/ebhiggins/nominations.html.

To the MUSC Family,

The Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will host the annual Earl B. Higgins Achievement in Diversity Awards event April 5, and this year the committee has introduced a new category.

The Earl B. Higgins 2017 MUSC Health Leadership in Diversity Award has been added to the list of honors that will be presented at the event. It aims to recognize health care professionals who contribute to MUSC’s broad goal of embracing diversity. In addition to this new category, the Earl B. Higgins 2017 University Leadership in Diversity Award will be presented to a university employee and Earl B. Higgins 2017 Student Leadership in Diversity Award will be presented to an MUSC student.

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NEW CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL ART CART

Meghan Fisher and Starr Jordan, far left, of the Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry, deliver the Susan and Sam Altman Art Cart to MUSC Volunteer and Child Life Services employees on Jan. 18. The cart, given to the Children’s Hospital, was donated by the Altman children in memory of their parents. It will be used by staff and volunteers to take crafts into rooms for children who cannot or chose not to go to the Atrium to do creative projects and activities.