

Hundreds gather at MUSC to honor memory of George Floyd, call for justice



Photo by Sarah Pack

Number of active COVID infections in Tri-county tops April peak

By HELEN ADAMS

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New data out of MUSC shows the estimated number of active COVID-19 infections in the Tri-county area has recently topped the April peak. It is estimated that more than 416 people in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties may currently be infected.

Meanwhile, the seven-day average growth rate of confirmed infections from day to day has risen to about 3.6% in the Tri-county area. That may sound low but it's actually up substantially from the .6% growth rate of just a few weeks ago. Growth rate refers to how quickly the number of COVID-19 infections is increasing.

Michael Sweat, Ph.D., directs the Center for Global Health at MUSC. He's worried the growth rate will keep climbing. "If you get growth rates up above 5%, you start having an explosive epidemic happening very rapidly."



Sweat

But Sweat said that is not a foregone conclusion. He also pointed out the

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Nurse Narkarsha Prioleau kneels for 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence at MUSC to honor the memory of George Floyd.

By HELEN ADAMS

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On a warm June Wednesday at noon, between 300 and 400 people gathered on a lawn at MUSC to honor the memory of George Floyd. They wore masks and were asked to maintain social distance to keep the coronavirus from spreading. Similar events took place at hospitals throughout MUSC Health's Regional Hospital Network.

Charleston organizer Marvella Ford, Ph.D., said MUSC needed the gathering. "Because we're all experiencing this pain in different ways. Because the structural, systemic injustices affect all of us. And so when something like a murder that we saw on television happens, that is

indicative of the ongoing systemic problems with the police force in the country, with educational systems, with health care systems, it affects all of us."

Ford, the endowed chair in Cancer Disparities at MUSC's Hollings Cancer Center, prepared the crowd to spend 8 minutes and 46 seconds in silence. That's the length of time Floyd, who was African American, lay dying on a Minneapolis street as a white policeman kept a knee on his neck. Floyd's death was captured on video.

"When we get up from kneeling, sitting or standing is when our work will continue. When we get up, we will continue with action," Ford said through a megaphone. "Today is the first step of our journey. Many of us have been

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‘Luck of the draw’ for nurse couple during coronavirus

By CINDY ABOLE

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Throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, health care workers and essential personnel have put themselves at the front lines of their communities – risking their own lives to save the lives of others by treating and caring for the pandemic’s most critically ill of. With little details known about SARS-CoV-2 at the time it hit the Tri-county area in early March, many could not have anticipated the public health emergency or the economic and personal impact that would be caused by this contagious coronavirus.

But for a pair of MUSC nurses, Ashley McFadden and Chris Hock, the decision to volunteer and work the front lines together was a no-brainer that would keep them doing what they love – providing patient care and being together. But the couple’s special brand of compassion and dedication to critically ill patients would later be rewarded in a way that publicly honors and salutes all health care heroes of this pandemic.

McFadden is a critical care nurse who has worked at the medical intensive care unit (MICU) at MUSC Health since 2014. Hock is a charge nurse on 9East and has worked 10 years at MUSC. Throughout the pandemic, McFadden worked the day shift on MUSC

Health-Charleston’s specially designed COVID-19 intensive care unit. Hock, too, provided highly skilled COVID patient support there.

Caring for a dozen seriously ill patients was intense, painstaking and exhausting, she said. And because these patients required specialized ICU-level care, the unit practiced team nursing – utilizing teams of seven to 10 nurses per shift – dressed out in full personal protective gear – to care for every patient that came to the unit. From March through May, McFadden served as a bedside nurse to these special patients.

While South Carolina has been spared the full brunt of the virus, the impact of the pandemic has still affected almost 14,300 people who tested positive for COVID-19 and claimed a total of 557 lives. Whether in the form of flyovers, parades of applause or signs with thanks, South Carolinians have felt it important to recognize the dozens of dedicated health care workers who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. Many individuals and companies around the country have made donations in honor of these heroes.

On May 6, JetBlue Airways launched the JetBlue Healthcare Heroes Sweepstakes program to honor those on the front lines by giving away pairs of roundtrip flight certificates to 100,000 health care workers and first responders throughout the United States. Ten



Photos Provided

MUSC nurses Chris Hock, left, and Ashley McFadden volunteered to work on the front lines during the coronavirus pandemic. McFadden won a pair of tickets in JetBlue’s Healthcare Heroes Sweepstakes.



Ashley McFadden had to wait almost two months to meet her nephew, Greyson, because of her work on the COVID-19 unit.

thousand tickets were distributed in the New York City area alone. The tickets can be used to travel to anywhere JetBlue flies. The program encouraged its customers to recognize a deserving hero who had been actively working on the front lines of the COVID-19 response and submit a brief description of why

they were nominating their health care hero.

McFadden was nominated by her older brother and sister-in-law, Brendan McFadden and Mary Wahl-McFadden. In early June, Ashley McFadden discovered she was among JetBlue’s sweepstakes winners during a family video chat. It was later confirmed via email from the New York-based airlines, which congratulated her.

“Chris and I were ecstatic,” she said. The couple hopes to use the tickets for a “vacation of a lifetime.” For McFadden, she’s always wanted to visit the Pacific Northwest or maybe take an international trip. “Chris doesn’t want me to say that he won because technically it was my name on the winning ticket. But I think he deserves the recognition as much as I do. It’s pretty incredible that we, as a couple, made the decision to work with these patients during the pandemic. And honestly, I feel that all the nurses that worked in that unit deserve the recognition too.”

MICU nurse manager Janet Byrne, R.N., who also served as the COVID-19 ICU nurse manager, praised McFadden and Hock and fellow front line nurses, respiratory therapists, physicians, occupational and physical therapists for

See NURSES on page 11

MUSC CATALYST news

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It's time to stop the spread

Dear MUSC family,

I intended to share a different message with you this month, but I am tired. Actually, I am exhausted. I know many other African Americans are exhausted, too. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the countless number of Black people deaths we've witnessed on video deserved better — as do all of the African Americans who receive similar treatment that is not captured on camera. None of my personal experiences have been captured on camera. However, there are multiple times in my life...I could have been like George Floyd. So, I am exhausted and outraged about the injustice, unfairness and the systematic mistreatment that happens every day.

All of these recent events happened in the shadow of a global pandemic that is further exposing multi-generational inequities in the American health care system. The result is African Americans suffering disproportionate and severe impacts of COVID-19.

I actually wanted to believe that the COVID-19 virus was going to be the biggest and deadliest virus we would face in my lifetime. However, I was suppressing and ignoring my first-hand personal experiences with the biggest and most deadly virus in American history. That virus is Racism.

Both of these viruses are similar in nature. People infected with them don't know they have them. Even if they do know, they pretend that they don't. There are other people who live like the virus doesn't matter. They pretend like the virus is not real, or it's not that big of a deal. Some will even accuse me of blowing it out of proportion. And because of their blatant disregard for the experiences of others, they spread this virus to other people. One virus has been a pandemic for 100-plus days. The other virus has been a pandemic for 400-plus years.

The results are evident. Regardless of how long they have been around, the viruses are disproportionately and unnecessarily killing African Americans. We are dying at a higher and faster rate than any other demographic in America. Neither virus is a coincidence. They spread because of how we live our lives and how we think. One virus requires us to put a mask on. The other virus requires us to take the mask off. The deadly results are a manifestation of the structural, institutional and individual Racism that exists in America.

When it comes to the virus of Racism, we seem not to have a solution or cure for this virus. There are brilliant, passionate and well-meaning people who have given us strategies and solutions to prevent it from spreading. However, we as a nation seem unprepared and unwilling to do what it takes to slow the spread. For me, our lack of preparation and commitment to end this virus is the saddest part.

This message has been difficult to write, but I must tell you the truth: we will only stop the spread of these viruses if we work together. We must individually hold ourselves accountable for our ignorance and indifference. We must raise our consciousness and our competence in the root cause of the virus. We must work like hell to kill it at the root. Raising our consciousness means we can't ever go back to how it was before we became aware of both of these viruses.

If you believe in the MUSC Health values of Compassion, Teamwork, Diversity, Accountability and Innovation, you cannot go back to the way things were before we saw George Floyd killed in the street, in broad daylight, on video. We all must work to make sure this never happens again. We all must be the agents of change. For me, this is what high reliability looks like. Zero Harm.

I know I am going to do something about it. I am going to be more vigilant



Gunn



Photos Provided

MUSC students distribute boxes of food to more than 280 families on May 30 on behalf of the MUSC CARES Clinic.

CARES Clinic hosts drive-through food distribution

Staff Report

Saturday, May 30, MUSC students representing the CARES Clinic devoted their mornings to supporting the rural community of Saint Stephen, South Carolina. In collaboration with CARES Clinic partners at the Berkeley County School District and Lowcountry Food Bank, and with support from Google, the group hosted a drive-through food distribution that also included recipes and information on combating social isolation during this time. Members of the community received boxes of fresh produce and boxes of dry goods that included rice, beans and the like for each household. Together, the group distributed food for 280 families.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated CARES volunteers who made this happen. They are changing what's



MUSC students take a break from unloading trucks and cases of food.

possible for these families during a very stressful time.

against Racism, injustice, bigotry and unfairness in our city, in our state and our nation. I'm going to help anyone that wants to do the same.

What are you going to do? Are you going to stop this virus? Or are you going to spread it? The choice is yours, but you must make a choice.

Anton Gunn, MSW
MUSC Health Chief Diversity Officer

MUSC helps businesses reopen safely during pandemic

By HELEN ADAMS

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Scott Dawson, general manager of the Kiawah Island Club on South Carolina's coast, knows members are eager to get back to using more of the club's high-end facilities, amenities and services at the full operating capacity they're used to. So he's thrilled to see public health experts from MUSC Health's Back2Business program arrive to help him figure out how to reopen as safely as possible amid the coronavirus outbreak.

They meet with Dawson in a restaurant at the Kiawah Island Beach Club that overlooks three swimming pools and the ocean. Lacey MenkinSmith, M.D., introduces the MUSC Health team. "I think this is a great opportunity for us to offer guidance so things happen in the safest way possible," she tells Dawson.

"Super. That's exactly what we want," he answers.

Kiawah Island Club is among the early participants in Back2Business, part of the Medical University of South Carolina's effort to help revitalize the state's economy.

Back2Business' leader, Edward O'Bryan, is an emergency medicine doctor who also serves as executive director of MUSC Health Solutions and chief medical officer of Business Health. He has both a medical degree and a Master of Business Administration.

"A medical issue is causing the entire economic meltdown that's put us in a situation where we're as close to the Great Depression as we've been since the 1930s. That's why the medical community is well-suited to discuss this. The medical community is going to be key in reopening the economy, allowing natural economic forces to resume their normal structure," O'Bryan said. "I think people are saying, 'The coronavirus is bad, but what we're doing to the economy is also very bad.'"

O'Bryan and his team have pitched in during public health crises in the past, including Ebola in Uganda, through the MUSC Center for Global Health. "We're used to dealing with outbreaks and trying to mitigate both financial consequences and public perception," he said.

MUSC has played a leading role from the coronavirus pandemic's early days in South Carolina, working with state leaders to quickly ramp up testing with the help of free online screening through MUSC Health. MUSC is also doing COVID-19 research to try to find effective treatments and performed the Lowcountry's first plasma transfusion on a coronavirus patient. And MUSC President David Cole, M.D., is on the governor's COVID-19 advisory team, accelerateSC, offering a medical perspective on ways to make it safe for people to go to work and return to public places such as stores and restaurants.

Back2Business is designed for companies and local



Photo by Sarah Pack

Members of the MUSC Back2Business team listen to Kevin Lafountain of the Kiawah Island Club describe safety measures the club is taking. General manager Scott Dawson listens to his right.

governments that want an extra level of customization when it comes to coronavirus safety. It doesn't supersede existing regulations from agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. It's a layer on top of that for employers interested in having MUSC experts work closely with managers to do in-depth inspections, analyses and consultations as the pandemic continues.

Employers that take the necessary steps to protect employees and the public from the coronavirus earn a certificate of completion from MUSC that they can display. The cost is low and funds generated go toward staffing so other businesses can benefit as well, O'Bryan said.

"MUSC is uniquely situated to offer these services, because we're the premier academic health system in South Carolina. We're the only system to have developed our own COVID testing early on. We have extremely high capacity for testing. We also have public health and epidemiology academic departments. Things that other hospitals don't have."

MUSC's public health experts have already honed their COVID safety skills at MUSC Health's multiple campuses, carefully inspecting them and putting into place new protocols to protect health care providers and patients. "MUSC is a safe place to come now, so we're trying to make sure people's health care needs are met before they go back to work. If they need surgery, for example, we are ready," O'Bryan said.

Now, it's on to other sites. "Phase one, for us, is targeting individual businesses and municipalities to give them the right mechanisms for ensuring the safety of their clients as well as their employees," O'Bryan said. "We do ongoing maintenance as recommendations change, as public policy changes."

Back at Kiawah, MenkinSmith tells Dawson what her team of assessors is about to do, starting in the Beach Club, which has dining, swimming and beach access. "We have backgrounds in public health and medicine. We look at three different components. First, we look at the physical environment. We can make recommendations about, 'Move this here,' or, 'Put a hand sanitizer here,'" she said.

"We also are going to look at the employees' workflow and customer workflow and make suggestions for ways to adapt that to increase safety," MenkinSmith said. "And then, as part of the whole assessment of the club in general, we have the ability to do active coronavirus and coronavirus antibody testing and helping you interpret what the results mean."

"We'll also do risk assessments for employees and make recommendations based on those assessments and the workflow analysis — what type of PPE people should be wearing and when they should be wearing it," she said, referring to personal protective equipment.

One upcoming date Dawson and his team have

See BUSINESS on page 11

MEET JESSICA



Jessica D. Douglas

Department; How long at MUSC

Department of Surgery; four years

How are you changing what's possible at MUSC

By showing up to work every day with a smile. I'm willing, able and eager to help fellow employees and our patients. A smile is a universal welcome, and the simple act of smiling can brighten someone's day. It's contagious!

Family and pets

Grandmother, Diana Weathers; parents, Shonna Weathers and James Douglas; sisters, Desaray, Cherell; lots of aunts, uncles, cousins; and my dog, Muff, a black and white Shih Tzu

A unique talent you have

I can play the flute.

Greatest moment in your life

Getting accepted into the Disney Internship program. I enjoyed being a "Mouseketeer."

Favortie movie quote

"Think of the one thing that you've always wanted. Now find it in your mind's eye and feel it in your heart." — Beast from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast"

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Remembering the Emanuel Nine

Dear MUSC family,

On Wednesday, June 17, our community will mark the fifth anniversary of the tragic deaths of nine African American parishioners at Mother Emanuel AME Church. In the years since these racially fueled killings, the members of this remarkable spiritual community have walked a difficult path and lived the true meanings of faith, perseverance and forgiveness. Mother Emanuel members have drawn on an inner strength and leaned forward into our local and global communities, serving as living symbols of fellowship, reconciliation, positive change and hope. The MUSC family has many intersections with Mother Emanuel and has stood from day one with the members of this faith-based community.

For those team members physically on campus next Wednesday, MUSC Pastoral Care Services invites you to view the documentary “Emanuel.” The film will be screened in the Drug Discovery Auditorium from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and at the 2 West Auditorium from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The documentary run time is roughly 1 hour, 16 minutes, leaving time for 30 to 40 minutes of discussion and reflection for those who would like to engage. In adherence with safe practices and social distancing, MyQuest registration for the event will be capped at one-third of each location’s capacity. All those on-site will also be asked to wear masks to protect themselves and their colleagues.

As we face unrest in cities around the world precipitated by the latest acts of violence against African Americans, we are challenged to find new ways to fundamentally address systemic racism; challenged to create a truly level playing field for education, health care and opportunity; challenged to live up to the essential truth stated in our Constitution – that all men are created equal. MUSC remains committed not only to engagement in diversity and inclusion initiatives but also to leadership with a wide variety of community partners, including Mother Emanuel AME Church.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane.” In the face of ignorance, blind hatred and unimaginable loss, the Mother Emanuel family has had major impact, demonstrating how the lives of those in their church community can elevate and heal through civility, resilience and peace. We will be ever grateful for their choices and will forever remember the lives of the loved ones lost.

Yours in service,

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



Cole

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Heart transplant team doesn't skip a beat during COVID crisis

By LESLIE CANTU & LAUREN HOOKER

cantul@musc.edu

The call came at 3 a.m. Allison Addis was getting a new heart.

The rest of South Carolina had spent the month of March using its best hurricane prep know-how, attempting to prepare for something that hadn't occurred in generations — a global pandemic. Addis had spent the month following the advice of the MUSC Health Heart Transplant team in anticipation of one day getting a new heart, as well as spending time with her ailing father, who died March 14.

She never expected the call to come so soon.

"I couldn't believe it," Addis said. "This was a miracle. I really felt like my daddy went to heaven to get me a heart."

In three weeks, the 55-year-old Addis went from being listed for a heart transplant to receiving news she was about to have a new heart.

But the novel coronavirus pandemic meant things were a little different than usual at hospitals across the state. Newly implemented visitor restrictions meant that Addis would be alone. No one from her large, close-knit family would be allowed at her bedside. Instead, family members waited out the surgery at a nearby hotel.

Heart transplant coordinator Benjamin Thomas, R.N., recognized the burden these restrictions placed on both patients and families. He went to the hotel to explain the entire process to the family and answer their questions.

"Imagine our surprise when Ben Thomas, the nurse coordinator, visited us at the hotel," said Addis's sister Ashley Wargula. "He sat with us in the lobby for two hours and walked us through everything. It really impressed us with how he went that extra mile to make us feel comfortable."

Thomas said he knew the coronavirus pandemic was so unusual, and the heart transplant such a big operation, that he wanted to give the family comfort any way he could.

That was just the start of the many ways the doctors, nurses and therapists stepped in to make this transplant journey as stress-free as possible.

"They understood the added stress of not having family by my side and did so many things on a daily basis to help get me through the recovery," Addis said.

The nurses and her care team helped her FaceTime with family and even took videos of her walking so she could share them with her family. They spent extra time with her throughout the day, realizing how hard a heart transplant was to go through alone, especially after the loss of her father.

The compassionate care reinforced to Addis that she had made the right decision in choosing MUSC



Photo by Lauren Hooker

From left: transplant coordinators Ben Thomas and Amanda Celia, Addis's sister Ashley Wargula, transplant coordinator Jen Strope, Allison Addis and Dr. Ryan Tedford reunite before Addis returned home to the Upstate.

Health. As a resident of Abbeville, South Carolina, it would have been just as easy to drive to Georgia or North Carolina as to Charleston when her cardiologist told her it was time to pursue a transplant. But she had two powerful personal connections to MUSC Health. One of her sisters had had a positive experience with a different type of surgery here. And Addis had gotten to know the family of a pediatric heart patient when she granted the child's wish through the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

"The child's mother spoke so highly of the care her son received, the surgical expertise and how caring and kind everyone was to her family," Addis said. "Her experience clinched my decision that MUSC was the best place for me."

Addis first met with Ryan Tedford, M.D., in October 2019. Tedford is an advanced heart failure and transplant cardiologist and medical director of cardiac transplantation at MUSC Health. He's one of eight such specialized cardiologists, with a ninth slated to join the team in August, who work with three heart surgeons, with two more set to join in late summer. Despite the pandemic, he said, the transplant team has remained busy. As of June 1, the team had performed 22 adult heart transplants, compared to 26 in all of 2019.

"Symptomatic cardiac disease doesn't wait," agreed Marc R. Katz, M.D., chief of cardiothoracic surgery. He said there have been a few patients who have been low risk enough that procedures could be postponed, but for the most part, it's been business as usual for the

heart team.

The team has plenty of precautions in place, including rapid testing of patients for coronavirus before surgery and testing of all donor hearts before transplantation. These are in addition to the precautions that MUSC Health as a whole has implemented, like increased telehealth visits and a universal masking policy.

"I tell people MUSC is safer than your grocery store, with all the different precautions we have in place," Tedford joked.

Tedford evaluated Addis's ischemic cardiomyopathy, a condition of heart muscle weakness, most likely a result of her two previous heart attacks.

He agreed that transplantation was her best option, and after the vetting and evaluation process, she was placed on the transplant waiting list on March 2. Most patients on that list wait months for a new heart. Happily, Addis was well enough to wait at home, rather than having to be admitted to the intensive care unit.

Her general good health prior to the surgery also contributed to a quick recovery — she was discharged only eight days after surgery, rather than the usual 10 to 14 days. Katz, her surgeon, said she was able to leave the hospital so early because the surgery itself went well and because she worked at her recovery.

"She was motivated and was diligent in her activities and was really able to progress nicely," Katz said.

Tedford also attributed her early discharge to the

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GATHERING *Continued from Page One*

on this journey for a long time. We ask you when you get up after knelling sitting or standing, get involved to ensure there's diversity at every level of every institution of this country."

The crowd included fellow organizer James Tolley, M.D., an assistant professor emeritus. "MUSC has a large stature in Charleston. And we have been, over the years, making strides to increase diversity on campus and in the community," he said.

"I'm a graduate of this institution. I was around at the time of the 1969 hospital strike — I was in high school. So I watched the efforts over the years. I would like to help continue promoting the understanding of underrepresented people in medicine, in promoting folks being treated correctly. As the former E.R. director of Charleston Memorial, one of my missions was to ensure everyone was treated with respect. MUSC has embraced that. This is a good sign to show we continue to embrace treating everyone with respect."

During the 8-plus minutes of quiet, only the buzz of air conditioners and helicopters bringing patients to MUSC Health could be heard.

Kevin Kerley, director of Public Safety at MUSC, was part of the gathering. "I wanted to make everybody realize that because the actions of one or even a handful of cops doesn't reflect the attitude of everybody else. I'm here basically to support the university and support everybody who's out here, because I understand this was wrong," he said, referring to Floyd's death. "There's no way to defend what happened. I'm supporting everybody who's out here, and I want to be part of it, part of the change.

Channing Sherman, a web content producer for



Drs. Marvella Ford, center, and Willette Burnham-Williams addressed the crowd.

"We want diversity and inclusion. We need it. That's what's made MUSC as great as it is. We're not perfect, but we've come a long way at this institution, and we need to show a united front to stand up for justice. And that's what I see today."

Marvella Ford, Ph.D.

MUSC, was there, too. He's been working from home during the pandemic but grabbed a mask and came to campus for the Floyd event. "One, I wanted to see the crowd for myself. And two, I just think it's good to let

people see the support. You want people to know this isn't just some blip on the radar. It's not just a fad. So if I can show up and let people see how big this crowd is and that it's time for a change, I was all for it."

Ford said the event, put together by the Black Faculty Resource Group, was a chance to highlight the importance of bringing together people of different backgrounds to work toward common goals. "We want diversity and inclusion. We need it. That's what's made MUSC as great as it is. We're not perfect, but we've come a long way at this institution, and we need to show a united front to stand up for justice. And that's what I see today."

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Second quarter MUSC Innovator Awards applaud employees

Staff Report

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a far – reaching impact on MUSC. However, it has also afforded MUSC an opportunity to demonstrate its resiliency and adaptability, as individuals from across the enterprise creatively problem-solved in the midst of ever-evolving and uncertain circumstances. The Office of Innovation is proud to recognize the following individuals and teams as the June 2020 recipients of the “I am an MUSC Innovator” award.

Cami Meyer, Aroo Isadas Sonekar, Phillip Griggs and Edie Hering, College of Health Professions;
Nominated by – College of Health Professions
Innovation – Coordinating and hosting more than 20 virtual information sessions and student panels to replace canceled campus visits, fairs, tours and information sessions. These sessions were recorded and will be used with future applicants and prospective students.

Stephanie Taylor, MUSC Health Diversity and Inclusion; **Kim Balaguer**, MUSC Health Diversity and Inclusion; **Sarah de Barros**, MUSC Health Diversity and Inclusion; **Antwan Walters**, Interpretation and Translation Services; and **Quenton Tompkins**, MUSC Health Administration
Nominated by – Anton Gunn, chief diversity officer
Innovation – Creating and staffing a telephone-based screening system and clinical workflow to ensure that individuals lacking internet and the ability to access to Virtual Urgent Care are able to participate in COVID-screening.

Support – Shawn Valenta and MUSC’s Telehealth Center

Erik Modrzyński, Safety, Security and Emergency Programs; **Alice Edwards**, MUSC Health Ambulatory Services; **Chris Hairfield**, Nursing Professional Development; **Lizzie Baer**, MUSC Health Administration; **Kim Bailey**, Emergency Department; **Jennifer Kelly**, MUSC Health Adult Emergency Department; **Benita Curnell**, MUSC Health Ambulatory Services; and **Dustin LeBlanc**, Emergency Medicine; **Johan Zamosciany**, Emergency Department; and **Joe Whitlock**, Therapeutic and Professional Support Services.

Nominated by – Patti Hart, chief nursing officer
Innovation – Establishing a drive-thru screening site while remaining focused on safety and adapting to ever-changing recommendations.

Leah Ramos, R.N., Neuroscience, Heart & Vascular, Surgery Specialty & Spine; **Nancy Hendry**, Medical Director’s Office; **Anthony Hale, R.N.**, Surgery Acute Critical Care; **Jason Wall, R.N.**, Chief Nursing Officer’s Office; **Janet Byrne, R.N.**, MICU; **Marilyn Hauser, R.N.**, STICU; **Carolyn Donohue, R.N.**, Children’s Hospital & Women’s Pavilion; **Sherry Miller**, Ambulatory Care; **Kara Simpson, R.N.**, Nursing Professional Development; **Heather Galang, R.N.**, Nursing Professional Development; **Georgia Keith, R.N.**, EPMO; **Patti Hart, Ph.D., R.N.**, Chief Nursing Officer; and the Clinical Education team
Nominated by – Nursing Administration
Innovation – Designing a different model for nursing care to manage potential patient volume surge, including new staffing plans, role delineation, onboarding students, training individuals to new roles and communicating the changes to nursing to gain buy in and participation.

Craig Crosson, Ph.D., College of Medicine Dean’s Office; **Steve Duncan, Ph.D.**, Regenerative Medicine; **Paula Traktman, Ph.D.**, College of Graduate Studies; **Rick Nolte, Ph.D.**, **Julie Hirschhorn and Steve Carroll**, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; **Elisabeth Rochel**, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; **Ray Liu and Christiana Kappler**, Regenerative Medicine & Cell Biology; **Jan Buffington, Lora Clekis, Ben Rogers and Shana Caporossi**, Medicine Dean’s Office
Nominated by – College of Medicine
Innovation – Expanding MUSC’s COVID-19 testing capacity using creative engineering and utilizing COM research equipment and personnel.

Charlotte Kerr, College of Medicine Dean’s Office; **Sharlena Howard**, Medicine Dean’s Office; **Colleen Cannon**, Medicine Dean’s Office; **Donna Kern, M.D.**, Medicine Dean’s Office; **Myra Haney Singleton, Ed.D.**, Medicine Dean’s Office; **Christi Bourne**, Medicine Dean’s Office; **Chris Bunt, M.D.**, Family Medicine; **Jordan Flynn**, Medicine Dean’s Office; **Michael de Arellano, Ph.D.**, Medicine Dean’s Office; **Natalie Johnson**, Medicine Dean’s Office; **Aundrea Loftley, M.D.**, Endocrinology, Diabetes & Medical Genetics; **Nora Siwarski**, Enrollment Management; **Keenen Smith, Kristina Fioretti, Faith Dunn, Chris Friendly, James Ngoyi, Chad Richardson and Chelsea Shope**

Nominated by – College of Medicine
Innovation – Creating an innovative “Virtual Second Look” program for incoming medical students during COVID-19 restrictions.

Donna Kern, College of Medicine Dean’s Office; **Debra Hazen-Martin**, Pathology & Lab Medicine; **Angela Dempsey-Fanning**, OB-GYN; **Christine Talbot-Bond**, Medicine Dean’s Office; and **Inda Humes**, 9East Neurosciences

Nominated by – College of Medicine

Innovation – Implementing innovative processes to administer end-of-block exams to first-year medical students and end-of-clinical rotation exams to third-year medical students during COVID-19 restrictions.

Jimmy McElligott, Pediatrics; **Peter Zwerner, M.D.**, Chief Medical Office; and **Ellen Debenham and Amanda James**, Center for Telehealth
Nominated by – Danielle Scheurer, M.D., chief quality officer, MUSC Health

Innovation – Transitioning ambulatory office visits to in-home video visits so MUSC patients can continue to receive the care they need while minimizing the risk for of exposure by coming into an office setting.

Ed O’Bryan, M.D., Katie King, Ph.D., Shawn Valenta and Tasia Walsh, Center for Telehealth
Nominated by – Danielle Scheurer, M.D., chief quality officer, MUSC Health
Innovation – Disseminating a streamlined Virtual Urgent Care tool statewide to screen large numbers of patients for testing and schedule for testing at specimen collection sight more efficiently.

Vanessa Diaz, M.D., and Marty Player, M.D., Family Medicine; **Dee Ford, M.D.**, Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy & Sleep Medicine; **Emily Warr, R.N.**, Center for Telehealth; **Cheryl Hamill**, Nursing Administration; **Les Lenert, M.D., and Michael Aiken**, Biomedical Informatics Center; and **Katya Peka**, Information Solutions
Nominated by – Danielle Scheurer, M.D., chief quality officer, MUSC Health

Innovation – Developing an in-home tool for COVID-19 patients who did not require hospitalization to report on their health status.

Dee Ford, M.D., Pulmonary, Critical Care, Allergy & Sleep Medicine; **Emily Warr, R.N.**, Center for Telehealth; **Christine Holmstedt, M.D.**, Neurology; **Jimmy McElligott**, Pediatrics; **Morgan Sires**, Center for Telehealth; **Michael Haschker and Hunter Bazaco**, Information Solutions; **Ellen Debenham, Shawn Valenta and the Telehealth Technology team**, Center for Telehealth
Nominated by – Danielle Scheurer, M.D., chief quality

See **INNOVATORS** on page 11

Mental, emotional well-being through COVID-19 pandemic

The fact that the current pandemic is affecting people’s mental health as much as their physical health is no secret. Increased levels of stress and anxiety have been consistently reported by studies that span communities and populations around the globe. Based on the known psychological effects of other events that have left a deep mark on global communities in the past, researchers warn that the COVID-19 pandemic could have dire consequences for mental health.

As always, the health and well-being of our MUSC care team members and their families are our highest priority. Furthermore, the MUSC Office of Health Promotion recognizes the importance of sharing critical well-being resources to help our employees and their family members stay healthy – both physically and mentally – as they continue to navigate the pandemic and enter the “new normal” in the months to come.

In this article, you will find a collection of well-being resources to support your mental and emotional well-being. The resources are available to all MUSC care team members, regardless of whether they are working on the front lines of the pandemic or working remotely while practicing responsible social distancing.

These resources are designed to assist in managing the stress and anxiety that is associated with these unprecedented times.

❑ MUSC care team member well-being resources
Imagine U: MUSC’s digital employee well-being program

The Imagine U program is available to all MUSC care team members. The program can be accessed 24/7 on

any desktop computer, tablet or smartphone. It includes over 100 unique well-being “challenges,” including an entire catalog focusing on mental and emotional health. Challenge topics include anxiety reduction techniques, stress management tools, resources for coping with stress, loss, etc., as well as resources for those seeking support for drug or alcohol abuse. Visit www.musc.edu/iu and log in with your MUSC credentials to access the Imagine U well-being program on demand on any device with internet capability.

❑ Mental health and stress reduction resources
On MUSC Main Campus

- The Meditation Labyrinth
Care team members are encouraged to utilize the public meditation labyrinth to relax, breath, and ground themselves throughout the COVID-19 response. It is located on the corner of Bee and President streets, inside the wall.
- Spend time in nature

From sunrise to sunset, visit the MUSC Urban Farm, located on MUSC’s main campus at 29 Bee Street. You can conduct a self-guided sensory tour through the Urban Farm to get in added steps and reduce stress through “green exercise.” You can take a walk around campus and check out the 90-acre arboretum. Use the MUSC Arboretum tree campus tree plotter on your computer or mobile device to learn about each tree on campus.

❑ Regional Hospital Network and digitally accessible resources
The MUSC Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

MUSC Health & Well-Being

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



is a worksite-based program designed to assist organizations in addressing productivity issues, as well as assisting employees in identifying and resolving personal and occupational concerns that may affect job performance.

The philosophy of the MUSC EAP is to make counseling services readily available so employees experiencing challenging life events or wrestling with day to day issues get help before it escalates and begins to harm job performance. Mental health, substance abuse and personal issues greatly impact employee productivity resulting in increased errors, accidents, absenteeism, poor customer service and difficulty getting along with co-workers. Employee assistance programs have been shown to improve health, performance, morale and overall quality of life for employees. <https://muschealth.org/medical-services/psychiatry/eap>

❑ Dr. Tese Stephens, R.N., podcast
• Available on anchor and Spotify (link is on anchor page) <https://anchor.fm/RNPrep>.

• Free licensing of Headspace meditation app for health care workers. Headspace is providing free Headspace subscriptions to U.S. health care providers working in public health settings throughout the COVID-19 outbreak and has curated specific guided meditations titled “Weathering the Storm” designed for the health care workforce currently facing immense pressure amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

❑ Additional free meditation digital apps
• Calm
• Stop, Breath & Think
• Insight Timer

❑ Connect remotely with a licensed therapist
• Talkspace (<https://www.talkspace.com/>).
• Better Help (<https://www.betterhelp.com/>).
• Connect with a licensed therapist via text, audio messages, picture and video messages and text-based chat room.

❑ Pandemic-related stress management resources via the CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>.

For questions or more information regarding resources of the MUSC Imagine U employee well-being program, please email musc-empwell@musc.edu.



Tracks include:

Artificial Intelligence
Health & Wellness
Education
Science Cafes

Technology
Intellectual Property &
Entrepreneurship
Diversity & Inclusion

June 15-19

musc.edu/innovationweek

TRANSPLANT *Continued from Page Seven*

care of her Greenwood cardiologist, Paul E. Kim, M.D., who recognized when it was time to refer her to a transplant cardiologist.

Too often, Tedford said, patients undergo multiple hospitalizations for heart failure as their conditions worsen and their other organs grow weaker before they are finally referred for possible transplantation. At that point, they are much worse candidates than they could have been. Addis was referred early enough that she could establish a relationship with the MUSC doctors and absorb the patient education information, rather than having to be admitted directly to the ICU.

Addis had already been planning to come to Charleston on March 24 for a clinic visit when she got that middle-of-the-night phone call. It wouldn't be a clinic visit – it would be surgery.

She and two sisters drove as fast as they could to get to MUSC. With the COVID-19 visitation restrictions newly activated, access was limited, but Addis's family did have time to speak with the transplant team before she was admitted to the hospital. Once it was time for surgery, they had to leave and wait it out in their hotel while Katz led the

transplant team through the successful seven-hour surgery.

"We were able to breath a big sigh of relief when we learned Allison was out of surgery and everything went well," Wargula said. Although they couldn't visit her in person, Addis's family made sure she knew she was loved. Her son and his family drove seven hours from Tennessee to stand in front of Ashley River Tower and take a photo, just so she knew they were there.

And then, of course, there were the somber moments when Addis was reminded that she had a new heart because someone lost his or her life and chose to give the ultimate gift. She mourned for that family the same way she mourned for her other son, who died in an accident in 2012. He also was an organ donor, and over time, she gained solace knowing others were able to live because of his gift of life, just as she hopes her donor's family will someday feel.

"The staff helped me get through it all," she said. "And they helped me heal through laughter." Addis recounts the day the staff moved her from the ICU to her own room. The nurses told her she was "breaking out of there." She had no idea where she was going as they joked with her while walking her down the

hallways. Just when she got tired, they told her she should lay down and rest. Turns out she had walked herself to her new room.

"They were all so remarkable," Addis said. "Not only did they help me heal medically, they helped me heal emotionally."

Like all transplant patients, Addis had to remain in the Charleston area for several weeks after surgery. The first year after surgery, in particular, is filled with regular follow-up appointments. But she and other patients in the Upstate will soon be able to take advantage of a new MUSC Health clinic in Greenville dedicated to transplant care. The clinic began seeing patients through telehealth

in April and will open for in-person visits in June.

Tedford said MUSC Health has put a real focus on developing and expanding its heart and vascular team. The team has had good outcomes with its transplant patients, but he pointed out that there are other options for people who don't qualify for transplants, including left ventricular assist devices and regular clinical trials of new procedures.

Katz agreed, noting that the MUSC Health team works hard to build good relationships with physicians across the state.

"I hand my cell phone number out

See TRANSPLANT on page 12

BUSINESS *Continued from Page Four*

their eyes on: the Fourth of July, when typically, about 1,500 people will walk through the door of the Beach Club. They want to make sure Independence Day will be worry-free for members and their guests as well as employees.

O'Bryan said the MUSC team can help make that happen, not just for the Kiawah Island Club but for other

businesses and facilities across the state as the year goes on. "People trust that MUSC can put the best public health practices in place because we've done it at our hospital, and we're the ones taking care of actual patients of the disease. Having MUSC go and evaluate and put the seal of approval on these businesses is a key part of restoring customer ease, comfort and satisfaction so they'll go out, revitalize the economy and restore jobs."

NURSES *Continued from Page Two*

their commitment and professionalism throughout this period of time.

"Ashley and Chris were two wonderful nurses that worked long shifts in full PPE to provide care for this patient population," said Byrne. "Their willingness to go outside their comfort zone and provide exemplary care and support to these patients was greatly appreciated. They used innovative methods of communication to talk to team members in the COVID unit. Additionally, this team took necessary steps to reduce the risk of delirium amongst these patients and dedicated time to involve the patient's family virtually in the care of their loved one."

Just as the pandemic changed everyday life and activities for most of the world, it affected McFadden as well. On April 10, she missed the joy of celebrating the birth of her nephew, Greyson

Scott McFadden, born to her other brother and sister-in-law, Joshua and Kalyn McFadden, in the middle of the pandemic. Because of her work caring directly for COVID patients, she was delayed in meeting and holding baby Greyson until June 2.

"To me, this was the absolute worst part of the entire experience. I sacrificed seeing my nephew and helping my brother and sister-in-law with their newborn to be able to help to care for these patients. I know other nurses made even bigger sacrifices just to care for patients. Again, it's still amazing to make a difference and be a part of this," said McFadden.

But all is not lost for McFadden. She has another chance to experience the joy and excitement of welcoming a little one into the family in late June when older brother and sister-in-law, Brendon and Mary, welcome the birth of their first child.

INNOVATORS *Continued from Page Nine*

officer, MUSC Health

Innovation – Advancing the use of technology to keep COVID-19 patients connected with both clinicians and families.

Wally Renne, DMD, and Christian Brenes Vegas, Dental Medicine-Oral Rehabilitation; Joshua Kim, M.D., and Mike Yost, Ph.D., Department of Surgery

Nominated by – Office of Innovation
Innovation – Designing 3D printing face mask designs to be used as PPE.

Jonathan Boone, Susan Bishop, Bonnie Jones, Kendra West, Matt Price and Vivian Mcmillian, MUSC Physicians-Finance, with support from MUSCP's Human Resources Department – **Michelle Wiles, Dee Crawford and Sheila Janikowski**

Nominated by – Eva Greenwood, CFO, MUSC-P

Innovation – Implementing changes to the office standard operating procedures to create improved efficiency and for developing a reporting framework in cooperation with MUSCP Human Resources to track COVID-19 impacts.

Iggy Pla, Facilities Management
Nominated by – Tom Crawford, Chief Operating Officer

Innovation – Facilitating the establishment and design of new COVID patient units, including ensuring an entire unit or floor was negative pressure and had designated green, yellow, and red areas for donning and doffing of the appropriate PPE.

We invite you to participate in Innovation Week 2020 happening June 15-19 with events happening virtually. Please check the schedule here: muscd.edu/innovationweek.

RISE *Continued from Page One*

Charleston area has a relatively low number of people with the illness caused by the new coronavirus, about 416 active infections compared to the 775,831 people who live in the area. "It's important to note that it's currently manageable even as it's going up, in terms of the impact on the health system. But it's always a worry when these numbers are going up."

Sweat leads the MUSC COVID-19 Epidemiology Intelligence Project team, which was formed to analyze trends, give information to help government and business leaders make decisions and help hospitals and clinics prepare for COVID-19 patients. It puts out a situation assessment each Wednesday, available to the public online.

The number of active cases in the Tri-county area first peaked about two months ago at 368, Sweat said. "Then it just dropped. That's because a few weeks before, the lockdown happened. It usually takes three to seven days before people become symptomatic. So these numbers are often reflecting what's

happening several weeks before."

Now that more people are out and around again during a period that included the Memorial Day holiday weekend, the Tri-county area has hit a new peak. "We're at an important juncture. That could just keep going up and up. We don't know. It could flatten out."

Sweat said the increase is not surprising. "With more opening up, more people getting out, going back to work, restaurants opening with limitations, we were likely to see an increase."

Sweat said recent protests about the deaths of George Floyd and other African Americans have also brought people together in large numbers, and that could add to the positive cases in the next few weeks.

Protesters seem to be aware of the risk. This past Monday, after a weekend of protests in the Charleston area, the number of people seeking COVID-19 testing through MUSC Health Virtual Urgent Care was up 200%.

Sweat said the fact that the protests were outside could help. "You're at

much greater risk inside. Bars and churches have been the scene of big super-spreader events. A super-spreader is typically somebody who's newly infected, infectious and doesn't have any symptoms. They often lead to massive outbreaks. Mardi Gras was an example of that."

While Sweat and his team keep a close eye on the coronavirus growth rate in Charleston, they're also watching what's happening statewide. MUSC Health has clinics and hospitals across South Carolina. And what Sweat is seeing, in some cases, concerns him.

"Florence had a big problem for some time that only recently stabilized. Lancaster has been the sleeper. It was always a low-grade epidemic. They just had an explosion of growth recently. We're about to intervene — to sound the alarm," he said, referring to MUSC Health leaders who are in close communication with their counterparts in Florence and Lancaster. "We're trying to understand what's coming next."

Sweat said if the numbers keep going up in South Carolina, more tough choices will come into play. "What

do the politicians do? What do the businesses do? How do you put the brakes on? How do you slow things down?"

His advice for everyone right now: be careful. "We're seeing these increases. They're moving very quickly. The problem is, it takes several weeks to detect. If it blows up, you really won't know it for a week or two. So I think it's smart to be a little cautious. I don't think you can shut your life down completely. Trying to figure out how to go forward is important."

TRANSPLANT *Continued from Page Eleven*

to all our referring docs, and they know they can call me anytime, day or night, whenever — and they do. The attitude is 'just say yes' to the referring docs," Katz said.

Addis was able to return home in late May.

"I'm just so blessed," she said.

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