

Improving the future for young patients

Pediatric urologist sees patients with rare conditions in hopes of providing quality of life for decades to come

BY LESLIE CANTU

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Five-year-old Nicholas “Nico” Tanner has a prank he likes to pull on unsuspecting visitors to Drum Island. He’s got a megalodon tooth his parents bought at a gift shop, but when his family goes shark tooth hunting, he’ll bring along the megalodon tooth, bury it in the sand, then “find” it and run to show it off to amazed beachcombers. And how could they not be taken in by this tow-headed charmer? By outside appearances, Nico is an average rambunctious kid with a bright smile.

But not all disabilities are visible, said his father, Rhett Tanner. Nico was born with VACTERL association, a series of birth defects that tend to occur together and can include vertebral defects, anal atresia, cardiac defects, tracheo-esophageal fistula, renal anomalies and limb abnormalities. He immediately began undergoing surgeries, enduring five operations before his second birthday. He stabilized for a time, but by age 3 ½ he was nearly in renal

failure on the right side, and his urine flowed backward from the bladder to the kidneys.

That’s when Rhett and his wife, Hailey Tanner, attended a Pull-thru Network conference in Orlando, Florida. The group provides information, support and advocacy for families dealing with bowel and urogenital conditions. At the conference, they realized there were doctors who specialized in the rare conditions affecting their son, and while there, they heard pediatric urologist Shumyle Alam speak. It was a revelation. Alam was talking about bridging the knowledge gap between pediatric urology and adult outcomes to ensure that his pediatric patients could live long, full lives.

“He talked about seeing our child not only alive but seeing him thriving at 50, 60, 70 years old. He was looking into the far future, not just next month or next year,” Rhett said. “And that was refreshing,” Hailey added.

The Tanners left the conference with Alam’s cell phone number, a personal touch they say is typical of Alam’s concern for patients. Alam was practicing at New



Photo by Sarah Pack

Dr. Shumyle Alam and Nico Tanner review the results of Nico’s latest ultrasound during a visit at MUSC Health’s Rutledge Tower in October.

“He talked about seeing our child not only alive but seeing him thriving at 50, 60, 70 years old. He was looking into the far future, not just next month or next year.”

Rhett Tanner

York-Presbyterian Hospital, where he had built a reconstruction program from scratch. The Tanners – along with families from across the U.S. and even the globe – traveled to New York to seek out his care.

Alam was always accessible – even when performing surgery on Nico. Though he and the nurses provided regular updates, he told the Tanners to call his phone at any point if they had a question, and he would have someone in the room

answer it.

“His bedside manner was amazing,” Hailey said. “You can’t teach somebody that kind of stuff. It’s part of who he is. It’s pretty phenomenal.”

But over the past few years,
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Making eating veggies
easier for busy nurses.

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 - ❑ Nov. 13 — MUSC South Park from 9 a.m. to noon, Classroom G
- Flu shots are distributed weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (no appointment necessary, but please bring your MUSC ID badge) at Employee Health Services, 57 Bee Street.
For information, call 843-792-2991.

Correction

In the Around Campus section of the Oct. 5 issue of The MUSC Catalyst News, MUSC Health's executive nursing director of children's and women's services was incorrectly identified with the title of associate chief nursing officer for MUSC Health. Patti Hart, DNP, RN, is the associate chief nursing officer for MUSC Health.

Open Enrollment deadline

Open Enrollment continues for university and hospital employees through Oct. 31. All premium and plan changes are effective Jan. 1, 2019. Go to: <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/hr/university>, click on "benefits," then click on "2018 open enrollment."

MUSC CATALYST news

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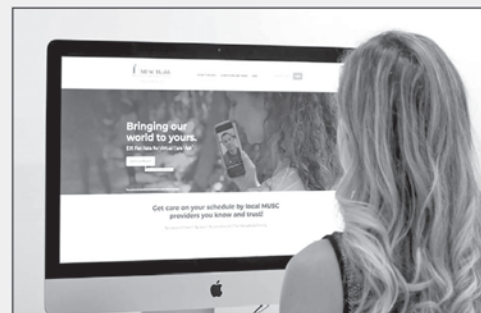
IMAGINE NATION

October 2018

In October and November, we purposefully focus on our enterprisewide goal to Commit to Patients and Families First. This strategic goal ensures we provide our MUSC patients and families the best and most compassionate care anywhere. And not just in clinical settings but in all the places our patients and families come into contact with us — from parking garages to operating rooms to cafeterias, even the Urban Farm. Our patients and families are the reason we teach, learn, research and serve. Because we are one MUSC, their experiences are each of our responsibility. Look at just a few of the ways our fellow team members are living this goal and putting our values in action.

Free virtual visits during storm ensured access to care

MUSC Health Virtual Care, an online way to see a health care provider, launched in August, offering treatment for almost 80 medical issues. During Hurricane Florence, all South Carolinians were offered the promo code "MUSCFLO" in order to use the virtual care system at no charge. Through this promotion, all citizens could receive health care even if their local providers closed their offices during and after the storm. Kudos to our telehealth team for this innovative solution.



Nurse leaders played important role in push for policy changes

MUSC team members representing the College of Nursing were on hand for Gov. Henry D. McMaster's ceremonial signing of Bill 345, which expands the scope of practice for advanced practice nurses in our state. Nursing leaders designed the legislation to help address primary care provider shortages by expanding the health care services these specialized nurses are able to provide. The governor acknowledged Paula Brooks, director of Advanced Practice Nursing at MUSC, for being a leader in influencing this important change to health policy in our state.



In what big or small ways are you making a difference in the experiences of those who come to MUSC? We'd love to hear about your impact. Head to the Imagine MUSC 2020 Yammer page, share a photo of yourself and tell us what you are doing. Or you can email reynodh@musc.edu.

Imagine
MUSC 2020

OUR STRATEGY *for the future*

Simply To Go boosts health of MUSC nurses

Availability of healthy food leads to major increase in consumption of fruits and veggies

By MIKIE HAYES

hayesmi@musc.edu

If you heard your mom say it once, you heard it dozens of times: Eat your fruits and veggies. Let's face it, they are full of vitamins, minerals, fiber and phytochemicals, not to mention being super good for your health. As it turns out, nutrition experts and the United States Department of Agriculture agree with mom and recommend eating a minimum of five servings of fruits and vegetables daily. But sometimes that's easier said than done. For nurses, the front-line caregivers who frequently endure grueling hours and challenging workloads, it's often a struggle to fit healthy eating into their overburdened daily routines.

From the time nurses begin their training, instructors hammer home "put patients first." Nurses quickly learn

to sacrifice their own needs to care for others. In fact, a recent survey of MUSC Health's 2,700-plus nurses showed that 75 percent said they put the health, safety and wellness of patients before their own.

According to the American Nurses Association, this type of selflessness can result in behaviors that put their health at risk. Rushed or unhealthy eating, a lack of exercise and poor sleep all negatively affect their health and well-being. Studies also find that between 49 and 55 percent of U.S. nurses are either overweight or obese, and while eye opening, these statistics are not necessarily shocking.

Nearly half of MUSC Health nurses admitted on the survey that they ate at fast food restaurants once or twice a week, while 31 percent do so three or four times a week.

See **FOOD** on page 4



Photos by Sarah Pack

MUSC Health employees who helped coordinate the Simply to Go program include Debbie Petitpain, front row from left, Andrea Coyle and Dr. Susan Johnson. Back row, from left, Zeh Wellington, Dr. Jerry Mansfield, Darrick Paul, Dana Foster and Rachel Nusbaumer.



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Executive Chef Tim Wickey demonstrates healthy cooking at an event Oct. 9 revealing the outcomes of the Simply To Go initiative to improve nurses' eating habits.

FOOD *Continued from Page Three*

But is that really their fault? Maybe not. MUSC Health nurses on many occasions made it known that there weren't enough healthy food options in the cafeterias, where grabbing a pizza or burger takes all of about a minute and can practically be polished off on the way back to the unit. Add to that the expense — fresh salads and vitamin waters were considerably more expensive than sub sandwiches and fountain drinks.

When you're hungry and in a rush, you eat what fills you up quickly and inexpensively, they contended.

In no way unique to MUSC, this issue reflected a nationwide concern, and national nursing leaders saw an opportunity to promote the practice of "self-care" so nurses were in a better position to care for themselves and ultimately their patients. Energy, optimism and compassion can sometimes be hard to muster when you're

running on empty.

The American Nurses Association launched Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation to support nurses in taking steps to improve their nutrition, physical activity, quality of life, sleep and safety. Food service experts Sodexo made a multi-million dollar contribution to the ANA to fund HHN and committed to increase the number of healthy food options offered in its cafeterias across the country. Simply To Go was born.

ANA leaders approached Jerry Mansfield, Ph.D., RN, MUSC Health's executive chief nursing officer and chief patient experience officer, to spearhead Simply To Go. MUSC would be the first organization in the U.S. to participate in the innovative nutrition pilot program. It launched in June.

Sodexo dietitians and chefs sought suggestions from MUSC Health nurses and crafted menus with healthy, locally sourced food options based on that input. The food is prepared

fresh every day and is available at all three MUSC cafeterias. Each package has a label that identifies how many servings of fruits, vegetables or grains it contains. So in the nursing world, when there's little time to eat, just by recognizing the stickers, they can zero in on what's healthy and grab it.

Among the many new selections offered, nurses and other employees enjoyed the Greek and Korean noodle salads, fruit cups, whole-grain sandwiches and wraps, hard-boiled eggs and almonds, celery sticks with ranch dressing and yogurt parfaits.

The pilot study ended in August. Results were impressive. Nurses improved their eating habits, tripling their daily consumption of fruits and vegetables over the course of the 60-day program.

Seventy-two percent of MUSC nurses consumed three or more servings of fruits and veggies a day, and 17 percent hit the five servings every day. The items were such a hit, Sodexo

Simply To Go results

- ❑ 72 percent of nurses ate 3+ servings of fruits and veggies per day
- ❑ 17 percent ate 5+ servings of fruits and veggies per day

"We all know what it's like when we're working long, hard hours, and you hit that point in the day at four o'clock, five o'clock, and you're just thinking, 'Wow, I'm hungry,' and you run to the cafeteria."

Dana Foster, RN

will continue to offer the new menu items indefinitely.

MUSC Health celebrated the success of the pilot along with several national leaders from both the ANA and Sodexo Foods at a special event and healthy food tasting Oct. 9.

Bonnie Clipper, DNP, RN, vice president of innovation at the ANA, was on hand to congratulate MUSC nurses on their success. She was impressed by the level of commitment and leadership shown by Mansfield; Andrea Coyle, RN, MUSC Health Professional Excellence and Magnet Program director; and Debbie Petitpain, a Sodexo registered dietitian.

She also appreciated the nurses' willingness to participate in the pilot and share personal details about their nutritional habits. "This truly did impact health," she told the audience.

Mansfield agreed.

"Today's celebration edified the commitment, through the Medical University of South Carolina's health and wellness journey, 'IMAGINE-U,' to the health and well-being of all care team members. We believe that if nurses take better care of themselves, they'll be advocates for other care team members and ultimately the patients, families and community at

large."

Adult Emergency Department nurse Dana Foster, RN, shared firsthand how important the program is. "It's always been important for me to eat healthy and live a healthy lifestyle, but as a nurse working 12 or 13 hours a day, sometimes it gets a little hectic, and I can forget to take care of myself. We all know what it's like when we're working long, hard hours, and you hit that point in the day at four o'clock, five o'clock, and you're just thinking, 'Wow, I'm hungry,' and you run to the cafeteria," Foster said.

In the past, she said, often the go-to items were chips, candy or fast food.

"But now, because of Simply To Go, there are options like grapes and cheese and yogurt parfait, and yesterday, I actually had a yogurt parfait and grapes and cheese for my break."

Foster's appreciation went beyond the availability of healthy food. "I think that MUSC has done a great job. I've been here for two years, and I was a student here. They're constantly evolving. And as a nurse, it's my responsibility to take care of the health of my patients, and I'm grateful to work for an organization that feels the same way about me."

MEET CATHY



Cathy Bennett

Department; How long at MUSC
Volunteer Services; 15 months

How are you changing what's possible at MUSC

Through the promotion and utilization of pet therapy. There is much to learn and experience with healing when pet therapy is incorporated into the process.

Family and Pets

Husband, Lee; daughter, Tiffany; son, Lee III; and Goldendoodles Harley (left), 9.5 years and Jaxson, 3.5 years.

Favorite football team

NY Giants — I'm from the Big Apple, and I'm a huge Odell Beckham fan!

Favorite place in the world

Besides Charleston? Germany!

Favorite quote

"It's our challenges and obstacles that give us layers of depth and make us interesting. Are they fun when they happen? No. But they are what makes us unique." — Ellen DeGeneres

Favorite restaurant

82 Queen. I love the ambiance and their steaks.

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MUSC Board of Trustees Meeting

UPDATE

MUSC and Medical University Hospital Authority (MUHA) Board of Trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting to review the enterprise's progress in fiscal year 2018, which ended June 30.

"Sustaining the high-quality education and training that MUSC provides requires ongoing investment in people, technology and infrastructure," said Charles W. Schulze, CPA, chairman of the MUSC board. "To further advance the education mission, this board has unanimously approved hiring an architectural firm to design new dedicated space for the College of Pharmacy and innovative instructional space that will benefit the entire enterprise."

In the Basic Science building (BSB), MUSC plans to renovate 12,909 square feet of space and add 38,348 square feet to the existing structure. Roughly 24,000 square feet on two floors of the expanded BSB, located in the heart of the campus, will serve as the permanent

home for the College of Pharmacy.

"Our faculty, students, staff and alumni are excited and energized about the potential new space," said Philip Hall, PharmD, FCCP, dean of the MUSC College of Pharmacy. "With the board's approval to hire architects, we've taken a noteworthy step in what we know will continue to be an ongoing and very worthwhile process. We look forward to the next steps and a positive outcome."

On all four floors of the Colbert Education Center and Library building, MUSC will refurbish 42,515 square feet. The complete renovation is designed to meet the evolving needs of today's digitally connected and highly collaborative health care campus. New innovative instructional space will consist of flexible classrooms and learning areas for 21st century pedagogy across all six colleges, including an updated Simulation/Innovation

See **BOARD** on page 7

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BOARD *Continued from Page Six*

Center and skills labs, virtual reality demonstration space, as well as space to accommodate the newly established College of Medicine (COM) FLEX curriculum and accelerated programs. The project will also provide expanded COM student support space to comply with accreditation guidelines.

"These renovations and additions align with our institution's academic strategic drivers to optimize collaboration, innovation, and maximal efficiency and flexibility," said Lisa K. Saladin, PT, Ph.D., executive vice president for Academic Affairs and Provost. "The board's approval to move forward with a design concept is the first step in an extended process that will involve additional MUSC board reviews," she noted.

In other business, the board voted to:

☐ Re-elect chairs for several existing committees.

☐ Approve the established South Park Plaza renovation to relocate 300 occupants from Harborview Office Tower (HOT), which the university is selling. The cost for the design phase is

\$5.4 million and proceeds from the HOT sale will be used to defer the initial design expense.

☐ Appoint Ann Lefebvre as executive director for the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium.

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. For more information, visit <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/leadership/board/bios.html>.

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MUSC Chaplain Franklin Harris blesses therapy dog Jenny while her owner, Teresa Smith, holds her during the Blessing of the Dogs at the MUSC Horseshoe on Monday, Oct. 15. More than 40 dog-human pet therapy teams work at MUSC, where they visit patients, staff, students and families to bring smiles and joy in what's often a stressful place. To learn more about the program, visit muschealth.org/volunteer/pet-therapy.

Photo by Sarah Pack



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FUTURE *Continued from Page One*

every time they talked or emailed, Hailey would put a bug in Alam's ear about the new MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital under construction. It's a chance to get in on the ground floor, she said. Oh, is it snowing in New York? So sorry — it's 75 and sunny here.

The Tanners weren't the only one who wanted Alam here. Andrew Stec, M.D., director of pediatric urology, and many others at MUSC Health heavily recruited Alam to Stec's team. In September, Alam transferred his practice to MUSC Health with the expectation of helping to develop MUSC's pediatric urology program into a quaternary care center, a hospital that offers highly specialized and advanced care.

"We were thrilled to recruit Dr. Alam to join our pediatric urology team and expect that he will prove an outstanding addition to the MUSC faculty and Department of Urology," Stec said. "It is obvious upon meeting him that Dr. Alam is driven by a deeply genuine level of care and concern for the well-being of these complex patients. Our patients, pediatric urology and MUSC Children's Health are all significantly enhanced by having him on board to develop our complex pediatric urologic reconstructive program."

Unlike New York, where he built a program from the ground up, MUSC Children's Health already has all the infrastructure in place, Alam said. "Coming here is like being a kid in a candy store. Everything is here. The pieces are in place. People have done a tremendous

"I don't trade in anecdote. I do try and see patients from all walks of life with these diagnoses to understand the long-term implications of the treatment decisions we make."

Shumyle Alam, M.D.

amount of really, really impressive work already."

Alam focuses on rebuilding the pelvis and urinary tract. His patients have rare birth defects that most pediatric urologists don't often see. Nico, for example, was born with an imperforate, or incomplete, anus; neurogenic bladder; tethered spinal cord, where the spinal cord attaches to tissue rather than floating freely in the spinal column; and a ventricular septal defect, which has since closed.

He has developed a heart murmur as a result

of mitral stenosis, or narrowing of the mitral valve leading into the heart's left ventricle, and a subaortic membrane, a growth beneath the aortic valve that obstructs blood flow coming from the left ventricle. Because his patients often have multiple issues, Alam works closely with other pediatric and adult specialists. And because these complex cases are his focus, he is

often sought out for assistance.

"I do a lot of second opinions and third opinions and 19th opinions. A lot of my work is re-operative," he said.

Alam is also willing to meet with adult patients whose urologists, nephrologists or gastroenterologists don't fully understand the implications of their congenital problems.

On the October day when he saw Nico at MUSC, he also had an appointment with a 35-year-old. By meeting with adults, he may be able to offer assistance, and he can also trace their care back to the beginning to see if some procedure was done that shouldn't have been — or if something wasn't done that should have been.

"Pediatrics is by definition a myopic field, because we tend to get the patients out by 18. We don't have a true understanding of the implications of what we do now. We have a generalized understanding, for example, if a child has asthma, it's a very good idea to get good control of that asthma, because that adult will have problems with their lungs. We know a 16-year-old shouldn't start smoking. We know childhood obesity is a very big problem socially, economically and medically," he said. "But we don't have that granularity with the conditions I see."

If the child's condition gets progressively worse, some will chalk it up to the natural course of the condition, rather than considering that a different course of action could change the outcome.

"I don't trade in anecdote. I do try and see patients from all walks of life with these diagnoses to understand the long-term implications of the treatment decisions we make," Alam said.

A big part of why he decided to come to MUSC Health was the accessibility for patients.

"God didn't necessarily give these patients to families with limitless financial ability," he said. Travel to New York is expensive, even if health insurance will cover the care, and New York itself is difficult to navigate in a wheelchair, Alam said. "I started to see that in New York, my practice was thriving, but I was limited in my ability to grow the practice."

Charleston is less expensive and more accessible for his patients than Manhattan, he said.

The Tanners are thrilled he's right in their backyard



Photo by Sarah Pack

The Tanners share a moment of levity with Dr. Alam upon seeing him at MUSC for the first time. They had been traveling to New York to seek his care for Nico. From left: Hailey Tanner, Nico, Dr. Shumyle Alam and Rhett Tanner.

and excited for other families who'll have an easier time traveling to see him.

"He's definitely a unique one. He's definitely a special individual," Rhett said. "The vision he has for building the program at MUSC and his style of practicing medicine versus the conventional way, I really think it's going to help the hospital thrive and become a destination for this kind of care."



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A celebration of service

Awards honor employees who've dedicated 10, 20, 30 or 40 years to the Medical University

Each year, committed MUSC employees are recognized for their contributions, achievements and loyalty. At the annual MUSC Service Awards reception, employees were recognized for 10, 20, 30 or 40 years of service to the enterprise. We've asked some of this year's 40- and 30-year honorees to share how they have made a difference in their jobs and what has changed or improved the environment at MUSC. Here are their comments. (Editor's Note: Quotes have been edited for length and clarity).



Photos by Sarah Pack

Cytopathology's Casaundra Porter, left, was among the employees celebrating 30 years of service at MUSC. Porter was recognized by Dr. Cole and Kathy Cole.

The greatest joy of my career has been the opportunity to mentor many very bright Ph.D., M.D./Ph.D. and postdoctoral fellows. Many of these trainees have gone on to very successful careers in biomedical research in academia, government and the private sector. Our work together has given us a better understanding of how epigenetics plays an important role in both ischemic and non-ischemic heart failure. We have demonstrated that a single dose of drugs suppressing histone deacetylase activity confers both cardioprotection and long-term remodeling and functional benefits after an acute myocardial infarction. Our hope is to move our studies to a large animal preclinical model and if efficacious there, to translate our findings to clinical studies.

Over the last 30 years MUSC has recruited more and more outstanding basic and clinical scientists. *While the number and caliber of my colleagues has continued to increase, we have never lost the friendly and helpful collaborative environment*, making MUSC a great place to participate in the discoveries that will make a difference in the care and treatment of patients here and elsewhere.

– Donald R. Menick Ph.D.

Professor of Medicine/Cardiology

Director, Gazes Cardiac Research Institute

Research Health Scientist, Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center



MUSC University, MUSC Health and MUSC-P employees celebrating 20 years of service are joined by MUSC President Dr. David Cole and Kathy Cole on Oct. 4. More than 600 employees who reached milestone anniversaries were honored this month. There were 481 10-year honorees, 138 20-year honorees, 39 30-year honorees and eight 40-year honorees.

I started working at MUSC March 1988 in the registration department for an outpatient clinic. At this time, the majority of the clinics were held in the Clinical Science Building on Jonathan Lucas St. I worked in Module 8 with Dr. John Buce, Dr. Maria Buce, Dr. Williamson, Dr. Soper, and Dr. Newton to name a few. I was trained by Mrs. Doris Hall. **We were using big ledgers to keep up with the patient's appointments** and the electric stamp plate to make their name cards when they came in to keep track of all paper and lab work. I also remember when we went live on using the computer. I have enjoyed every moment of this life experience working for such a great hospital.

#1988MYEARMUSCSTILLROCKS!!

– Brenda Wrighton

Precertification Unit Specialist,

Medical University Hospital Authority

In the past 40 years, I am proud that I've been able to make a positive difference in my job at MUSC. I've developed a uniform process to respond to regulatory surveys and a systemwide process for policy requests, reviews and approvals. I've also established a survey readiness group to round for regulatory compliance and provide information to departments/units. In that time, I've seen a great deal of change and improvement – improved technology and data systems, such as computerized patient healthcare records and medical staff credentialing; an improved commitment to quality and patient safety as evidenced by numerous recognitions such as Magnet, Baldrige, U.S. News Report; and many, many others. The current administration is more visible in the hospital and community events, and they represent the organization at all levels. There is improved employee communications and growing health care market share. **So much has improved; it is really hard to outline it all.**

– Terri W. Ellis

Regulatory Affairs/Accreditation

Quality ICCE/Quality Management, MUSC Health

My motto: You get out what you put in.

It makes me proud and grateful to be a part of such a great and excellent company, especially when I travel across the state and see billboards that say MUSC Health, because I know that even in those places, MUSC excellence is making a difference. Indeed, I am proud to be an MUSC-P employee, and my years of services here proves that. I love working here, and it does my heart good when I know and have been told by patients that their experiences here at MUSC have been great and that the employees here do their best in delivering excellent customer services to them.

– Debra E. Pearson-Aiken

MUSC Health North Charleston

I began serving MUSC in 1978 with the Department of Medicine managing grant activities. Since then, **I have occupied an office in just about every building on campus, a number of which no longer exist.** I'm currently serving as a project manager with Information Solutions. In terms of growth, active building programs that have expanded our footprint on the peninsula and throughout the Lowcountry, combined with steady growth in staff, technology and affiliations have improved MUSC.

– Jeffrey H. Burdick

Senior project manager, Information Solutions

40-YEAR HONOREES MUSC

Tariq Javed, D.M.D.
Howard V. Peskin, D.D.S.
Rhonda P. Richardson
Angela Taylor-Batiste

MUHA

Jeffrey Harrison Burdick
John L. Cooper
Teresa W. Ellis
Carol B. Martin

30-YEAR HONOREES MUSC

Valerie H. Assey
Alexander Awgulewitsch, Ph.D.
Barbara A. Bell
Laurence Blumenthal, M.D.
James Michael Bonner

Theresa A. Bozzelli
Deborah H. Brooks
Walter Adam Brzezinski, Jr., M.D.
Katherine H. Chessman, PharmD
Sharon W. Clair
Thomas Neil Gallien
Faye J. Leboeuf
Alice Q. Libet, Ph.D.
Linda K. McDaniel
Donald R. Menick, Ph.D.
David C. Morrisette, Ph.D.
Kathy B. Ray
Darlene Lou Shaw, Ph.D.
Kenneth J. Thomas, Ed.D.
Angela F. Ybarra
Sharon K. Zolner
MUHA
Kenneth J. Bachewicz
Lavonna Bennett

Lori S. Betfort
Mary L. Brown
Ronald H. Clark
Sally C. Crawford
Shirley Ann Dais
Michael Haschker
Paulette W. Headden
Sheila V. Jones
Vonzetta Yvette Pierre
Casaundra M. Porter
Celestine J. Rouse
Teresita A. Ruz
Kathy D. Silverio
Nancy Turner
Brenda Lee Y. Wrighton
MUSC-P
Debra Pearson-Aiken
Cindy L. Shanks



MUHA's John Cooper, left, was recognized for 40 years of service by Dr. Cole and Kathy Cole.

When I started working in the Infectious Diseases Division in 1991 to begin an HIV/AIDS Clinic, no one really wanted to care for this population. With the help of Dr. Robert Cantey, we made a difference in offering patients with HIV/AIDS a facility to care for them when there was no specialized care in the area at that time. **That first year we saw 50 patients. Today, we follow over 1,300 patients.** It's been a joy to see these patients have a place to come for quality care and that we've been able to secure grant funding to continue to expand medical and support services for the past 27 years.

– Valerie Assey, RN

Division of Infectious Diseases

I make a difference in my job by always being compassionate to my patients and families, helping them navigate through the complex medical system and being a strong advocate for them. Throughout my 40 years at MUSC, the following improvements stand out for me: The opening of the Children's Hospital; the development and implementation of the clinical nurse ladder program, which was designed to recognize nurses who chose to stay at the bedside; and the expansion of MUSC services to other locations in the state including telehealth programs.

– Carol Martin, BSN

Patient Access Center, MUSC Health

College of Nursing, Class of 1978





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