

## Doctors Care, MUSC Health announce regional affiliation

*Improves health care access*

*Staff Report*

Doctors Care, P.A. (Doctors Care) and MUSC Health have agreed to an affiliation to provide patients with increased access to primary care, urgent care, specialty care and emergency care throughout the Lowcountry and Grand Strand regions of South Carolina.

The affiliation between the two long-established health organizations builds further on an existing relationship and represents a sustained commitment to offer the best access, value and comprehensive care for coastal South Carolina residents.

The primary goal of the new affiliation is to help patients make the best decisions when choosing the most appropriate setting from which to seek medical care. An urgent care center provides same-day, affordable treatment for patients who require care for illnesses like colds and flu or minor injuries that are not life-threatening. The vast network of Doctors Care centers, all of which offer walk-in service, will help MUSC Health decrease unnecessary visits to its emergency rooms and provide patients with an easier transition to specialty services. Both organizations have launched educational efforts to assist staff and patients when making decisions about where to seek treatment.

"This collaborative effort strengthens the relationship we've already built with MUSC as a health care partner in the Charleston region and our commitment to serving patients in those communities," said Curtis Franke, M.D., president and chief medical officer of Doctors Care. "We look forward to growing the footprint of our affiliation to include the entire coastal region of the state and working hand in hand with

See **AFFILIATION** on page 11



Photo Courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater

**Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater forward-deployed four MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crews in support of search and rescue and humanitarian aid in the Bahamas, Sept. 2, 2019. As Hurricane Dorian made its way across the Bahamas, the Coast Guard was ready to assist as needed.**

## MUSC family responds to multiple post-Dorian needs in the Bahamas

BY LESLIE CANTU

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Even as Hurricane Dorian slowly steamed northward toward South Carolina, the devastation the storm had already wreaked upon the Bahamas moved the people of MUSC to act.

Offering aid is part of MUSC's mission to improve health — not just here in South Carolina but globally. In an interconnected world, health

care, or the lack thereof, in distant lands can affect the health of people in the U.S.

Yet the Bahamas are not so distant. Grand Bahama Island is only 90 or so miles from Florida. Many in the Charleston area have visited islands in the popular archipelago and struggle to reconcile their happy memories with the scenes of destruction playing out in the news.

"It makes Hurricane Hugo look like a slight

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Vaping scare

Doctors say vaping leads to serious lung injury.

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Employee recalls experiences on Team A.

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Health and Well-being



PEOPLE

Tod Brown



Tod Brown, M.D., division chief of general anesthesia in the Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, was recently promoted to associate professor. Brown joined MUSC in 2000 as part of the cardiac anesthesia team and returned in 2009 to join the general anesthesia team. He has served as president of the South Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists and served on the MUSC IRB Board. His interests include LVADS for non-cardiac anesthesia, airway management and bariatric anesthesia.

Natalie Johnson



Natalie Johnson has been appointed Associate Dean for Diversity Affairs in the College of Medicine. Johnson was previously assistant dean in this position. Johnson has been at MUSC since 2000 and joined the COM Dean's Office to work on diversity efforts in 2007.

AROUND CAMPUS



Photo by Anne Thompson

**The College of Medicine's Class of 2023 students, along with MUSC faculty, staff and family participated in the traditional White Coat Ceremony held Aug. 18 at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. Students were presented with their white coats and stethoscopes and recited the medical student oath along with medical school faculty.**

Christina Ketron



Christina Ketron, DNP, instructor in the College of Nursing, has completed the Edmond J. Safra Visiting Nurse Faculty Program at the Parkinson's Foundation in August. The program featured a 40-hour accredited train-the-trainer program offered to help educate nursing students. She was among 24 accepted faculty and now joins 300 alumni of this intensive training.

Lee R. Leddy



Lee Leddy, M.D., associate professor of orthopaedics and physical medicine and chief of the Musculoskeletal ICCE, has been named Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics and Physical Medicine. Leddy joined MUSC in 2009 and previously served in various leadership positions including director of the Sarcoma Tumor Board.

EVENTS

Hollings Cancer Golf Tourney

The Hollings Cancer Center Golf Tournament will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, Sept. 23 at Turtle Point at Kiawah Island Golf Resort. Organizers are looking for sponsorships, purchasing a tee sign or attending the awards party. Tournament play includes: lunch and beverages on the course, an awards party with open bar and hors d'oeuvres, tournament prizes, and contests.

Fall Benefit at the Greenway

Come to the Fall Benefit to support the Charleston Medical District Greenway expansion from 4 to 8 p.m., Sept. 26, on the Greenway. There will be live music and a silent auction. Food and drinks available. You can also buy a brick to support the effort. For more information, call 843-792-9111.

Science Cafe on Autism

Autism: a matter of genetics and brain wiring? According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 7% of children ages 3-17 have been diagnosed with a developmental disorder. This includes autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability and developmental delay. Christopher Cowan, Ph.D., will discuss groundbreaking work on autism at the MUSC Science Cafe at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17, Holiday Inn Riverview, 301 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407.

MUSC CATALYST news

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**SUPPORT** *Continued from Page One*

windstorm,” said Charleston state Rep. Sandy Senn, who organized a donation drive to get supplies to the islands via private pilots who volunteered their time and planes.

MUSC jumped right in to help. MUSC Health had gone into emergency operations mode once it appeared that Dorian would make its way up the coast, and teams of doctors, nurses, technicians and staff bunked in the hospital beginning early in the day Sept. 4 to ensure patients would not experience disruptions.

The supply team at MUSC Health had already worked throughout the storm week, but on Sept. 6, as weary team members prepared to leave the MUSC campus and assess the damages at their own homes, supply team members had one last task: gather supplies to send to the Bahamas.

“They did a great job,” said Lisa Goodlett, chief financial officer of the MUSC Health System.

The team gathered a variety of items to

help the battered area, but sutures and bandages had specifically been requested, and MUSC happily obliged. The team also pulled together gloves, disposable washcloths and hygiene kits. Goodlett said the team looked for items that medics in the Bahamas could make use of immediately.

MUSC employees have long been recognized as exceptionally compassionate, caring and responsive people. Having been through the stress of preparing for and recovering from damaging hurricanes many times in the past, there is hardly a group of people with bigger hearts. So it was not at all surprising to senior leaders when they began to receive inquiries about how people could help.

For those who would like to donate to relief efforts, there are many reputable organizations doing beneficial work to help the Bahamian people recover. As always, take the time to research any organization to which you plan to give your funds.

**Go to page 12 for a list of Bahamas relief organizations**



*Photo provided*

MUSC Health Central Supply's Jamie McAdams, from left, Vicki Foreman and Jude Davis began gathering medical supplies and other items to be shipped to recovery teams in the Bahamas.

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# Charleston area sees vaping-related lung injury

By HELEN ADAMS

adamshel@musc.edu

Vaping-related lung injury is showing up at MUSC Children’s Health. Pediatric critical care specialist Elizabeth Mack says it can be life threatening.

“This lung injury can be very severe. It doesn’t have to be somebody who vapes constantly. There have been reports of THC associated with vaping-induced lung injury. THC is a chemical in marijuana. But vaping-induced lung injury doesn’t have to be THC-associated. Severe lung injury has also been associated with regular nicotine.”

Mack says the lungs become fragile, leading to dangerous leaks. “Air can leak outside of the lungs, between the lung and the chest wall, under the skin, around the heart. Doctors may have to drain the air with a needle.”

Mack says surviving patients can spend weeks or even months in the hospital. “There’s no antibiotic, there’s nothing that serves as an antidote. Care for this lung injury is supportive. There’s anecdotal evidence that steroids can help vaping-induced lung injury, but it’s not definitive.”

She’s far from alone in her concerns. On Sept. 6, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that it’s investigating an outbreak of lung illness linked to e-cigarettes. There have been more than 450 possible cases, with several deaths.

Why the sudden concern, when e-cigarettes have been around for years? “My guess is that we didn’t recognize it before for what it was. We see mystery lung diseases not infrequently,” Mack says.

Public health officials are also exploring whether a dangerous chemical or chemical combination has been added to some vaping products, causing a dangerous reaction in the lungs. They warn people not to buy vaping products on the street and to avoid vaping products that have been tampered with.

There’s no test to see if a lung injury was caused by vaping. It’s a diagnosis of exclusion. Doctors test for everything they can think of, including infectious diseases.

In the outbreak cited by the CDC, many of the patients are young, male e-cigarette users with similar symptoms.

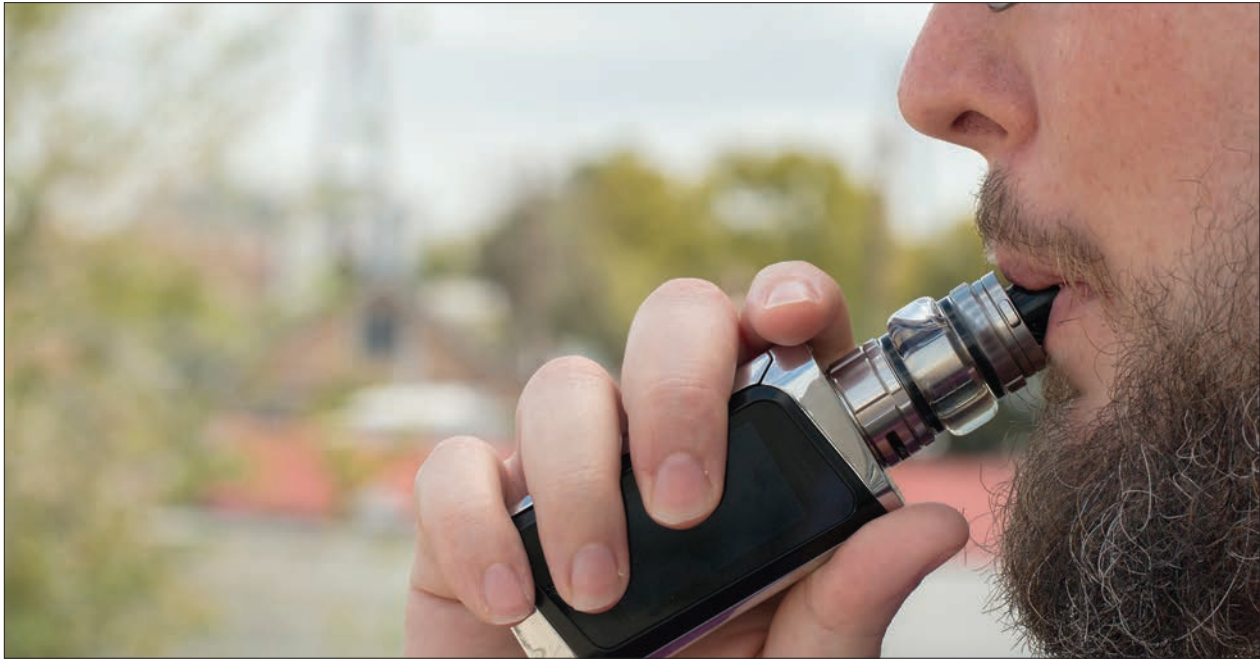


Photo by Sarah Pack

**More than half of American adults who use e-cigarettes are under the age of 35. Teenagers are vaping, too — about 37% of high school seniors in a government-funded survey said they use e-cigarettes.**

In some people, the lung injury was so severe that they needed a ventilator to stay alive.

As for what aspect of the e-cigarettes may be causing the problems, it’s unclear. Some possibilities under investigation:

- E-cigarette fluids contain at least six groups of potentially toxic compounds, according to an editorial in last week’s New England Journal of Medicine by David Christiani of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
- People also vape substances that come from marijuana or hemp. Christiani speculated that the mixture of chemicals may be creating new toxins.
- In New York, investigators are exploring whether vitamin E acetate may be a culprit. It showed up in samples from several people who got sick there. They had used homemade THC cartridges that may have contained Vitamin E acetate. Vitamin E acetate is a safe nutritional supplement if you eat it or apply it to the skin. But if you vape it, it might coat the lungs and cause

serious problems.

• Another report notes that the heating coils in e-cigarettes might release metal particles into the user’s airways.

The CDC says e-cigarettes are unsafe for kids, teenagers and young adults. It also says everyone should consider not using e-cigarettes while investigators try to get to the bottom of the outbreak of lung injuries.

Mack, a spokeswoman for the American Academy of Pediatrics, agrees. “You’re sort of doing a little science experiment on yourself when you do this kind of thing. Just because it looks pretty and doesn’t smell offensive doesn’t mean it isn’t dangerous.”

She recommends that people already using e-cigarettes ask their doctor about how to wean themselves off of them. If they’re using e-cigarettes to try to quit smoking regular cigarettes, Mack says they should consider alternatives that don’t have to be inhaled, such as nicotine gum or patches. “You don’t know what you’re putting into your body with e-cigarettes; these products are not regulated like traditional tobacco products.”

Matthew Carpenter, co-leader of the Tobacco Control Program at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center, is watching the developments closely.

“The case reports of respiratory illness are very concerning. It is hard to find a clear pattern here, so unfortunately the answer is also unclear. We continue to believe that combustible cigarette smoking is far more

## Symptoms in vaping-related illness include:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coughing            | <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath | <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chest pain          | <input type="checkbox"/> Fever       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea              | <input type="checkbox"/> Weight loss |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting            |                                      |



## MEET LOGAN



**Logan Jackson**

**Department and how long at MUSC**  
*College of Medicine & Radiology; 3 years*

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

*As a student employee in a new job, I'm working towards more interprofessional collaboration between groups at MUSC from student to resident to technician. I'm trying to utilize my unique experiences in order to add a different perspective to the treatment team.*

**Music you're listening to right now**  
*The Essential Johnny Cash*

**Favorite football team**  
*Georgia Tech and the Carolina Panthers*

**Last book read**  
*The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling*

**Favorite place in the world**  
*Rome, Italy*

**Favorite quote**  
*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." — Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Charleston Medical District

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Hurricane Dorian

# Neither rain nor hurricane conditions can prevent baby's safe birth

BY CINDY ABOLE

[aboleca@musc.edu](mailto:aboleca@musc.edu)

As Hurricane Dorian barreled toward the South Carolina coast — making a dramatic entrance to the Charleston Lowcountry — a young family struggled through high winds and driving rain to get to MUSC Health. The family was as anxious about this arrival as they were Dorian.

On Sept. 3, Kasonya Jones suspected that what she was feeling were contractions as she and her partner, Carlton Simpson, attended their scheduled doctor's appointment at MUSC Children's Health-Northwoods in North Charleston. Jones met certified nurse midwife Faye Leboeuf, who confirmed the couple's plan to schedule their baby's induced birth on Saturday, Sept. 7. They knew the baby was in a breech position.

Just two days earlier, with projections showing Hurricane Dorian might make landfall in the Lowcountry, Gov. Henry McMaster had ordered a mandatory evacuation of coastal areas for the next day. As the contractions grew closer together, news of the approaching storm caused them great concern.

At around 10:30 p.m. on Sept. 4, Jones' water broke just as outside conditions grew worse with intensifying wind and rain. Simpson made the

decision to take a chance and drive downtown to MUSC Health.

Their commute to downtown Charleston from their home in North Charleston would seem a long — but memorable — journey. According to the couple, they drove through threatening conditions and many obstacles along their route, all of which made their situation seem just short of miraculous.

Both Charleston natives, Simpson recalled the devastation left by Hurricane Hugo to the Charleston area in September of 1989. He remembered flooded streets, downed trees and dangerous conditions. "I made the decision to drive Kasonya to MUSC Wednesday night," he explained. "I worried what would happen if she couldn't get the care she needed during the hurricane and afterward."

Their route guided them down sections of Interstate 26, through West Ashley and downtown Charleston. The drive was stressful. Simpson has to cautiously maneuver the would-be obstacle course complete with road debris, live downed power lines and fallen tree limbs, not to mention the driving rain and powerful wind gusts — all characteristic of an approaching category 3 hurricane.

With sections of several downtown Charleston streets already flooded, Simpson was successfully able to avoid



Photo by Cindy Abole

## Kasonya Jones holds her newborn daughter, Karlah Simpson.

certain areas around the Charleston Medical District that were quickly and dangerously rising due to heavy rain and the rising high tide.

By 1:30 a.m., as the storm was lashing the Lowcountry, they had safely arrived

See **BIRTH** on page 11



Wonderful top floor unit featuring heart pine floors, high ceilings, and lots of natural light. Old house charm and modern convenience. Separate dining room. Kitchen has granite counter tops and pretty cabinets. This unit has one deeded parking space. This property may be a 1031 Exchange. Must be seen to be appreciated!

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# Inside the storm

*A slice of life inside (and out of) the walls of a hospital during a major hurricane*

**Editor's Note:** Public Relations writer Bryce Donovan shares a first-hand account of weathering the storm at MUSC.

By **BRYCE DONOVAN**

[donovanb@musc.edu](mailto:donovanb@musc.edu)

People always ask me what it's like being in public relations.

I'm just kidding. Literally no one has ever asked me that question in my entire life.

Not even my family. I honestly think my mom has convinced herself I'm a doctor because I work at a hospital.

Anyway, that was BEFORE Hurricane Dorian.

As a member of Team A at the Medical University of South Carolina, I am considered essential staff (take that, Mom!) and expected to ride out any major storm at the hospital with

core administrators and clinicians. As a storyteller, it's my duty to document what is going on, to let people both inside and outside of the hospital walls know everything is OK as well as share the tales of courage, heroism and human decency that define what MUSC stands for. Plus, it got me away from my kids for 48 hours.

So last Wednesday morning, when it was obvious that Hurricane Dorian was going to affect the Lowcountry, I packed my sleeping bag, camera and Cool Ranch Doritos and drove to the hospital before the first bands of the storm arrived. Joining me were my boss, Public Affairs and Media Relations director, Heather Woolwine; MUSC Catalyst News editor, Cindy Abole; and media relations coordinator, Tony Ciuffo.

I would be crashing in Room 299 of

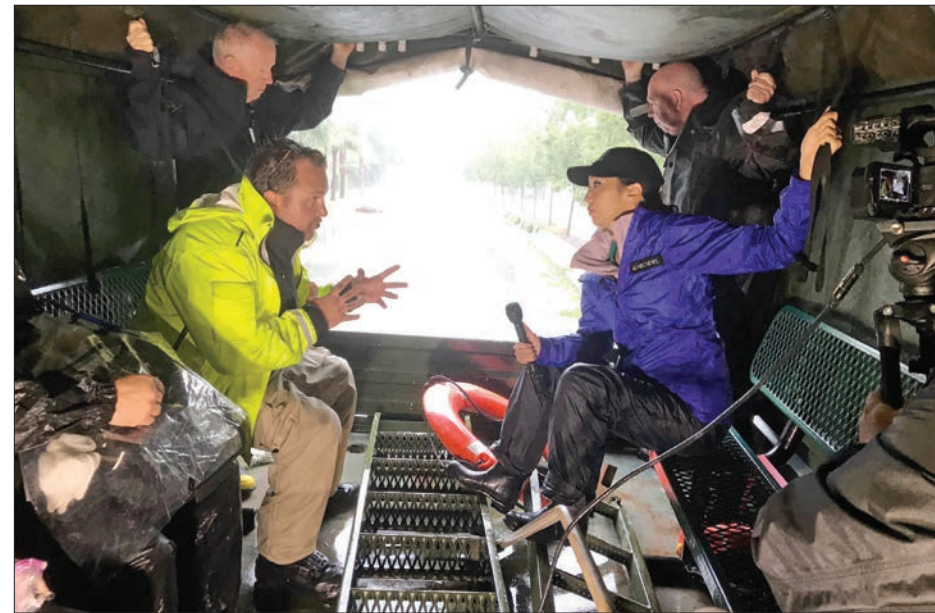


Photo by Bryce Donovan

**Office of Public Safety Emergency manager Bryan Wood, second left, is interviewed by NBC network reporter Kathy Park aboard Big Blue, MUSC's light medium tactical vehicle.**

University Hospital, an administrative office with just enough room on the floor for my air mattress and 25 of my favorite stuffed animals. I didn't know it at the time, but this would become my

home for the next two days. If you've ever been on a cruise ship before, it's just like that. Only without the shore

See **STORM** on page 10

## David Kent and Charlotte Lemon



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# Close call: Hurricane Dorian tests MUSC preparation, response

Staff Report

The Charleston Lowcountry, collectively fatigued from battering down the hatches for previous years’ storms Florence, Irma, Matthew, went into prep mode once again when Gov. Henry McMaster issued a mandatory evacuation for coastal counties to begin on Monday, Sept. 2. MUSC and MUSC Health leaders and emergency management teams had already been monitoring the storm and preparing for all contingencies. They initiated emergency operations mode as Hurricane Dorian

inflicted incalculable devastation on the Bahamas, and severe flooding, resulting from a potential seven-foot storm-surge, became a real possibility for downtown Charleston.

Leaders closed the university and canceled classes, and Team A members were notified they would be activated as of 7 a.m. Sept 4. Those who worked the storm were provided sleep and shower accommodations as well as meals and off-duty activities. The “all clear” was given as of Thursday evening at 7 p.m., with normal hospital operations resuming as of 7 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 8. MUSC, relieved to have missed the brunt of Dorian, hadn’t missed a beat. As officials reiterated throughout the weather event, the safety of employees, patients and families, was, as always, their number one priority.



MUSC Health leaders visit University Hospital units to distribute items and provide moral support before the storm.



Top photo: MUSC Health Care Team A members reported on Sept. 4 and were prepared to shelter in place for up to 96 hours. Center photo: Off-duty Team A employees enjoyed karaoke, movies and other entertainment around the hospital. Bottom photo: The Engineering and Facilities team remove storm barriers erected for building entrances on Ashley Avenue.

Grounds and Paint Shop employees perform clean up around the Horseshoe on Sept. 6.



Photos by  
Cindy Abole  
and Bryce  
Donovan



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# Push Up for a Cause: Support communities in schools, at risk youths

The Push-Up & Up Challenge is a Charleston event developed to raise awareness and money for Communities in Schools dropout prevention. Sponsored by the Medical University of South Carolina, the 7th annual Charleston challenge will be held downtown on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 9 a.m. in Cool Blow Park across from Revelry Brewing. The first pushups are set to begin at 9:20 a.m. This fun, family-friendly event is a healthy fundraiser like no other in town.

MUSC has served as a leading sponsor of this event since its inception and has assisted in raising over \$250,000 to fund programming designed to support at-risk youth in the Lowcountry, ultimately helping more than 8,000 thrive in school, at home and in their communities.

As presenting sponsor, MUSC Health's role in the Push-Up & Up Challenge isn't just monetary. Our role is to support the mission to raise awareness and money to support proven

programs in dropout prevention. Our goal is to have as many MUSC care team members participating in the event as possible, particularly as this mission is in perfect alignment with the enterprisewide goal of cultivating healthy communities.

In this year's new and improved Push-Up & Up event, teams of six from the Tri-county community will battle to complete as many pushups as possible in 30 minutes. There are three divisions: competitive, open and school. The school division will compete for 20 minutes and includes middle and high school students from any of the public and private schools in the Tri-county area. Anyone can compete in the competitive and open divisions, which only differ in judging strictness.

The event will feature live music, local food trucks, a wide variety of community vendors, appearances by celebrities and local athletes, live radio broadcasting, giveaways and more. Additionally, there will be a party immediately following

the event at Revelry Brewing where a portion of sales will be donated to Community in Schools.

To join the MUSC Push-Up and Up Challenge:

- ❑ Start a team: Teams of six people can sign up for the Push-Up & Up Challenge at <https://www.cischarleston.org/pushup>. We encourage you to include your department name and make sure "MUSC" is somewhere in the team name so that all of the MUSC teams are visible and accounted for during the event.
- ❑ Start fundraising: Use the tools provided on the Push-Up & Up website to request donations from friends and family. Prizes will be awarded to the team with the most donations, and all of the money raised goes to a great cause that benefits Lowcountry kids.
- ❑ Start training: Assemble your team and begin to train for the main Push-Up & Up event. Encourage your teammates

## MUSC Health & Well-Being

By Susan L. Johnson, Ph.D.,  
MUSC Office of Health  
Promotion



and fellow care team members to do the same.

- ❑ Use team building: Hold team training sessions to help motivate participation, accomplish training goals and prepare for the big event. Take a picture of a team training session and share it on social media, tagging both Communities in Schools and MUSC to help to spread the word about this amazing event.

For information on team sponsorships or register for Push-Up & Up, visit <https://www.cischarleston.org/pushup> or contact MUSC wellness coordinator Kaitlin DaPore at [daporek@muscedu](mailto:daporek@muscedu).

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STORM *Continued from Page Seven*

excursions or swimming pools or mimosa bar or ... you know what? Forget I even mentioned that.

After getting settled, I made my way to the MUSC Command Center – a conference room filled with dozens of higher-up MUSC folks charged with handling any and all issues the hospital might face before, during and after the storm.

As soon as I walked in, it was like something right out of a movie – tons of people crammed around a table, talking and strategizing, while on the walls surrounding them were TVs displaying local news, weather and a CCTV feed of 16 cameras from around campus. In neat little stacks on the table were healthy snacks and water. Well, sort of. You see, in times of high stress, even doctors have been known to eat garbage. Hey, we’re human.

Before I could get my hands on some Cheese Whiz (relax, I’m pretty sure it was organic) I fell in with President David Cole and other hospital leaders – Tom Crawford, Patti Hart, Eugene Hong, Phillip Warr and Peter Zwerner – to make the rounds. It’s a way for leadership to let employees know that they’re there too, and they appreciate the sacrifices everybody makes to continue to provide top-level care, even – heck, especially – in the face of a natural disaster. And I’m not just saying this because I hope he reads it and gives me a raise, but Dr. Cole’s presence really did seem to make a positive impact on everybody he and his crew visited.

A few hours later, back in the Command Center, things took a turn for the worse as the storm’s path shifted slightly west, putting Charleston more directly in the crosshairs. Based on the looks of the faces around me, it was going to be a long and stressful night. At least for the people in that room.

Six floors up, in the auditorium of the Storm Eye Institute, dozens of off-duty employees had a different idea of how the night was going to go. They were gathered for a little late-night karaoke. Now if you thought that a bunch of people cooped up in a hospital during a hurricane singing Journey and Cardi B to one another would be awkward, you



*Photos by Bryce Donovan*  
**Top photo: Dr. Lakshmi Katikaneni takes in a quiet moment inside the Ashley Avenue crosswalk the morning of Sept. 5 as Hurricane Dorian brings wind, rain and rising water outside. Right photo: Hospital Emergency Operations Center was staffed 24/7 as leaders monitored everything from weather, state and local area emergency planning to patient care employee resources and storm prep/recovery.**

would be right on the money. But you know what? It was also really fun. The folks in that room – many of whom had never even met one another before that night – bonded through music, off-key voices and uncontrollable laughter. It was a perfect counter to the storm that raged outside.

Eight hours later, I woke up to what smelled like a rotting animal. Turned out it was me. Not to be dramatic, but I potentially could have robbed a bank with my breath. Anyway, I caught a break when Cindy told me about an open room on the same floor with a shower. Well, more accurately Cindy and Tony caught a break, since they were the ones sharing a suite with my stink.

Once back in the Command Center (where I once again resembled a human being), the room was abuzz. There was a glimmer of hope that, weather-wise, we might get lucky. A slightly lower-than-expected high tide a few hours earlier, had given rise to more positive thinking. Even still, as the sun began to rise, it became obvious that the wind was picking up and the waters, slowly rising. Naturally, I decided to go outside.

In addition to its reputation for world-class health care, MUSC has a few toys, like its light medium tactical

vehicle – basically a Humvee on steroids – called Big Blue that can drive through up to four feet of water. If staff or patients need transport from one part of the campus to another, it’s at the ready. Tony and I snagged MUSC emergency manager Bryan Wood and headed out to survey the roads.

Somewhere along the line, I got the brilliant idea to hop out and shoot a video of the truck driving by. Minutes later, as a tidal wave of God-knows-what showered down on me, I started to question my intelligence. But there was an upside to potentially getting pneumonia and dysentery, because the video I shot ended up on NBC Nightly


News that day. Not to brag, but Lester Holt and I are best friends now.

Later, as the wind finally died down and the rain began to wane, it was evident that Charleston was spared Mother Nature’s full wrath. But it was a great opportunity for MUSC to see what it’s made of. The answer: We’re solid.

So God forbid – but when the next one of these things is bearing down on South Carolina, just know we will be ready.


And I’ll be right there leading the way. Sure, it’ll kill me to miss another episode of “PAW Patrol,” but hey, these are the kind of sacrifices you make when you’re in public relations.

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## AFFILIATION *Continued from Page One*

MUSC to increase access to all levels of treatment for residents in these regions.”

The new affiliation is effective immediately and includes 10 Doctors Care urgent care locations in the Tri-county Charleston region.

“Access to health care resources is a top patient concern,” said MUSC Health Primary Care Integrated Center of Clinical Excellence chief Terrence E. Steyer, M.D. “We are pleased to work collaboratively with

our colleagues at Doctors Care to provide education and information to help patients make the best care decisions possible. Our goal is to improve the health of South Carolinians by working together.”

## VAPING *Continued from Page Four*

dangerous than is use of an e-cigarette with nicotine within. But these reports clearly show that vaping is not entirely safe,” Carpenter says.

“Children and non-smokers should not be using any nicotine device, period. As for adult smokers, use of e-cigarettes is not approved by the FDA for smoking cessation, and if they decide to use e-cigarettes, they should do so cautiously and through reputable products and sources. Vaping of THC can introduce additional health consequences, and should be avoided by everyone.”

## BIRTH *Continued from Page Six*

at their destination and were quickly whisked away to Labor and Delivery, where staff attended to them immediately.

Upon examination, Jones was already 7 centimeters dilated, but the baby’s head was up and positioned high in the uterus. The doctors and staff also worried about the possibility of shoulder dystocia — a condition in which one of the baby’s shoulders can get stuck behind the mother’s pelvic bone.

After almost 12 hours of labor, Jones consented to a cesarean section, and at 12:02 a.m. on Sept. 6, she and Simpson welcomed their newborn daughter, Karlah Simpson. Both were ecstatic to share the news of Karlah’s birth with family and friends, especially the couple’s children — Karmen, 16, and Carson, 18 months old.

“She’s so beautiful — a perfect blessing,” said Jones, looking down at her tiny daughter. “We’re so happy that everything went well throughout this entire experience.”

Letter from the  
Office of the

# PRESIDENT

## Message from President Cole: **Facing challenges**

In terms of impact, innovation and influence, MUSC is poised to step to the next level as a preeminent academic health care institution. For us to embrace the future, however, we must successfully face a number of external challenges, including changing models of federal support and access, an overarching decrease in revenue streams across all three missions, increasing regulatory requirements and rising expenses to name a few. Furthermore, we have historical internal challenges that have kept us from becoming our best. For instance, we face a complex and sometimes fractured organizational structure, outdated buildings and technologies and competing internal priorities. So the big question is: “Can we move forward in face of these challenging times?”

Spoiler alert: The answer is emphatically **YES**. The truth is that we must embrace the future. Every generation has its challenges and opportunities, and these are ours. We have momentum and significant advantages such as transformational technologies; an admirable level of respect in the community; and brand impact that reflects our mission excellence, emerging partnerships and most critically, our talented people.

Of all of our options, the riskiest strategy is to do nothing. We must **transform** ourselves as an academic health center and **grow** our resources strategically to prepare for the future.

### MUSC's response

#### 1. **We must grow to be relevant in the future.**

As an academic health care organization, our best future self must be able to deliver value based, effective, patient-centered care. This requires that we have enough depth and breadth as a system to assure the best local care with our partners, system integration that enables the right patients to get to us when our care is needed and enough size and scale to provide a stable financial platform. It is only with a robust forward-facing health system that we are able to support and truly fulfill our tripartite mission. As an equal imperative, we must grow innovative educational and integrated research platforms that are also forward-facing. To embrace this commitment fully, we are identifying technologies, infrastructures, new partners and approaches that drive improvement and innovation. We aren’t alone on this new path forward as our peer academic health organizations are facing similar challenges in a complex environment.

#### 2. **We must lead change to define the future.**

Our purpose is not merely to provide the best care

possible today. Our purpose is to lead the way forward. We must provide the best care, and we must educate and create future leaders and harness innovation to change the future for the lives we touch.

There are many dimensions to developing a culture of innovation and driving change, but the intellectual resources fueling our educational and research missions are essential. In fact, they are our greatest differentiators. As recognized innovators, we provide higher value, purpose and impact than our peers and competitors.

3. **We must partner strategically to enable the future.** To be prepared for the future, it is essential that we leverage and grow our resources strategically. Doing so in partnership often helps us expedite the achievement of our goals and become more effective and efficient. But beyond these tactics, it is important that we actively pursue and enable partnerships that create synergy. Because of what we bring to the table, we are now able to develop strategic industry, education and community partnerships that amplify impact, mitigate risk and fill gaps. Together our impact can be greater.

**Remember:** We are The Medical University of South Carolina. Take pride in who we are and the impact that we have on lives every day. As the only academic health sciences center in South Carolina, MUSC is extending its reach to every corner of the state. Through our pursuit of new innovations, facilities, partnerships and approaches, we are better positioned to deliver our education and health care services to those who need it.

**Each of you** is integral to our response to the challenges that we face, and I’m proud of our collective work in creating a preeminent and innovative academic health system. Thank you for all you do on a daily basis to change what’s possible.

Yours in service,

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



**Dr. David Cole**



### Hurricane Dorian Relief Efforts in the Bahamas

Note: To have maximum effect, donors may want to direct relief efforts to organizations that understand the current needs and have a ground-level presence to implement.

- ❑ **Lowcountry-based Southeast Rescue & Relief**, which was formed in the wake of the hurricanes of the last few years, has been on the ground in Marsh Harbour, Treasure Cay and Hope Town cooking, assisting and quickly pivoting to respond to needs as they arise. Donations should be marked for the Bahamas as the group responds throughout the Southeast: [southeastrelief.org/](http://southeastrelief.org/).
- ❑ **The Bahamas Disaster Relief Fund**: This is an official fund of the National Emergency Management Agency of the government of the Bahamas. Go to [Bahamas.gov.bs](http://Bahamas.gov.bs) and click on the “NEMA financial donations” link on the right side of the page.
- ❑ **National Association of the Bahamas**: This is a Miami-based group of Bahamians that is responding with non-perishable food, clothing and toiletries: [nabmiami.org/donate/](http://nabmiami.org/donate/).
- ❑ **Grand Bahama Disaster Relief via the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina**: This group was established by the GB Port Authority to distribute relief to individuals, churches, charities and shelters on Grand Bahama Island. The Coastal Community Foundation, based in North Charleston, is handling donations: [coastalcommunityfoundation.org/grand-bahama-disaster-relief-fund/](http://coastalcommunityfoundation.org/grand-bahama-disaster-relief-fund/).
- ❑ **Bahamas Red Cross**: The Bahamas Red Cross is on the ground helping those affected by Hurricane Dorian: [bahamasredcross.org](http://bahamasredcross.org).
- ❑ **The Humane Society of Grand Bahama** lost 220 dogs and 50 cats to the rising floodwaters in Dorian when the two remaining volunteers could not save the stranded animals. They are rebuilding and desperately need funds for supplies. Find donation information on its Facebook page: [facebook.com/Humane-Society-Of-Grand-Bahama-162364503775279/](https://facebook.com/Humane-Society-Of-Grand-Bahama-162364503775279/).



## Peek & Play

at the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital and Pearl Tourville Women's Pavilion

Please bring your friends and family to celebrate the opening of our new MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital and Pearl Tourville Women's Pavilion

This facility opens in October 2019, but we want you to have a "sneak peek." Please join us for a morning of family fun to enjoy:

■ Games for all ages	■ Giveaways	■ A safety village	■ FUN
■ Educational activities	■ Food vendors	■ A dunk tank	■ And more!

Are you expecting? Take a tour of the labor & delivery and mother & baby units in the new Pearl Tourville Women's Pavilion. Stop by the welcome table when you arrive to sign up for your tour between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Everyone in the family is invited to join as we celebrate our new hospital, which will open in the fall and will be designed and dedicated for the health and safety of women and children in Charleston and South Carolina.



**Date:** Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** 10 McClellan Banks Drive  
Charleston, SC 29425

**Cost:** Free





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