



Psychologists take trauma expertise to Puerto Rico

By HELEN ADAMS

adamshel@musc.edu

Rosaura Orengo-Aguayo has returned to the island where she grew up, Puerto Rico, for the first time since Hurricane Maria devastated the U.S. territory. The MUSC assistant professor and psychologist is there with three colleagues to give trauma-focused workshops to teachers, so those teachers can take care of themselves and help their students recover once the public schools finally reopen.

Orengo-Aguayo knows from speaking with her own family that the Sept. 20 storm has taken a huge toll. "The day the hurricane hit, I remember speaking to my mom one last time and her saying, 'Honey, this is bad.'"

She was right. Puerto Rico is still mostly without electricity, and food and water are hard to come by in some places. Orengo-Aguayo's mom survived, along with the rest of her family, but life is difficult. So Orengo-Aguayo has headed home to use the expertise she's honed at MUSC's National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center and the Mental Health Disparities and Diversity Program to help with the island's recovery.

"I happened to receive a message from a friend who's a fellow psychologist who works at Harvard. She was visiting family in Puerto Rico when the hurricane hit and got stuck there. She and her husband went to the command center, where the governor and all chiefs of staff were working to rebuild Puerto Rico, to offer their help."

Her friend was connected with the secretary of Puerto Rico's education department, Julia Keleher, and an assistant who works with Keleher. "The staff member told my friend that what they really need is a comprehensive plan to help teachers and students in Puerto Rico recover, post-Hurricane Maria."

Orengo-Aguayo's friend then sent a text message to her. "She said, 'I have a task for you, if you're up for it.'"

Orengo-Aguayo was, along with fellow psychologists Michael de Arellano, Regan Stewart and psychology intern Freddie Pastrana-Rivera. The bilingual mental health experts, who are part of the MUSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, say the project fits perfectly with the objectives of a grant they already had that will fund the work.

"This effort is being made possible by leveraging a \$1.6 million, four-year grant, awarded in 2016 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network," Orengo-Aguayo said. "This grant is focused on serving trauma-exposed children from traditionally underserved populations in the United States and its territories."

De Arellano said that while they're in Puerto Rico, they



photo provided

Dr. Regan Stewart, from left, Dr. Michael de Arellano, Dr. Rosaura Orengo-Aguayo and psychology intern Freddie Pastrana-Rivera have been working with teachers in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

"I feel like God has prepared me for a time like this," says Aguayo-Orengo, second from right. Here, she meets with the MUSC team before leaving for Puerto Rico, where most of her family lives.

photo by Sarah Pack



will work with teachers and school staff from seven regions, representing more than 1,000 schools. "We're going to be training them in components of psychological first aid," he said. "Self-care, education about trauma and trauma-related problems. Here are some things you can do to care for yourself, and here are tools to help care for kids and families."

He said Puerto Rico's education secretary plans to reopen schools after that training takes place. The hope is that it will restore

some sense of normalcy to children who have endured weeks of stress, and the teachers can help the students recover.

Orengo-Aguayo described what they expected to encounter. "Right now, what life looks like for these kids is, No. 1, they all know at least one person who has lost everything, and they've never experienced this. No. 2, they're waking up to a new reality, where they have to go with grandma or

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**THE CATALYST
ONLINE**

<http://www.musc.edu/catalyst>

November "Health Focus" schedule on SC Public Radio

Visit www.southcarolinapublicradio.org/programs/health-focus

Nov. 6 — Segment #1
Topic: Cancer Immunotherapy Update
Guest: Dr. John Wrangle,
 an oncologist and assistant professor
 in the Department of Hematology/
 Oncology. Wrangle will talk about
 medical testing that helps identify which
 cancer patients are likely to benefit from
 current immunotherapy treatments.

Nov. 6 — Segment #2
Topic: Recognizing Concussion in
 Children and Teens
Guest: Dr. Alec DeCastro,
 assistant professor and chief of primary
 care sports medicine in the Department
 of Family Medicine. DeCastro discusses
 the signs, symptoms and treatment of
 concussion in children and teens.

Nov. 13 — Segment #1
Topic: Healthy Nutrition during
 Pregnancy
Guest: Dr. Angela Choi,
 assistant professor and obstetrician and
 gynecologist at MUSC Women's Health.
 Choi's talk will focus on healthy eating
 and essential nutrition during pregnancy.

Nov. 13 — Segment #2
Topic: Rotator Cuff Disorders
Guest: Dr. Shane Woolf,
 associate professor and chief of sports
 medicine in the Department of
 Orthopaedics. Woolf will discuss rotator
 cuff injuries — one of the most common
 types of shoulder injury.

Nov. 20 — Segment #1
Topic: Childhood Cancer Update
Guest: Dr. Jackie Kraveka,
 associate professor of pediatrics and a
 pediatric hematologist/oncologist at
 MUSC Children's Health. Kraveka will
 share the latest developments in treating
 childhood cancer.

Nov. 20 — Segment #2
Topic: Ear Infections in Childhood
Guest: Dr. David White,
 professor in the College of Medicine and
 director of the pediatric ear, nose and
 throat program at MUSC Children's
 Health. White will discuss diagnosing
 and treating ear infections (and chronic
 ear infections) in children.

Nov. 27 — Segment #1
Topic: Prevention and Treatment of
 Frailty in Older Adults
Guest: Dr. Russell Blackwelder,
 assistant professor and the director of
 geriatric education in the Department of
 Family Medicine. Blackwelder will talk
 about the prevention and treatment of
 frailty in older adults.

Nov. 27 — Segment #2
Topic: Vocal Health & Disorders
Guest: Dr. Lucinda Halstead
 is an ear, nose and throat physician and
 medical director of the Evelyn Trammell
 Institute for Voice and Swallowing.
 Halstead shares her insight about vocal
 health, and being alert to vocal changes
 that may need medical evaluation.

Egg allergy is no longer a
 contraindication for
 receiving the flu vaccine

**Fight
 the
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- According to DHEC, as of Oct. 7, there were 93 reported flu cases in South Carolina this flu season.
- The high-dose flu vaccine is available at Rutledge Tower Outpatient Pharmacy and ART Outpatient Pharmacy.
- An allergy to eggs is no longer a contraindication for receiving a flu vaccine. Employee Health Services (EHS) has a preparation for GI intolerance to eggs and for anaphylaxis.
- The flu vaccine can't cause you to get the flu. That's a myth.
- EHS has the quadrivalent (four-strain) flu vaccine this year.
- Localized redness and raised area on your arm can be a side effect of any intramuscular injection.
- Check the EHS website and Yammer for flu-shot satellite locations.
<http://horseshoe.musc.edu/everyone/health-wellness/employee-health/>
- 23 percent of employees and volunteers have already gotten their flu vaccines.
- The goal of administering flu vaccines is to protect staff, patients and families.

**Employee Health will administer
 flu vaccines at the following
 satellite locations (MUST have
 badge):**

❑ **Oct. 19 — Main Flu Tent**
 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (no flu
 shots administered at Employee

Health this day)

❑ **Oct. 24 — Harborview Office Tower**
Room 803 Flu and TSTs
 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Flu, TSTs

❑ **Oct. 26 — TB Test Readings in**
Harborview Office Tower, Room 803
 from 10 to 11 a.m.

THE CATALYST

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MEET GWEN



Gwen Goldston Murray

Department and how long at MUSC
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; 30-plus years

How are you changing what's possible at MUSC

As a cytotechnologist, I analyze cells from various body sites microscopically to determine if there are any cellular abnormalities. Through excellent training, I'm able to do my job with accuracy and efficiency. I work closely with our pathologists to assure that our patients are getting the best care possible.

Family and pets

Husband, Tom; daughter, Candace and husband, Ali; son Tommy and wife, Tina; Grandkids, Jalen, Doris, Kaleb, Alana, Leyla and one on the way

What made MUSC the place you wanted to commit to working for
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To schedule an appointment, please call Outreach Services at **(843) 792-0878**



RESEARCH GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

College of Dental Medicine

Jakymiw, Andrew G.
Stereochemical and Dual Peptide siRNA-Carrier Complexes for Oral Cancer Therapy, \$411,125, from NIH/NIDCR (1R21DE027231-01), August 10, 2017 to July 31, 2019

College of Nursing

Acierno, Ronald E.
Do You Really Expect Me to Get MST Care in a VA Where Everyone is Male? Innovative Delivery of Evidence Based Psychotherapy to Women with Military Sexual Trauma, \$2,064,315, from DOD/USAMRAA (W81XWH-14-1-0264), August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2018

Amella, Elaine
Mealtime Partnerships for People with Dementia in Respite Centers and at Home, \$1,630,395, from NIH/NINR (1R01NR016466-01A1), September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021

Ruggiero, Kenneth J.
Mobile Web Resources to Support Spouses and Family Members of Fire Service Personnel, \$399,303, from Federal Emergency Management Agency (EMW-2016-FP-00685), September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018

Ruggiero, Kenneth J.
Improving Quality of Care in Child Mental Health Service Settings, \$3,100,432, from NIH/NIMH (1R01MH110620-01A1), August 1, 2017 to May 31, 2021

Treiber, Frank A.
Patient Centered Health Technology Medication Adherence Program for African-American Hypertensives, \$2,449,989, from NIH/NHLBI (1R01HL130917-01A1), July 10, 2017 to April 30, 2021

College of Pharmacy

Woster, Patrick M.
Epigenetic Modulators for the Treatment of Sickle Cell Disease, \$753,100, from Doris Duke Charitable Fdn. (2017091), September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2020

Medicine

Bostwick, Carol Feghali and Schnapp, Lynn M.
Role of Pericytes in Scleroderma Skin and Lung Fibrosis, \$2,088,778, from NIH/NHLBI (1R01HL133751-01A1), August 15, 2017 to June 30, 2021

Lilly, Michael B.
An Open-label, Multi-center, Dose-escalation Phase I Study, to Evaluate Safety, Pharmacokinetics

and Therapeutic Activity of RO6958688, a Novel T Cell Bispecific Antibody (Tcb) Targeting the Human Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA) on Tumor Cells and CD3 on T Cells, Administered Intravenously in Patients With Locally Advanced and/or Metastatic CEA(+) Solid Tumors, \$1,568,353, from INC Research, Inc. (BP29541), July 12, 2017 to July 11, 2022

Salgado, Cassandra D.
Ryan White Part B Program, \$1,687,262, from SC DHEC (X07HA00038/HV-6-501), April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2019

Microbiology and Immunology
Atkinson, Carl and Tomlinson, Stephen
Graft-targeted Anti-Complement Therapy to Reduce Cardiac Graft Injury and Allograft Vasculopathy, \$1,868,750, from NIH/NIAID (1U01AI132894-01), July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022

Tomlinson, Stephen
Program in Immunology Research and Entrepreneurship, \$1,138,864, from NIH/NIAID (1T32AI132164-01), July 20, 2017 to June 30, 2022

Neurology
Adams, Robert J.
Wide Spectrum Investigation of Stroke Outcome Disparities on Multiple Levels (WISSDOM), \$989,118, from American Heart Assoc. (15SFDRN25870000), July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2019

Adams, Robert; Kanter, Julie; Melvin, Cathy L.
DISPLACE: Dissemination and Implementation of Stroke Prevention Looking at the Care Environment, \$5,187,538, from NIH/NHLBI (1R01HL133896-01A1), August 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022

Neuroscience
Cowan, Christopher W.
Transcriptional Regulation of Synapse Development in Intellectual and Developmental Disorders, \$1,868,750, from NIH/NIMH (1R01MH111464-01A1), July 1, 2017 to May 31, 2022

Shih, Andy Y.
Deciphering the Cerebral Microinfarct and its Role in Vascular Cognitive Impairment, \$2,916,572, from NIH/NINDS (1R01NS097775-01A1), August 1, 2017 to April 30, 2022

Ophthalmology
Husain, Shahid

Opioid-induced RGC Neuroprotection via Changes in Protein Acetylation, \$1,495,000, from NIH/NEI (1R01EY027355-01A1), September 1, 2017 to May 31, 2021

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Carroll, Steven L.
Combinatorial Therapies for Neurofibroma and MPNST Treatment and Prevention, \$784,876, from DOD (W81XWH-15-1-0193), August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2018

Pediatrics
Chowdhury, Shahryar M.
Heart Failure in Single Right Ventricle Physiology: Pathologic Mechanisms and Novel Assessment, \$1,003,860, from NIH/NHLBI (1K23HL133447-01A1), August 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022

Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Carpenter, Matthew J.
A Naturalistic Nationwide Randomized Study of E-cigarette Uptake and Consequences, \$2,616,376, from NIH/NCI (1R01CA210625-01A1), August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2022

Sahlem, Gregory L.
A Preliminary Investigation of Pre-frontal repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) for the Treatment of Cannabis Use Disorder, \$799,800, from NIH/NIDA (1K23DA043628-01), July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021

Surgery
Taber, David J.
Improving Transplant Med Safety through a Pharmacist-led, mHealth-based Program, \$1,492,135, from AHRQ (1R18HS023754-01A1), September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020

The Catalyst’s Research Grant Highlights column showcases the MUSC research community’s grant activities. For more information about campuswide research awards, visit the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs at <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/research/orsp/reporting/>.

MUSC researcher joins elite group

Staff Report

Chanita Hughes-Halbert, Ph.D., has been elected into the National Academy of Medicine. She is the first woman and first African-American from South Carolina to attain that distinction.

"I just see it as a real honor because I think it places MUSC as an institution among some of the most elite academic centers in the country," said Hughes-Halbert, who holds the AT&T distinguished endowed chair in cancer equity. "And one of the things I'm most proud of since coming here is the work that's being done in minority health and health disparities and cancer prevention and control. Several investigators, not just me, are really bringing national attention to MUSC."

Membership in NAM is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievements and commitment to service.

NAM President Victor Dzau, M.D., in his letter of invitation, wrote: "Your election reflects the high esteem in which your peers and colleagues regard you. As an NAM member, you are now part of a group of truly distinguished individuals who have made important contributions to health, medicine and science."

The National Academy of Medicine, established in 1970 under the name Institute of Medicine, is an independent organization of eminent professionals from diverse fields including health and medicine; the natural, social, and behavioral sciences; and beyond. Through its domestic and global initiatives, NAM works to address critical issues in health, medicine, and related policy and inspire positive action across sectors.

"My first introduction to the National Academy of Medicine happened several years ago when I was on one of their committees," she said. "This committee was charged with examining issues related to breast cancer and the environment. It was fascinating to be part of that committee because I had an opportunity to interact with other leaders in the field to think in depth about key issues in priority areas and then develop recommendations that ultimately influence the policies that are made for health and health care."

Being part of the National Academy of Medicine provides an opportunity for an MUSC faculty member to contribute to that policy-making process and identify other priorities and initiatives, she said.

Hughes-Halbert will bring to NAM the same priorities she brings to MUSC: a focus on minority health and health disparities issues, especially involving cancer prevention and control. This is personal for her: She lost her mother to breast cancer in 1984 and recently lost an aunt to lung cancer.

"Many individuals lack basic information about the



One of Dr. Chanita Hughes-Halbert's goals is addressing health disparities that affect minorities.

Photo by Dawn Brazell

resources that are available in academic medical centers for their health and well-being," she said, "and many patients have to struggle with the challenges associated with accessing care in these settings. We still need to work on helping patients navigate the health care system."

It's that sensitivity and dedication that brings praise from colleagues such as Gustavo W. Leone, Ph.D., director of MUSC's Hollings Cancer Center. "Dr. Hughes-Halbert is an extraordinary scientist who has dedicated her career at MUSC and the Hollings Cancer Center to addressing health disparities and minority health issues, particularly in South Carolina. This achievement will continue to elevate the standard of excellence to which our cancer center strives toward, and we look forward to her continued efforts as a pioneer in the fields of health, medicine, and science in the coming years."

Since coming to MUSC in 2012, Hughes-Halbert has established a collaborative center in precision medicine and minority men's health to address genetic, lifestyle and environmental issues related to minority health and cancer health disparities.

Hughes-Halbert said there's much work to be done. "I'm really excited about the work in our center, which is designed to understand the stress process and stress reactivity among minority men, and how that influences their biology with respect to prostate cancer and how that influences their response to treatment for prostate cancer," she said. "We want to get a better characterization of their social factors and how that links to and has implications for their long-term survivorship outcomes."

Her interest in minority men's health also touches Hughes-Halbert personally. "I'll tell you the reason I'm interested in minority men is because I'm the mother of two young boys I'm raising to be men. I want them to be healthy."

In addition to her holding an endowed chair, Hughes-Halbert is a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and associate dean for assessment, evaluation and quality improvement in the College of Medicine.

She started her academic career in 1997 after earning her doctorate in personality psychology from Howard University

in Washington, D.C., and completing pre- and postdoctoral training in cancer prevention and control at the Georgetown University Medical Center. As a research assistant at Georgetown, she recognized there was very little participation in research studies or clinical trials by African-Americans.

Hughes-Halbert was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Board of Scientific Advisors. Read more about her work in NCI's Annual Plan and Budget Proposal for FY 2019 at <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/budget/plan/budget-proposal-fy-2019>.

Zucker family gives \$5M to help build new children’s hospital

Staff Report

Charleston businesswoman Anita Zucker and her family have made a \$5 million contribution to help build the new MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital in Charleston. The Zuckers’ gift was announced during the MUSC Board of Trustees meeting October 12.

The Zuckers’ gift will support the child life atrium in the new hospital, a 3,200-square-foot indoor play area where children and their families can relax, paint, read and play games away from the sometimes stressful environment associated with patient care. The space will be named the Jerry and Anita Zucker Family Atrium.

Zucker said her family’s decision to support the atrium was rooted in their shared belief in the therapeutic importance of “down time” for hospitalized children. “We know that children generally have a better hospital experience when they feel safe and relaxed,” she said. “That’s why a space like this is so important. It gives them a place where they can work through their fear in a really fun way, where they can just be kids and not patients.”

Zucker’s daughter-in-law, Laura Zucker, has a personal appreciation for such spaces. Born with a cleft palate, she has undergone 22 corrective surgeries, including 17 before leaving home for college. “I remember waiting for surgery when I was 9, and my parents were next to me,” she said. “As I’m going back, all of a sudden I’m surrounded by people I don’t know, taking me into an operating room and putting a mask on me. It was pretty terrifying.

“It gives them [children] a place where they can work through their fear in a really fun way, where they can just be kids and not patients.”

Anita Zucker

I knew I wanted to do something so that other children wouldn’t have to experience that kind of fear.”

When MUSC began planning its new children’s hospital, Laura volunteered to serve on the project’s planning committee to ensure that it would be as child friendly and family centered as possible. During the planning process, she emerged as a strong advocate for the inclusion of a large, centralized area where children and families could play and relax. She and her mother-in-law collaborated with the planning team on the space’s design and amenities, which will include games, toys, art supplies and a stage for visiting performers and play-acting.

Betsy McMillan directs MUSC’s Child Life program, which focuses on the emotional well-being and development of its young patients. She said the Jerry and Anita Zucker Family Atrium will play a strong therapeutic role in the healing of the new hospital’s patients. “Working with hospitalized children, teens and families for over 25 years, I have over and over again witnessed how play



This rendering shows an indoor play area to be built in the new MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital.

and the ideal play environment are essential to enhance coping and mitigate anxiety,” she said.

“Play overpowers all that is scary and unknown. This atrium will give children that

safe place where they can laugh, be loud and messy and, most important, where they can heal.”

See **GIFT** on page 7

Veterans Day Celebration

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. | Nov. 9, 2017 | Basic Science Auditorium

Dr. David Cole, Dr. Pat Cavley and the Veterans Day Committee invite all MUSC employees, students, faculty and staff to its annual Veterans Day Celebration

GUEST SPEAKER
James E. Guest, USA/USN
CSM 3rd Brigade SC State Guard

MUSC Public Safety Color Guard
Video in Celebration of MUSC Veterans | Presentation of Lapel Pins to All Veterans



An exterior rendering shows a natural area for families to enjoy at the new children's hospital.

GIFT *Continued from Page Six*

MUSC President David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, said the Zucker family's philanthropy is guided by a Hebrew concept called "tikkun olam," which means "repair of the world."

"I cannot think of a better example of that principle than an investment in a place devoted to the healing of children. This is such a meaningful and impactful gift, and we're so grateful for the Zuckers' belief and confidence in our mission."

MUSC plans to open the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital and Pearl Tourville Women's Pavilion in 2019 on the corner of Calhoun Street and Courtenay

Drive. It will replace the 30-year-old MUSC Children's Hospital, currently located on Ashley Avenue, providing much needed space for the thousands of patients and families served by MUSC each year. The new facility will provide more spacious, family-centered amenities and expanded services, including an expanded neonatal intensive care unit, an entire floor dedicated to the care of children with cancer and the most comprehensive pediatric heart center in South Carolina. MUSC is working to raise at least \$125 million in donations to help replace its current MUSC Children's Hospital, which opened in 1987. The Zuckers' gift brings the campaign's total so far to nearly \$116 million, or 93 percent of its fundraising goal.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TELEHEALTH & OPPORTUNITIES TO BILL FOR IT?



Please join us for a Physician and Billing Provider Lunch & Learn Sponsored by the Center for Telehealth & the MUSCP Compliance Department!

• Presentation will include:

- Update on Telehealth in South Carolina from Dr. McElligott
- Best practices for documentation, billing and coding

Lunch will be provided to the first 30 attendees.

**November 8, 2017
12:00 - 1:30 PM
Gazes Auditorium, 125**



MUSC Children's Health and
Robins & Morton/Cumming/Brownstone
cordially invite you to attend the
MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital
and Pearl Tourville Women's Pavilion

Topping Out Celebration

October 25, 2017
1 p.m.

Courtenay Drive and Calhoun Street
Charleston, South Carolina

RSVP

Haley Godfrey at godfrey@musc.edu
or 843-792-6936



Dynamic duo a triple threat: research, patient care, leadership

BY MIKIE HAYES

hayesmi@musc.edu

You should not die in South Carolina because of where you live. That's the belief of pediatrician Katie Cristaldi, M.D., one of two leading MUSC researchers in a landmark grant establishing MUSC as one of only two Telehealth Centers of Excellence in the nation.

On Sept. 22, Dee Ford, M.D., and Cristaldi, principal investigators on a grant submitted to the Health Resources and Service Administration, learned that their team's bid to develop the center had been funded.

MUSC Health CEO Patrick Cawley, M.D., said, "I am extraordinarily proud of our exceptional telehealth team, which now, through this Center of Excellence designation, has been acknowledged at the federal level. I offer my congratulations to all involved in bringing this grant to fruition. The leadership of Drs. Dee Ford and Katie Cristaldi will undoubtedly propel this to success and add tremendous value to the national health care system."

Ford and Cristaldi, who will serve as the COE's director and associate director respectively, were responsible for leading the herculean effort to pull together the federal grant application in just a month's time. Their painstaking efforts paid off: The grant awarded \$600,000 the first year and up to \$2 million more over an additional two years.

The COE team, which has been integrally involved with MUSC telehealth initiatives, will continue to work hand in hand with the existing MUSC Center for Telehealth as it expands the scope of its delivery of clinical care throughout the state, in addition to the guidance and resources it provides at the regional and national levels. In a collaborative multidisciplinary team approach, the COE, applying rigorous scientific evaluation, will assess the effectiveness of MUSC's telehealth services in rural and urban areas in an effort to achieve "next level" telehealth.

If that sounds like a tall order, it is.

Being that South Carolina is largely a

rural state, the task of ensuring all South Carolinians have equitable access to quality health care and providers, regardless of where they live, has long been a challenge. Health equity means that everyone has an equal opportunity to achieve optimal health – even when considering such obstacles as poverty, health disparities, little or no access to health care providers and lack of health insurance or transportation. And while that pursuit is tackled, further quantifying the success of those endeavors adds yet another layer of complexity.

Bearing all that in mind, the South Carolina Legislature made improving access to health care a priority policy issue. In 2013, MUSC received \$12.4 million of state appropriated funds to advance telehealth initiatives throughout the state. The legislature has appropriated funds each year since.

Telehealth is an innovative, convenient and effective way for health care providers to deliver acute, primary and specialty medical care and support to patients located in all areas of the state – even rural areas, where often, meeting those needs can be nearly impossible. But now, in seconds, through the use of high-tech videoconferencing equipment, doctors miles away can be virtually at the bedside of a patient with end-stage kidney disease, in the ER with an ischemic stroke victim or at the school nurse's office assessing a child suffering with asthma.

Both Ford and Cristaldi credit legislators for being forward thinking.

"The South Carolina Legislature wanted to see telehealth rolled out intelligently," Cristaldi said. "A lot of thought was put into planning – not how to replicate care but how to be more efficient. That could only be achieved by determining what is good for the population as a whole."

Fortunately, legislators recognized MUSC's valuable track record of being able to deliver that type of specialized care to South Carolinians, particularly in those rural areas with no access to care.

Ford explained that early on, even before

See **TEAM** on page 9



Photo by Sarah Pack

Dr. Katie Cristaldi, left, and Dr. Dee Ford led successful efforts that resulted in MUSC receiving a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The award establishes MUSC as one of only two Telehealth Centers of Excellence in the nation. The pair now will lead the efforts of the new COE and its team of experts.



Photos provided

Left photo: MUSC's Telehealth Team at the South Carolina Statehouse receiving the Governor's Proclamation for Telehealth Awareness Week. Top photo: Dr. Jimmy McElligott speaking on an expert panel at the 5th Annual S.C. Telehealth Summit in Columbia.

TEAM *Continued from Page Eight*

state telehealth funds were available, MUSC clinicians had a desire to help underserved patients in meaningful ways.

"Our first telehealth programs at MUSC were entirely grassroots-driven," she said. "Dr. Robert Adams started our telestroke program in 2008, but even before that, Dr. Donna Johnson started maternal-fetal medicine telehealth in 2005, which allowed women with high risk pregnancies living in rural areas to benefit from specialty care. She really wanted to help those babies."

Directly following those nascent efforts, and before legislators took notice, a cluster of other telehealth programs soon emerged. Pioneers in telehealth, Ford received one of the first NIH telehealth grants, which enabled her to start a tele-ICU program; James McElligott, M.D., established the school-based telehealth program; and David McSwain, M.D., launched pediatric critical care telehealth services.

"It was really the impetus of MUSC providers who saw this need in our state that wasn't being met and couldn't realistically be met by local resources alone," Ford said. "So they said to themselves, 'We need to do this.' As a result, we had demonstrated success in getting external funding to support telehealth efforts, but more importantly, in trying to help people in South Carolina."

And it was these efforts, coupled with meteoric growth, that helped garner MUSC the Center of Excellence designation.

Since the program's humble beginnings, it has flourished in ways the teams could

not have predicted. For instance, MUSC's number of annual telehealth interactions has grown from 1,078 in 2013 to a projected 232,424 in 2017. Today, MUSC provides telehealth services to more than 200 sites in 27 counties at 28 hospitals, more than 100 community clinics and 50 schools, as well as alternative sites such as nursing facilities, prisons and patients' homes. Seventy-eight percent of sites are located in completely or partially medically underserved areas of the state.

COMMITMENT, HEART, PASSION

Care from a distance. Specialized technology carts. Virtual stethoscopes. Telehealth could well sound sterile and impersonal. But that couldn't be further from the truth, say Ford and Cristaldi. It's the commitment, heart and passion of the clinicians and their teams that drive their mission – striving to improve access to quality health care.

"We're not doing this to compete with other systems or to increase market share," Ford explained. "We feel this is a mission-based effort. It's a passion."

Still, how do clinicians personally make the leap from high-tech to high-touch when they aren't in the room?

Ford shared an experience that transformed her thinking on this subject. Clinicians interact with patients through audio-visual communication, so no matter how good the equipment is, there is still a level of separation.

"I was doing a tele-ICU shift, and it was really chaotic. This hospital's ICU was falling

apart. There were multiple people crashing at the same time. I was dealing with all of that, but there was one particular woman who had many end-stage advanced illnesses. She was dying, and as sad as it was, because of how advanced all her problems were, there just was no good future ahead of her. There were no doctors there, and the nurses were

understandably overwhelmed with all that was happening in their space."

Ford talked to the woman's daughter and son-in-law through a two-way camera. She explained that the team at their hospital had done everything they possibly could to help

See TEAM on page 15

MUSC Board of
Trustees Meeting

UPDATE

The MUSC and Medical University Hospital Authority (MUHA) Board of Trustees held their regular scheduled meeting, receiving reports that included a large donation to the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital and Pearl Tourville Women's Pavilion, which are now under construction. The board also heard positive reports on recent major grants and strong overall financial performance.

MUSC Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs Jim Fisher reported that Charleston businesswoman Anita Zucker and her family have made a \$5 million contribution to help build the new MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital (See story on page 6). The Zuckers' gift was announced during the MUSC Board of Trustees committee meetings Oct. 12. The Zuckers' gift will support the child life atrium in the new hospital. Kathleen Brady, M.D., Ph.D., MUSC vice president for research, discussed research funding for fiscal year 2017, providing updates on grants and awards obtained by each of the six colleges. While more than 80 percent of MUSC's research funding resides in the College of Medicine, she was pleased to point out the great strides made by the College of Health Professions. "Our College of Health Professions has moved up in ranking to 4th in the nation out of 66 such colleges for research funding, which is an incredible and wonderful achievement," she said. "The work happening in that college is exciting, and our faculty there have done a tremendous job in finding new ways to serve the research mission at MUSC."

Brady also noted three recent awards to the institution that denote MUSC's research prowess, namely:

- ❑ An \$18 million grant will help the MUSC National Crime Victims Center create a resource facility for those affected by mass violence. <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/newscenter/2017/Better-resources-for-victims-of-mass-casualties/index.html>
- ❑ A \$600,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration,

an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The award marks MUSC as one of only two national Telehealth Centers of Excellence in the United States. <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/newscenter/2017/telehealth-center-of-excellence/index.html>

- ❑ A National Cancer Institute grant for \$6.5 million awarded to Marvella Ford, Ph.D., SmartState endowed chair and professor of Public Health Sciences. Since her recruitment to MUSC in 2005, Ford has been awarded more than \$27.5 million in extramural grants as principal or co-investigator for her work in health disparities and health disparity prevention. <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/newscenter/2017/marvella-ford/index.html>

Trustees also received information on MUSC and MUHA's financial performance to date, with steady and improving margins for both the university and the health system, increased number of days of operating cash and continued paying down of state and other debts.

The MUSC/MUHA Board of Trustees serves as separate bodies to govern the university and hospital, holding two days of committee and board meetings six times a year.

St. Luke's Fall Recital Series continues until November

- ❑ Oct. 24 – Thomas Bailey, organ
- ❑ Oct. 31 – Huey Waldon, organ
- ❑ Nov. 7 – Jennifer McPherson, organ
- ❑ Nov. 14 – Jason Pedeaux, organ
- ❑ Nov. 21 – No Recital – Thanksgiving Break
- ❑ Nov. 28 – Dr. Julia Harlow, organ

Recitals take place on Tuesdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m., St. Luke's Chapel.

The Charleston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists sponsors this series. These half-hour concerts are free and open to the public.

For information, call 843-792-6775.

Being prepared when the 'unimaginable' happens

\$18M grant will help MUSC create resource center for those affected by mass violence

BY DAWN BRAZELL

brazell@musc.edu

Dean Kilpatrick woke at 4 a.m. Oct. 2 out of the blue and tuned into the news to hear the sounds of an automatic weapon firing upon a crowd of country music fans in Las Vegas.

There was no chance for sleep at that point as the director of the National Crime Victims Research & Treatment Center (NCVRTC) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at MUSC hurried into work. With the ink still drying on an \$18 million grant recently awarded to the center from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), his mind raced with how to accelerate plans to get the grant finalized.

That way his team could start its task of developing a Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center, a center designed to help people just like the ones he was watching on TV who were frantically trying to flee the scene.

"It's tragic. It's un-American that people who are enjoying a country music concert get attacked by a man with an automatic weapon and that so many people are killed and injured and scared to death."

His next thought: "This is something we need to get moving with," he said about the proposed new resource center. His team will be responsible for developing a way to bring

fast and comprehensive services to help those affected by a mass casualty event. "Our job is not to figure out who is doing this but to figure out how to help those affected by it – the survivors, victims' families and first responders. We need to be able to respond quickly. This is about trying to really help the nation do a better job when these things happen."

MUSC's NCVRTC is celebrating its 40th anniversary and takes pride in its extensive research into effective ways to help those affected by trauma and crime. It's one reason Kilpatrick said his center landed the grant. Mass casualty incidents inflict a type of suffering that cuts deep and those affected by it often need specialized support and mental health treatment, he said.

"There is something about an event where someone's trying to inflict harm that is extremely disturbing and hard to cope with. Social support after such an event is important, particularly for that subset of people who are likelier to develop mental health issues. They can have problems for years after the event."

And, they can fall through the cracks of a system overwhelmed by an unprecedented level of violence, he said. An FBI study of active shooter incidents in the U.S. between 2000 and 2013 described 160 incidents in 40

See **RESOURCE** on page 11

Reasons to 'fall' into Innovation Station

Innovation Station has been open five months now, and in addition to offering the latest educational and health technology, it has quickly become a hub for innovation and collaboration. Innovators meetups, "appy hours" and software user fairs are just some of the events recently held at this prime location in the Colbert Education Center.

"When I think of the store, I think of MUSC's Imagine 2020 plan," said Corliss Johnson, Innovation Station's new general manager. "It's a place where everyone can come and collaborate over innovation. Whether we are having appy hours or lunch and learns, it's a place for the campus community. We are striving to bridge the gap between faculty, staff and students by changing what's possible."

As we enter the fall season, there are three major store events not to be missed.

PREPARING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS FOR THE MOBILE WORKPLACE

This weeklong event will engage faculty and students, as speakers explore how

technological solutions can advance student learning and enable faculty to prepare students for health care careers.

☐ Monday through Friday, Oct. 16 through 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: mobile security checks on work and personal devices will be performed by MUSC's information security team
☐ Thursday, Oct. 19, noon: ARKit Appy Hour (augmented reality app)

WE VALUE "U" EVENT

This one-day event intended exclusively for faculty and staff is MUSC's version of a Black Friday-type sale for employees. On Friday, Nov. 17, Apple products, such as Macs and iPads, will be discounted an additional eight percent on top of already reduced educational pricing. For example, faculty and staff can take an additional \$100 off a Macbook Pro 13"128 GB. Other products will be heavily



Making IT Great

Megan Fink

discounted as well. Pre-ordering is available now through

Nov. 1 to ensure employees are able to purchase desired items, and extended hours on Nov. 17 will accommodate busy schedules.

Stay tuned for more information on our We Value U event, which was planned to show appreciation for our dedicated faculty and staff.

TECH THE HALLS

'Tis the season for product specials and extra tech support. Enjoy 12 days filled with promotional sales and fun activities in December. We will communicate dates, times and special

offerings as we get closer to the holidays. Pictures with Santa, gift wrapping on purchased items and other holiday-inspired offerings will be available.

Besides our three main events this fall, any time is a good time to stop by Innovation

Station. Our helpful staff can answer your tech-related questions to match products with your specific needs. Additional technical support also is available in the store Tuesdays and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for your convenience. Stay on campus while your computer or tablet is being assessed.

For more information on Innovation Station, go to muscd.edu/tech, call the store at 843-792-5312 or follow Innovation Station on social media, such as Yammer.

Wear blue jeans, shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness

Support MUSC Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery's Annual Pink Friday event. Employees can donate \$5 or \$20 each Friday in October to purchase stickers to wear blue jeans and a pink shirt. Proceeds will be used to purchase gas cards for breast cancer patients. Call 843-792-6228.

RESOURCE *Continued from Page Ten*

states resulting in more than 1,000 casualties.

"This kind of thing is just unimaginable, although there's a lot of data that we're going to start having to imagine it. We can't undo it. We just need to do everything we can to work collaboratively to be better prepared."

The new center will draw on research already done, including three former mass violence incidents extensively studied by the NCVRTC: the 1992 Los Angeles civil disturbances, the 1988 Pan Am Flight 103 terrorist bombings; and the 9/11 World Trade Center terrorist attack.

Some of the key findings were:

- ☐ Certain factors, such as direct exposure and close relationships to victims, increased the risk for mental health issues.
- ☐ Many individuals who were not direct victims developed mental health problems.
- ☐ Many of those affected still had mental health problems months or years after the event.
- ☐ Exposure to the incident increased fear of crime and impacted lifestyles and behavior among community members.

The NCVRTC also is drawing on experience from a grant it received to help the survivors and family members affected by the Emanuel AME Church shootings in Charleston in June 2015. Counselors at the center learned how important it was to build key relationships with relevant local agencies and community leaders to collaboratively provide outreach.



Photo by Sarah Pack

Dr. Dean Kilpatrick and his NCVRTC team will be involved in creating the new center and collaborating with other groups and experts.

The NCVRTC partnered with numerous organizations after the Emanuel shootings to provide more effective outreach. It was an approach that got good feedback from survivors and church members as well as OVC officials, he said.

"We have somewhat of a different approach in that we don't just parachute in someplace, but we try to identify key stakeholders in terms of mass violence response and then

work with the groups and organizations that really serve those stakeholders."

MUSC will be partnering with many organizations and experts to establish the new center. Its academic partners include the Boston University School of Public Health and the University of California, Los Angeles. Several professional organizations will be involved, such as the United States Conference of Mayors and National Association of Attorneys General, as well as other major national nongovernmental organizations.

One key part of the center will focus on technology.

All cases are different. Take the Boston Marathon terror attack and now the shooting in Las Vegas. Kilpatrick said victims and their families come from states across the nation, so the challenge is how to deliver services to people in all 50 states in cases when people return home and find they're suffering from anxiety, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.

As part of the OVC's grant awarded to MUSC after the Mother Emanuel shooting, the staff developed an app for mobile devices that provided psychoeducation and coping instruction to community members affected by the tragedy. That tool received positive feedback and that's one reason the grant includes plans to develop more mobile apps as self-help tools, including a kid-friendly one and an interactive website.

Technology also will be used to broaden the scope of training and evidence-based services, he said, and expand

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS AT MUSC

WHO

Patrick M. O'Neil, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and director of the MUSC Weight Management Center

WHAT

Reaching 40 years of service at MUSC.

In 1974, MUSC launched its multidisciplinary weight management service — one of the first outpatient programs in the United States. And while O'Neil can't take credit, he said, for the innovative idea of starting such a program 43 years ago, he has been involved with the effort since 1977,



Dr. Patrick M. O'Neil is among 13 university, MUSC Health and MUSC-Physicians who celebrate 40 years and more working at MUSC.

becoming its full-time director in 1985.

He highlighted a few of the innovations that he and his team have launched since he became director:

"For more than nine years, from 1987 to 1996, I authored a weekly weight control column called "Weighing the Choices," which appeared in the Sunday issue of the News and Courier or Post and Courier, as a community education and public relations effort. So that's how I spent every Monday night during that time!

Ten years ago, our team developed and implemented an early text messaging service for weight control called "Cell-U-Lite."

We were among the earliest providers of on-site health services for Charleston employers, offering work-site weight loss programs, starting back in the late 1980s. We currently offer these programs on-site for Boeing Co. and other employers, with options for

employees who cannot attend in person to participate virtually — online in real-time or via recordings.

I also developed a weight control program that integrates information from uploaded digital self-monitoring tools, such as digital activity trackers, wireless scales, apps for recording intake, with a subsequent personal review of the resulting data by our clinical professionals, who then record and upload brief feedback for the participant.

I wish to emphasize that all of these accomplishments have been the result of teamwork by our great staff of dedicated professionals."



Sally Shields, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, celebrates a 40-year commitment to innovation and patient care.

WHO

Sally M. Shields, RN, is a genetic counselor in pediatric and prenatal genetic services in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology—Maternal Fetal Medicine

WHAT

Reaching 40 years of service. "My job is, and has been, to bring the tremendous changes in genetics to patients, determine what testing could be pertinent to their care and explain it such that they can be part of the decision making."



MUSC earns HEED award for diversity commitment

Staff Report

MUSC has received the 2017 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a recipient of the Health Professions HEED Award – a national honor recognizing U.S. medical, dental, pharmacy, osteopathic, nursing, and allied health schools that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion – MUSC will be featured along with 23 other recipients in the December 2017 issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

“With the help of many members of our MUSC teams across the enterprise, we submitted a comprehensive HEED award application that detailed an incredible and monumental amount of work and positive outcomes related to our diversity and inclusion journey so far,” said Willette Burnham-Williams, Ph.D., university chief

“We are proud to work in an institution that embraces diversity and inclusion as a strategic imperative and pathway to a brighter future for us all.”

Willette Burnham-Williams

diversity officer at MUSC. “We are honored to be in the company of 23 organizations that have not only answered the call for enhancing diversity and inclusion within our higher education organization – particularly health professions, but that are leading the way for others to follow. We are proud to work in an institution that embraces diversity and inclusion as a strategic imperative and pathway to a brighter future for us all.”

For a comprehensive and in-depth look



Photo by Sarah Pack

Dr. Willette Burnham-Williams reflects on the hard work that has gone into implementing MUSC’s comprehensive diversity and inclusion plan.

at what MUSC and MUSC Health have been achieving and implementing in terms of embracing diversity and encouraging inclusion, visit <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/muscdiversity/>.

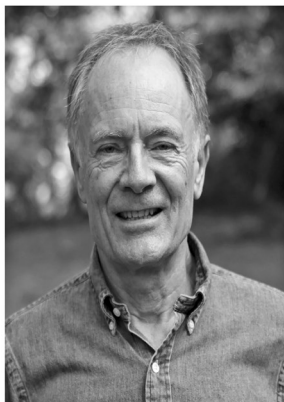
“The Health Professions HEED Award process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes questions relating to the recruitment and retention of students and employees – and best practices for both – continued leadership support for diversity, and other aspects of campus

diversity and inclusion. We take a holistic approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a HEED Award recipient. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being accomplished every day across their campus,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. For more information about the 2017 Health Professions HEED Award, visit www.insightintodiversity.com.

Perry V. Halushka 2017 MUSC Research Day

Keynote Presentation

4:00 PM, Thursday November 2, 2017
Drug Discovery Auditorium



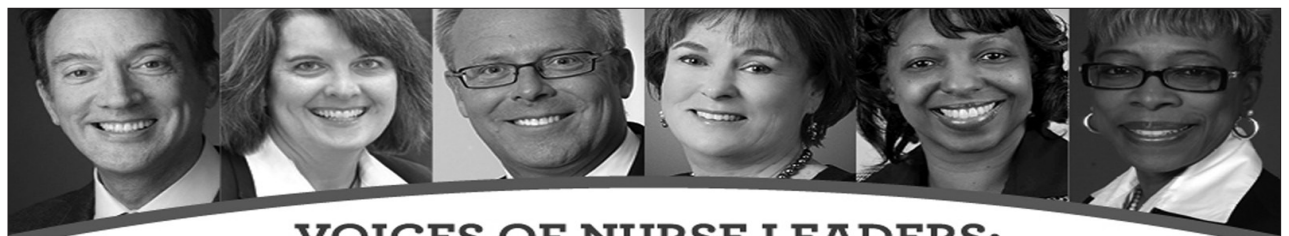
Eric James, PhD

“PfSPZ Vaccine: Translating a concept into a vaccine for eliminating malaria”*

[*live attenuated sporozoite (SPZ) vaccine against Plasmodium falciparum (Pf)]

SANARIA
MALARIA ERADICATION THROUGH VACCINATION

Dr. Eric James is Senior Managing Director, Vaccine Stabilization and Logistics at Sanaria in Rockville, MD. Sanaria is a biotechnology company developing vaccines protective against malaria. Vaccines developed by Sanaria have proven highly protective in humans. Dr. James has dedicated himself to the continued work on the development of these vaccines.



VOICES OF NURSE LEADERS: *impacting our future*

Friday, October 27, 2017 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

\$25 Registration | Open to the public | Tickets: www.sc.edu/nursing

Keynote address by Dr. Roy Simpson

Assistant Dean, Technology Management and Professor
Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

Panel: The challenges in health care today

PANELISTS:

Tina Jury, MSN, RN, NEA-BC
Executive Vice President of Hospital Operations and
Chief Nursing Officer, AnMed Health

Jerry Mansfield, PhD, RN
Executive Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Patient
Experience Officer, MUSC Health

Pennie Peralta, BSN, MHA, RN, NEA-BC
Vice President of Nursing, Roper St. Francis

Carolyn Swinton, RN, MN, NEA-BC, FACHE
Chief Nursing Officer, Palmetto Health

Michelle Taylor-Smith, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, FACHE
Vice President of Patient Care Services, Chief Nursing Officer
and Chief Experience Officer, Greenville Health System

MODERATOR:

Ronda Hughes, PhD, MHS, RN, CLNC, FAAN
Director and Professor, Center for Nursing Leadership
University of South Carolina



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
College of Nursing

*Successful completion of the program will award 2.6 contact hours.

IMAGINE NATION

□ Spotlight on our value of Innovation

It's not just a word, it's at the heart of all we do at MUSC: Leading Health Innovation for the Lives We Touch — our MUSC vision. What are you doing in your role at MUSC that exemplifies innovation? Have you improved a process or implemented a new way of doing something that's been done the same way for as long as you can remember? Have you integrated a new app or piece of technology into your workflow or thought of something common in a whole new way? The definitions of innovation are truly limitless. Consider how you can personally affect MUSC and our community when you intentionally focus on being innovative.

□ Imagine Minute — Meet Jonathan Yantis and Beju Shah of MUSC Innovators Meetup

Calling all innovators, entrepreneurs, students, MUSC researchers, faculty and dreamers. In this month's Imagine Minute video, you'll hear two passionate innovators talk about an exciting new group that offers a nurturing place for want-to-be entrepreneurs to incubate ideas and receive motivation and support from like-minded colleagues. Through meetups and other activities, people are connecting, sharing knowledge and launching ideas. The group is interdisciplinary, ambitious and fun. You can view the video at <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/musc2020/imagine-minute.html> and read more about the group and how to get involved at <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/innovators-meetup>.

IMAGINE WINS

□ \$18 Million grant supports improving services for crime victims

The Office of Justice Programs awarded approximately \$18 million to MUSC to establish a Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center that addresses the comprehensive needs of victims of mass violence, domestic terrorism and other large-scale crimes. Dean G. Kilpatrick, Ph.D., distinguished university professor, and Benjamin E. Saunders, Ph.D., professor in the department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, serve as the principal investigators. (Goals: Build Healthy Communities, Patients and Families First, Scientific Discoveries. Values: Compassion, Innovation)

□ Innovative education conference a success

The South Carolina Conference on Innovations in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (SCITL) was hosted by MUSC this summer. The event was planned and sponsored through a collaboration between numerous South Carolina colleges and universities. The conference highlighted current trends, best practices and future directions in teaching and learning for higher education. Two-hundred and seven people registered from 36 different colleges and universities, and there were 51 presenters. The event boasted eight sponsors and 52 sessions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

□ Oct. 24 — MUSC Health Care Series — Telehealth Simplified: A New Approach to Health Care Delivery, presented by Jimmy McElligott, M.D., 5:30 p.m. — Charleston Library Society, 164 King Street, RSVP at 843-723-9912 (Goals: Build Healthy Communities, Patients and Families First, Value: Innovation)

□ Nov. 8 — Commune Dinner Celebration at the MUSC Urban Farm, 6-9 p.m., www.communecharleston.com (Goals: Build Healthy Communities, Value: Collaboration)

□ Nov. 9 & 10 — MUSC Inclusion to Innovation Summit: Diverse Pathways to Organizational Excellence. Register and learn more at <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/vpfa/dei/2017-Diversity-Summit/Index.html> (Goals: Scientific Discoveries, Diversity & Inclusion, Value: Innovation, Respect)

RELIEF *Continued from Page One*

grandpa or mom to wash clothes in a river if they even have access to that. No. 3, some have little access to food. No clean water. There's chaos, a lack of safety."

The MUSC team is based in San Juan. Thanks to the Puerto Rican education secretary, they're allowed to stay in a hotel where first responders and other relief workers are being housed. They also have a car with a full tank of gas and food and water.

But that doesn't mean it will be easy, de Arellano said. "The first week we're going to do half-day trainings in different parts of the island. That's going to pose some challenges, because you can't get around easily. The next week, we'll do work with the federally qualified health center and a couple of churches, meeting with them and figuring out what their needs are. We'll support them with training and tools they can use."

Orengo-Aguayo, who left Puerto Rico to earn her doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Iowa and came to MUSC in 2015, said the churches are an important part of life on an island where the majority of people identify as Christian.

"I'm a believer. I think God has prepared me for a time like this, 100 percent, and I feel

ready. I have a very strong support network here, and I feel like my support network is holding me so I can help hold Puerto Rico," Orengo-Aguayo said.

That network will help her carry out her secondary mission on the trip: seeing her family and delivering some essential supplies. "My mother, my father, my brother and my in-laws and grandmothers are all living in Puerto Rico."

All are safe, but conditions are difficult. "Unfortunately, I only have stable communication with my mother. The rest of my family members, it's either through occasional texts or someone who tells us something about them."

Orengo-Aguayo collected donations to buy some essential items she took with her. "My grandmother lives in an elderly home in the mountains in Caguas, and they don't have basic living or medical supplies. So part of my trip is taking basic necessities and antibiotics to them."

Orengo-Aguayo said she feels lucky. "It's been surreal. I feel very much like this is a way for me to give back to my country. This has been a phenomenal example of what good collaboration between academia and the real world should look like."

RESOURCE *Continued from Page Eleven*

access to services. The center will figure out ways to reach these people so they have access to counselors who have specialized training in trauma. The services could be offered either in person or via tele-mental health, an area MUSC research has found to be an effective way to deliver counseling, he said.

Community outreach and feedback will continue to be part of the center's mission. The center will be working with Abt Associates, a survey research firm, to conduct hundreds of surveys with victims and service providers involved in these events to find out what is working well and what services still are needed. The way the grant is designed ensures that important research data is being combined with real-world experiences of trauma survivors and service providers to develop better ways to respond and recover from these horrific incidents, he said.

Another part of the grant's scope includes handling incidents of criminal negligence that harm or kill people, such as an oil spill. The new center, which will be based at MUSC, has a broad scope with a massive public impact. That's why it strikes both terror and excitement in him as the same time, he said.

"We're most excited about how we think this project has a chance to change and improve the services that families, victims and first responders can have available to them."

He's terrified because so much rides on doing it well. "It's a big task," he said, adding that there's no more gratifying feeling than to have a trauma survivor be thankful about how they've been helped. "This means a lot of hard work and our commitment to get the job done. It's a lot of pressure, but we all know we have to do something about this. We have to help these people. At the end of the day, we'll be happy if what's available to those touched by these tragedies is a lot better than it is now."

TEAM *Continued from Page Nine*

her mother. Ford assured them they had done a valiant job, but unfortunately, at that point, they just needed to make her comfortable.

"And to have to tell them that... through a camera... They were crying. The nurses were crying." Ford paused, recalling the range of emotions experienced by many that night. "At the end of that shift, I felt so empty — because I couldn't be there. So much of communication is nonverbal — how do you communicate the nonverbal through a camera? I walked out the door and just hoped those people felt supported. I hoped they could feel the empathy I had for them. It just all felt so hollow to me."

But what happened the next day was the very thing she needed to realize she could indeed touch people — right through the video screen.

Ford received a note from that hospital's chief nursing officer who shared the family's gratitude with her. The couple, she explained, felt her caring compassion during their very difficult time, and while they'd lost their mother, they were incredibly grateful to her. Further, the CNO added, her team felt very supported by her, because Ford had validated their hard work that night.

"I knew clinical care could be replicated," she said, "but it was the people part that I wondered about — if it could be the same. The answer is yes. Even though it's through a camera, it's still powerful."

Turning-point moments like this fuel the team's commitment to telehealth, she said. And it's the tangible experiences they've lived through with patients that marked them as valuable experts at the national level.

Ford also credits McElligott, medical director for MUSC's Center for Telehealth, with the visionary approach that led them to this accomplishment.

"Dr. McElligott said, 'We are not going to build competitive telehealth programs in South Carolina — instead, we are going to be collaborative and inclusive, and we're going to have the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance.' He's really stuck to a value-based approach to thinking about collaboration across traditionally competing organizations in South Carolina, and that type of approach stood out to HRSA," Ford recounted.

COE — THE BRASS RING

HRSA was looking for high-volume telehealth programs that were focused on the medically-underserved in rural areas and could demonstrate a financially sustainable telehealth business model. MUSC hit the



MUSC's Telehealth team of Dr. Dave McSwain, Brooke Yeager and Dr. Kathryn Cristaldi displays the Governor's Proclamation for Telehealth Awareness Week.

Photo provided

telehealth trifecta.

"HRSA now wants to see how telehealth can be embedded in traditional clinical practice — not an add-on," Ford said. They want it interwoven and integrated, and they want to see financial feasibility."

HRSA has a long commitment to rural health, and telemedicine is one essential tool it uses to meet the needs of people in those areas. Through its Regional Telehealth Resource Centers, HRSA helps telehealth programs get off the ground.

But that's just a start.

"Where we come in," Ford explained, "is at MUSC, we have a lived experience of telehealth successes and failures. Most of the regional centers don't. They are not wedded to clinical operations or universities, and they are not clinical providers or IT specialists, so they don't have that tangible experience. The regional centers can help an organization get started, but at MUSC, we have a lived telehealth experience and can help organizations that have gotten started and hit the inevitable stumbling blocks get to that next level."

While the MUSC Center for Telehealth will continue its clinical efforts under the leadership of McElligott, medical director, and Shawn Valenta, director of the center, the COE will fill important gaps in the national telehealth landscape, focusing on three priority areas: the impact of telehealth on federal and local health care spending, provider and patient engagement in telehealth and open access network evaluation and best practice dissemination. MUSC will also develop and offer at a national level teams devoted to consultation, evaluation, technical support and collaboration.

Valenta credits the efforts of Ford and Cristaldi for leading the robust team to

the win. "As co-principal investigators on the award, Dr. Ford and Dr. Cristaldi will leverage the amazing work of our Center for Telehealth's programs and MUSC's scientific resources to focus on recommendations and solutions to universally complex telehealth barriers. We are extremely excited to partner with this formidable team to serve the patients throughout South Carolina and beyond to the

best of our abilities."

It was by design that Ford and Cristaldi were paired up to lead the successful grant-writing effort and now the COE. They credit the amazing telehealth team and extensive past successes for positioning MUSC to earn the Center of Excellence designation.

"The important thread throughout this program is the people involved," said Cristaldi. "Early innovators saw critical needs and viewed telehealth as one strategy to address them. These early successes attracted the attention and commitment of state legislators and other leaders. They were people who cared and were smart and organized in their thought process — people who were motivated to make this work because of their backgrounds in clinical care and seeing health care disparities first hand. That's what mattered, and that's what continues to matter."

Ford agreed. "It's a very high-quality, high-performing, committed team. There are all different kinds of roles and ways in which people contribute to the whole program. All of this is only achievable because we have the right people to get the work done. It's really the team that has gotten us this far."



The President's Values in Action Award

Honoring five employees each year who help fulfill MUSC's vision statement, Leading Health Innovation for the Lives We Touch, by demonstrating the five MUSC values:

- **Compassion**
- **Respect**
- **Innovation**
- **Collaboration**
- **Integrity**



Changing What's Possible

Visit horseshoe.musc.edu/everyone/values-in-action to learn more.

MUSC HEALTH SECURITY RECEIVES DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION



MUSC Health Chief Operating Officer Matt Wain, second from left, and MUSC Health Chief Security Officer Kevin Boyd, far right, accept the U.S. Secret Service's Director Recognition Award from Special Agent Iris Joliff, left, and Resident Agent in Charge John Kenney at the Oct. 11 MUSC Health Security Department meeting.

The award was given in appreciation for the support, assistance and contributions that MUSC has provided to the U.S. Secret Service for readiness and excellence in law enforcement.

Photo by Cindy Abole