



Courtesy U.S. Soccer Extended NTs Instagram

Chileshe Chitulangoma, U.S. Men's Cerebral Palsy National team midfielder, practices in advance of a match in Australia. MUSC Health physician Dr. Matthew Sherrier travels with the team for big matches.

College athlete-turned physician brings fresh perspective to MUSC's rehab program

BY BRYCE DONOVAN

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Matthew Sherrier, M.D., works with athletes all of the time. As a physical medicine and rehab (PM&R) sports medicine physician for MUSC Health, it's his job to

understand human physiology inside and out. It also doesn't hurt that he's a former collegiate athlete himself. So, yeah, he gets it. He knows what it takes to perform at the highest level.

Whether it's recreational, collegiate or professional athletes – Sherrier's main focus is getting these athletes

back to their peak levels after they've been injured.

"I've been where many of these athletes are before," he said. "So it's a little easier for me to put myself in their shoes."

But there are a few pairs he hasn't

See **ATHLETE** on page 4



Photo Provided

Dental alumna Dr. Theresa Gonzales will address MUSC's Class of 2023.

Dental leader, veteran to speak at May 20 Commencement

BY MADELINE RITGER

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Lisa Saladin, PT, Ph.D., vice president of Academic Affairs and provost, was pleased to announce that Theresa Gonzales, D.M.D., an alumna of the MUSC College of Dental Medicine (CDM) and recently returned professor, will serve as commencement speaker at the 193rd MUSC graduation event. She will address the graduating class of 2023 at the North Charleston Coliseum,

See **SPEAKER** on page 2

3

Students shine
Pitch competition a huge success.

8

Global Health Week
Gain-of-function research debated.

5 Meet Karin Crookes, R.N.
7 Diversity leaders honored
10 Well-Being

SPEAKER *Continued from Page One*

located at 5001 Coliseum Drive. Graduates will receive their degrees from one of MUSC's six colleges: Dental Medicine, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing or Pharmacy.

Gonzales, originally from Walhalla, South Carolina, graduated from the CDM in 1984. After an impressive 31-year military career with the U.S. Army, retiring as a colonel, she returned to academia in 2013 at MUSC. She received tenure in 2015 and was promoted in 2016 to the position of associate dean of Curriculum and Strategic Communication at the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine.

In 2017, Gonzales was named the executive director of the American College of Dentists, a national nonprofit organization located just outside of Washington, D.C., in Rockville, Maryland, where she served for five years before returning to MUSC in October of 2022 as professor of Stomatology and the director of the Ryan White Wellness Center of Charleston Dental Clinic, a federally funded clinic for people living with HIV.

"I planned to retire, but that was short lived," she said. "I think that lasted about two days. I came back to work at MUSC, which I always loved."

Gonzales specializes in chronic orofacial pain (COFP) and offers consultative services to oral diagnosis,

oral radiology and oral medicine at the Hollings Cancer Center, bridging the gap between oral and systemic health. She currently has 1,072 patients enrolled in the newly created Chronic Orofacial Pain Management Service, the first service of this type to be offered at the CDM.

Gonzales is a recipient of numerous awards and honors, including:

- ❑ The Consumer's Research Council of America recognition as one of America's Top Dentists in 2005, 2010 and 2015.
- ❑ The 2008 Eclipse Award for Exemplary Leadership by the International Women's Review Board.
- ❑ The Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award as Outstanding Women Dentist 2013.
- ❑ MUSC/American Student Dental Association – Outstanding Basic Science Professor-College of Dental Medicine, 2014-2016.
- ❑ Pierre Fauchard Presidential Award of Excellence in Leadership, Pierre Fauchard Academy, Grand Opening Ceremony, Aug. 20, 2021.
- ❑ 2022 Pierre Fauchard Gold Medal Award for Outstanding Leadership, Houston, Texas.
- ❑ International College of Dentists Award for Excellence in Research.

Gonzales has authored over 50 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, and she continues to demonstrate her passion for her field with the approaching publication of her history book, which will be released this year.

MUSC CATALYST news

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Letter from the Office of the PRESIDENT

Dear MUSC family,

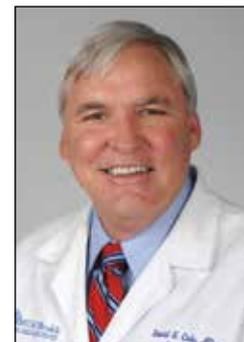
We've just wrapped up MUSC's Innovation Week 2023, and I'm so excited that the MUSC family rose to the occasion once again with new ideas, processes and ways to solve challenges with forward-thinking approaches to what we do. Our momentum is palpable!

Speaking of momentum, we have more than 700 graduates ready to walk across the stage during Commencement on May 20. The future of health care and discovery, they've risen to every challenge and have been forged during an incredible time of transition, integration and transformation. I have no doubt that this intelligent, compassionate and diverse group of individuals will add value to our world through their chosen disciplines, with the benefit of unprecedented capabilities, technologies, tools and collaborations at the ready to help them to create positive impact.

And last but certainly not least, I wanted to share my enormous appreciation for every single individual in the MUSC family as we get ready to celebrate Employee Appreciation Week, May 8-12; Hospital Week, May 7-13; and Nurses Week, May 6-14. You are what makes MUSC so special, and I'm so proud of what you've been able to accomplish these past several years. I hope you enjoy the activities and offerings planned for the Charleston campus and throughout our MUSC Regional Health Network.

Yours in service,

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



Cole

In her address to the graduating class of 2023, Gonzales will recognize the significant challenges that the graduates have faced during their educational journeys, with the majority having entered MUSC during a pre-COVID world.

"I am amazed at what kind of health care providers are produced when challenged significantly. They stayed in the courts against every logical reason to leave."

Humanitas 2023 journal now available around MUSC campus

MUSC's arts journal, *Humanitas 2023*, is now available around campus. The student-edited journal provides a means of self-expression and creativity through art, poetry, prose, musical compositions and photography for MUSC students, faculty, staff and volunteers. Pick up your copy in student building lobbies or MUSC Library today.

For information, contact samuel@musc.edu.

Ideas shine at Innovation Week student pitch contest

BY REECE FUNDERBURK

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Innovation Week 2023 officially kicked off at MUSC, headlined by the Charleston Division's Shark Tank event that saw researchers and faculty circling the tank for a chance to win \$15,000 in funding. However, a select group of students decided to get a bite of that funding as well.

On Monday, April 24, nine students in six groups competed in their own version of MUSC's Shark Tank, pitching to three faculty and staff members in a student pitch competition that would see the winning group take home a prize of \$2,500 to invest in its own project. The competition, held in person for the first time, was hosted by the Office of Innovation and the Student Innovation Ambassadors Program, which falls under MUSC Libraries. The program is designed to encourage talented student innovators to create solutions to health care-related challenges.

The goal of the MUSC Innovation Ambassador Program is to provide a platform for entrepreneurial development and technological innovation in health care systems, driven by student representatives from all six colleges of MUSC. The student-led initiative, using innovative solutions and modern technology, also acts as a student resource, with support from the Office of Innovation.

Most of the students that competed Monday are either in the Innovative Solutions course and/or Introduction to 3D Printing in Healthcare. The course director for both and director of Digital Strategies and Innovation, Erick Lemon, said the pitchers represented the level of ingenuity today's students now have.

"As the course director for Innovative Solutions in Healthcare and Introduction to 3D Printing in

Healthcare, I am thrilled to see the level of innovation and creativity shown at this year's student pitch competition," said Lemon. "The students from both these courses demonstrated their ability to leverage practical solutions to health care problems using the concepts of design thinking and business planning. They are genuinely inspiring."

While all of the teams scored closely, the winning pitch came at the end of the program from first-year medical student Joshua Kim, who got the judges to bite on his project, the SAVER. The SAVER device is an innovative technology being developed under Heartbeat Technologies that aims to increase the survival rate for cardiac arrest patients and enhance recovery by minimizing neurological impairment.

"Cardiac arrest is fatal over 90% of the time and takes the lives of over 350,000 Americans each year," said Kim. "For the 10% that do survive, 90% will have neurological defects that will affect them for the rest of their lives. CPR alone cannot deliver adequate amounts of blood to vital organs like the heart and brain."

To counter this problem, Kim conceptualized the SAVER, an external occlusion device that blocks blood flow going through the patient's femoral arteries. By cutting off the circulation going to the legs, it helps to drive and keep blood heading toward the patient's heart, brain and other vital organs while also not interrupting CPR protocol and providing real-time CPR feedback.

The device, shaped like a tourniquet with pneumatic bulbs, applies focal pressure to femoral vessels to redirect blood flow. The device also features sensors in the bulbs to inform the user of whether the compressions are generating adequate pressure. It's also easily storable and would be easily accessible in airports, stadiums, offices or other public spaces, with more than 50% of cardiac arrest cases happening



Photo by Reece Funderburk

First-year medical student Joshua Kim pitches a device that aims to increase the survival rate for cardiac arrest patients and minimize neurological impairment.

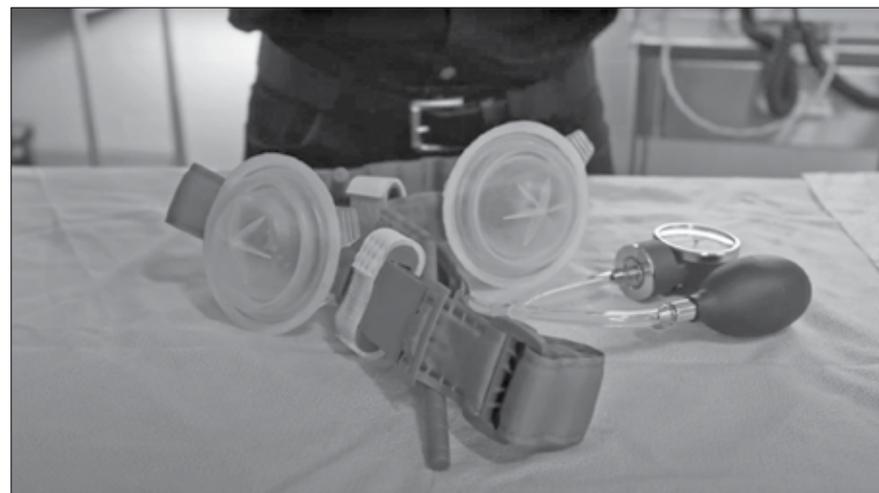


Image courtesy of Heartbeat Technologies

Kim is chief design officer and co-founder of the company behind the SAVER device pictured above.

in the community.

Kim will use the funds from winning the student pitch competition to develop a version 2 prototype. Heartbeat Technologies has already completed a preliminary large-scale

animal study and has seen four publications already based on their patent.

"We want to make sure we have the most polished piece getting ready for

See IDEAS page 11

ATHLETE *Continued from Page One*

walked in. And ironically, those are the ones – belonging to the athletes who are just a little different than him – that have had the greatest impact on him in his young career.

FROM THE POOL TO THE PITCH

Although he played many sports growing up, it was his aquatic speed that flashed the brightest, earning him a scholarship on the men's swim team at the College of Charleston.

During those four years, Sherrier had a lot of success in the pool, graduating with eight school records. And it was in that same chlorinated water that he met his eventual wife, a Mount Pleasant native and member of the women's swimming team.

So even though his career took him north after graduating from MUSC's College of Medicine in 2017, he had a feeling that the Palmetto State would factor back into his future.

"I always knew we would end up back here," he said. "Charleston has always been special to us and has felt like home."

First, it was off to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) for

a four-year residency in PM&R followed by a one-year sports medicine fellowship at Northwestern University, where he served as a physician for most of the Wildcats' athletic teams. After those five years, Sherrier knew his next move: to bring that same top-notch level of care and expertise back to the people of Charleston – reconnecting him with the place where athletics had given him so much.

The timing was serendipitous because, at the same time, MUSC Health was looking to bolster its PM&R offerings, and Sherrier was a perfect fit. So they hired him to join the Department of Orthopaedics and Physical Medicine.

By day, Sherrier works with the Lowcountry's athletic population but occasionally – thanks to an opportunity provided by two of his mentors – he also has one of the most fulfilling side gigs a former athlete could ask for: serving as one of the team physicians for the U.S. Men's Cerebral Palsy National soccer team.

How he landed that part-time position had something to do with his impeccable medical reputation but even more so his vast experience in working with patients with disabilities and adaptive athletes.

"I mean, that's kind of the foundation



Photo Provided

Sherrier with his U.S. Men's National team colleagues in Australia, earlier this year.

of our specialty – treating patients with disabilities – whether they are from spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, strokes, amputations, among others," he said. "So, working with someone who might be dealing with a disability was nothing new to me."

THE ROLE OF SPORTS

Though it only requires a few weeks commitment here or there – Sherrier is quick to point out how accommodating the MUSC leadership, including his department chairman, Lee Leddy, M.D., and division chief, Ameet Nagpal, M.D., have been to let him step away to do it – that time has taken him to some exotic spots: He's already traveled to Spain and Australia with the team.

Sure, much of his time is spent working with players on the sidelines or in locker rooms, but that doesn't mean he doesn't get to see most of the games. And what he's seen thus far has been nothing short of inspiring.

"I mean, these guys are a 'no-excuses' bunch. They go out; they put on the cleats just like everybody else and compete as hard as they can. And they are elite athletes."

The way the sport works, Sherrier said, is each team has seven players on the

field at a time, versus 11 in traditional men's soccer. The field is a little smaller and so are the goals, and there are no off-sides rules. But basically, the rest of the rules of the game are the same – the main difference being the players. CP soccer has a three-category classification system for the athletes, ranging from FT1, or more limitations, to FT3, or less limitations. To ensure fairness, each team must have at least one FT1 player on the field at a time and no more than one FT3 player at a time.

"For the most part, the differences are subtle. It's still high-level, high-intensity soccer," Sherrier said. "These guys are really pushing the limits of what their bodies are capable of. It is really inspiring."

Sherrier suspects that he'll keep working with the team as long as he's able. Not only does it afford him new and exciting experiences, but it allows him to return to his patients at MUSC with a renewed perspective – something he's then able to pass along to anybody who will listen.

"It's just a great reminder that sports are so important. There is so much value there. That's why I encourage everybody, not just people with disabilities, to get outside and stay as active as possible."

CHARLESTON SC

Mobility Progress in Charleston



Webinar

Tuesday, May 16th at 12 PM

Please join representatives from the City of Charleston, BCDCOG, and Charleston Moves for a webinar discussion on safe and sustainable transportation initiatives in our region, including updates on the Ashley River Crossing, Lowcountry Lowline, Lowcountry Rapid Transit, Lime bike share, and future City planning efforts surrounding mobility and EV infrastructure!



MEET KARIN



Karin Crookes, R.N.

Department; Years at MUSC
MUSC Health Wound Care Services; 10 years

How are you changing what's possible at MUSC

I enjoy teaching. MUSC has hired so many new graduate nurses, especially in our specialty units. I've been doing a lot of hands-on teaching for the management of ostomies and fistulas.

Family and pets Husband, Bruce; sons, Tom (22), Tyler (21) and Will (19); daughter, Kylie (17); and dogs, Sullivan and Griff

What is your idea of a dream job
Travel blogger

Favorite restaurant Any place with cold beer and a view of the water

Favorite quote "Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best."
— H. Jackson Browne Jr.

NURSE APPRECIATION WEEK SOCCER TICKETS

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Monetary Donations

1. Scan the QR code below with your phone or go to giving.musc.edu
2. Choose "A fund of my choosing" & designate your donation amount
3. On the next screen choose "other" for your donation to support
4. In "Please Specify" type: Fund#7120/8805 for the EATs program

MUSC Children's Health
Medical University of South Carolina

MUSC e.a.t.s. (ensuring access to sustenance) is a food pantry program that offers shelf-stable food to clinic patients with food insecurity.

Roving Photobooth

TUES MAY 9 & THUR MAY 11

Submit any pictures from nurses week to the QR code

Nurses Week
MUSC Health Charleston Division

For detailed information: www.musc.edu/charleston/charlestonbattery/charlestonbattery.com
@charlestonbattery

Nurses Week Sporting Events
MUSC Health Charleston Division

TUES May 2nd
Nurse's Night at the Joe Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park
7:05pm
Discounted tickets available

SAT May 6th
Lowcountry Highrollers Bout
Charleston Area Convention Center
5pm - Doors open at 4:30p
Use NURSE23 for \$8 tickets

SAT May 13th

Charleston Battery vs. San Antonio
7:30pm Patriots Point Soccer Complex, Mt. Pleasant
Use code NURSEWEEK23 for 20% off admission

For detailed information: www.musc.edu/charleston/charlestonbattery/charlestonbattery.com
@charlestonbattery

MUSC women surgeons share their passion, guidance with students

BY LAUREN HOOKER
hooker@musc.edu

The Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) is a not-for-profit educational and professional organization. With a membership of approximately 3,300 women and men, AWS is one of the largest organizations dedicated to enhancing the interaction and exchange of information between women surgeons. AWS is committed to supporting women surgeons at all career stages – from medical school to retirement.

The MUSC College of Medicine (COM) AWS chapter is one of 11 chapters in the southeastern U.S.

supporting medical students interested in all fields of surgery. At MUSC, the chapter is led by medical students Emily Watson and Olivia Walkowiak, co-presidents, and pediatric surgeon Laura Hollinger, M.D., who serves as the chapter’s adviser. The AWS chapter hosts events throughout the year to guide those interested in pursuing surgical specialties. The chapter holds meetings quarterly, including suture workshops, Q&As with surgical attending physicians, rotation advice sessions and post-match M4 student panels.

One highly anticipated event is the annual surgical education conference, which attracts high school and



Photo Provided

Students at a suturing workshop at the Association of Women Surgeons event held at MUSC.

college students from across South Carolina who are considering careers in surgery. This year, 87 students

attended, including higher education students from Furman University,

See **WOMEN** on page 12



!

Date: Sunday,
May 14
Time: 12-4pm

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Individuals honored for enhancing diversity at MUSC

BY CINDY ABOLE

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For the second consecutive year since the COVID-19 pandemic, MUSC employees, faculty, students and guests gathered both in person and virtually to celebrate the achievements of three honorees in the 27th annual Earl B. Higgins Diversity in Leadership Awards. The three were recognized for their significant contributions to enhancing MUSC's commitment to diversity through their performance, service and collegiality in the workplace and Lowcountry community.

The April 5 gathering was presented by the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and hosted by Willette Burnham-Williams, Ph.D., chief equity officer at MUSC in MUSC's Drug Discovery Building Auditorium in Charleston.

DEI recognized individuals in three categories:

- Student: Xzavier Killings, a fourth-year College of Medicine student.
- MUSC Health: Jonah Burrell, R.N., at MUSC's Institute of Psychiatry.
- University: Anita P. Ramsetty, M.D., the associate dean for Community Engagement and director of Student Service Learning at the College of Medicine.

"This is one of our most wonderful highlights of the year in terms of what we do for MUSC to acknowledge the great work going on in the space of diversity, equity and inclusion," said Burnham-Williams. "At a time when so much of what we do is challenging and opportunities arise to help us think about the importance of this work, it is an honor to recognize and celebrate the most distinguished people among many who do this work every day and are leading the work of our event's namesake — Dr. Earl B. Higgins," she said.

Higgins was the director of Affirmative Action and Minority Affairs

at MUSC from 1992 to 1996. He was an advocate for recruitment and retention and developed enrichment programs to increase representation of minority students throughout MUSC academic programs. He led recruitment and equal opportunity efforts while serving as a mediator for race relations to create a harmonious learning and work environment at MUSC and within the Tri-county community. At this year's ceremony, his family was represented by his sister, Marsha Higgins.

"Each of you met many criteria to be considered and receive this award. We congratulate you — what a wonderful compliment to receive this nomination and award. Your kindness and respect for your patients, coworkers and community is special. Enjoy this day, as it's all about you — thank you for your service," Higgins said.

□ Xzavier Killings – 2023 Student Leadership Award recipient

Killings is a fourth-year College of Medicine student who was nominated by Silvia Pereira-Smith, M.D., Department of Pediatrics. Killings is known for his service and dedication to others. As an undergraduate student at Davidson College, Killings was awarded a Watson Fellowship to travel the world; he visited countries, such as Zambia, Jamaica, Mumbai and Belize, inspiring his interests in medicine and global health.

As a medical student, he conducted research addressing health care disparities in minority populations and racism in pediatric health and well-being among other areas. He led the COM's pediatric interest group, served as a presidential scholar and fellow, was a peer mentor and served on the college's admissions committee. Killings was a voice in advocacy efforts supporting pediatric gun violence prevention, adolescent mental health, suicide and childhood hunger at the



Photos by Zheng Chia

The 2023 Earl B. Higgins Diversity in Leadership Awards recognized Xzavier Killings, from left, (Student), Dr. Anita Ramsetty (University) and Jonah Burrell (Health).



Killings, center, is presented the Student Leadership Award by Marsha Higgins, center, and Dr. Willette Burnham-Williams.

S.C. State House and U.S. Congress. In July, he will begin a pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"Xzavier has exceeded by giving of himself and bringing others along through service and modeling the commitment to diversity, equity and

inclusion and what it looks like. He's a credit to his work, his family, his education and his community," said Burnham-Williams.

"It's an honor to be nominated along with such an inspiring group of individuals. MUSC has inspired my

See AWARDS on page 9

Gain-of-function talk helps audience gain understanding of research

By HELEN ADAMS

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A discussion during MUSC Global Health Week about gain-of-function research showed how difficult that research is to define. Moderator Michael Sweat, Ph.D., faculty director of MUSC’s Center for Global Health, began by summarizing many people’s understandings of it. His description would soon be politely challenged by a virologist.

“Basically, gain-of-function research is based on techniques in the laboratory that change microbes – viruses and bacteria – to become either more transmissible or more virulent,” Sweat said.

As he prepared the audience for the debate, Sweat also noted that gain-of-function research has been part of the discussion about the possible origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

“There’s been speculation, although unproven, that at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which did a lot of coronavirus work, there potentially was gain-of-function research, and it could have led to SARS-CoV-2. So that’s been a hot debate, and it’s resurfaced these issues around the ethics of doing gain-of-function research.”

The MUSC discussion in the Storm Eye Institute Auditorium did not focus on that controversy specifically, although both debaters said they did not believe the coronavirus pandemic was related to gain-of-function research. Instead, they looked at the pros and cons of such research more generally.

- Virologist Paula Traktman, Ph.D., dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Hirschmann Endowed Professor, focused on the upsides.
- Pulmonologist Patrick Flume, M.D., the Powers-Huggins Endowed Chair for Cystic Fibrosis and associate vice president of Clinical Research at MUSC, agreed to present the drawbacks.

CRITICISMS OF GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH

Flume went first. “Yes, let’s invite the cystic fibrosis doctor to debate the virologist,” he joked.

He took a more serious tone as he described gain-of-function research from a critical perspective. “It’s intended to focus on experiments that may increase the transmissibility and/or the virulence of pathogens,” Flume said. “It’s adaptation research. Scientists change things and look at the impact.”

But he noted that the more he researched what gain of function really means, the blurrier things got.

Flume discussed one clear-cut case of gain-of-function research that shook up some scientists and others in 2014. Researchers studying a deadly H5N1 bird flu virus made changes that allowed it to spread more easily among ferrets, which were representative of humans in the experiment.

That raised concerns about how it might spread among people if it wound up outside of the lab. So the federal government put a moratorium on gain-of-function research. It lifted it in 2017 after the development of new processes to prevent risks to public safety.

But Flume said multiple concerns about gain-of-function research remain, in addition to the fear of a lab accident or intentional leak. For example:

- Bad actors could use published reports about gain-of-function research as blueprints for how to make pathogens more dangerous.
- Gain-of-function research could have unintended consequences for animals.
- A dangerous virus could wreak economic havoc.
- The public could lose confidence in science if a pathogen is made more transmissible and/or dangerous.

Flume also raised a financial



Photo by Zheng Chia
Dr. Patrick Flume and Dr. Paula Traktman take questions from the audience at their discussion about gain-of-function research.

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See TALK on page 11



Photos by Zheng Chia

MUSC Health Leadership honoree Jonah Burrell thanked the audience for being selected for the award.

AWARDS *Continued from Page Seven*

imagination, curiosity, creativity and confidence in problem-solving. I know these are all experiences that I have learned so much from, and that I will never forget. Thank you to my amazing mentors for this wonderful nomination and recognition,” said Killings.

□ Jonah Burrell, R.N. — 2023 MUSC Health Leadership Award recipient

Burrell came to MUSC to study nursing in 2020, following a successful career in advertising and marketing in Atlanta, Chicago and New York City. In 2018, he switched careers, responding to the inequities he saw in health care among the LGBTQ community and with his work on Upstate Pride South Carolina’s board of directors.

As a student in the College of Nursing, he served as president of the MUSC Student Alliance for Equality (SAFE), an LGBTQ student organization on campus. After graduating in May 2021, he works as a psychiatric/mental health nurse at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health’s Institute of Psychiatry. He joined the Institute

of Psychiatry Shared Governance Council to advocate for patients and patient care. Today, Burrell serves on the Alliance for Full Acceptance board of directors and is pursuing a doctorate in nursing practice to become a psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner to provide care to the LGBTQ community.

Burrell’s nominator, 3N nurse manager Lynnette Morris, R.N., wrote: “You won’t find a more committed and dedicated team member — Jonah is dedicated to patient quality, service and care. He always has a smile. He always serves with dignity and integrity. He always thinks of others first and himself last. He always models what DEI looks like.”

“My commitment to the LGBTQ+ community is a passion that I remain dedicated to in both my professional and personal life. What an honor for me to receive this award in the work that Dr. Higgins has accomplished — to be a trailblazer — and be a part of that and his legacy is truly an honor. Thank you,” said Burrell.

□ Anita P. Ramsetty, M.D. — 2023 University Leadership Award recipient

MUSC CARES Medical Clinic director Dr. Anita Ramsetty dedicated her University Leadership Award to her late mother who modeled values of acceptance, equity and respect that she honors in her everyday work and teaching.

According to Burnham-Williams, Ramsetty is the first diversity award recipient to receive the most letters of support for her nomination — with one letter signed by 14 MUSC students who volunteer with the MUSC Community Aid, Relief, Education and Support (CARES) student-run, free medical clinic, where Ramsetty has served as clinic director and faculty adviser since 2016.

In 2021, the CARES Clinic received a national award for DEI efforts by the Association for Prevention, Teaching and Research. Ramsetty has led the expansion from the main CARES Clinic site to two additional outreach clinics — the St. Stephen Rural Outreach in Berkeley County and the Pediatric Prevention Clinic in North Charleston — to address health care disparities and improve access to care in these communities.

A recipient of multiple awards, Ramsetty was a 2019 faculty honoree receiving the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, a 2019 Healthcare Hero by the Charleston Regional Business Journal and 2022 MUSC

College of Medicine Excellence in Diversity Award winner.

Surprised with the news that she would receive this award, Ramsetty said that she was humbled knowing its history and the award’s previous honorees. She dedicated the award to her late mother, who she said instilled important values of acceptance, equity and respect in her while growing up in her native Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean.

“In the time that the foundation of this work was done, it was not necessarily the most welcoming. Dr. Higgins walked through many fire paths to do this work. Therefore, I am truly honored to receive an award in his name. What I learned from my mother early on is that everyone is valuable. She demonstrated it to me in her quiet ways. We all need to be treated with respect, and everyone deserves everything. Our job is to lift everyone up in that way. I like to think that the work that we do is similar. But you have to learn balance in everything. Thank you for honoring me in this way and supporting the work that we do and recognizing its importance,” she said.

Take the Lowcountry Local First 'Eat Drink Local Month Challenge'

MUSC is proud to sponsor Lowcountry Local First's 2023 "Eat Drink Local Month Challenge" during May. Through this challenge, LLF challenges individuals and organizations across the Lowcountry to shift their purchasing and eating habits to focus on supporting local farmers and

purveyors.

Not only does the challenge inspire friendly competition between



MUSC
Health
& Well-Being

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



You Make a Difference

SAT

May 6th
Sports Day

The best offense is a good defense to prevent HAI
6:00am-8:00am- Breakfast stations lobby SJCH, ART, MH, IOP
Rollin' Into Nurses Week
Lowcountry Highrollers
Charleston Area Convention Center 5pm - Doors open at 4:30pm
Use NURSE23 for \$8 tickets

SUN

May 7th
Spread Love
not Germs

Wear pink! Spread the love, not germs

MON

May 8th
Daisy Day

Wear your best floral for our DAISY celebrations
8:00am - DAISY Team & DAISY Leader Celebration, DAISY Garden
11:00 am - Nurse of the Year Ceremony, St. Lukes Chapel

TUES

May 9th
Tropical
Tuesday

Tropical Tuesday, wear a Hawaiian shirt
6:00am-8:00am- Breakfast stations lobby SJCH, ART, MH, IOP
8:00a-10:00am- Breakfast stations (Ambulatory sites)
7:50am/12:00pm/7:30pm Blessing of the Hands Main/ART Chapel
10:00am-1:00pm / 10:00pm-12:00am - Roving Photo booth

WED

May 10th
Superheros
in Scrubs

Everyday you are a superhero, today is the day to dress like one
8:30 am - Nursing Grand Rounds:
Kathy Cole, BSN, RN,
Diane Whitworth, MSN, RN, CWOCN, CSS
Skin Assessment in Patients with Melanated Skin
2 West Auditorium
1:00 pm - Nursing Grand Rounds:
Diane Whitworth, MSN, RN, CWOCN, CSS
Skin Assessment in Patients with Melanated Skin Gazes 125

THUR

May 11th
Throwback
Thursday

Celebrate the decades, wear the best from the 70's or 80's
11:00am-2:00pm- Food Trucks in the Greenway
8:00pm-11:00pm- Food Trucks in the Greenway
10:00am-1:00pm / 10:00pm-12:00am - Roving Photo booth

FRI

May 12th
Carnival
Day

Wear your best carnival/festival shirt
One MUSC Festival

SAT

May 13th
Nursing School
Spirit Day

You earned the degree, show your CON spirit wearing your Alumni gear
Kickin' it with the Charleston Battery
7:30pm Patriots Point Soccer Complex, Mt. Pleasant
Use code NURSEWEEK23 for 20% off admission

SUN

May 14th
Sailing out of
Nurses Week

Wear your best cruise gear as we sail out of Nurses Week and into Magnet

Look out for Be the Match Live Drive

Nurses Week Events

MUSC Health Charleston Division

May 6-12, 2023

For detailed information: muscd.edu/medcenter/nursing/homepage/index.htm

Questions? Contact Kim Pitsinger pitsingk@muscd.edu

MUSC Eats Food Drive to support the SJCH Food Pantry- Collect non-perishable goods throughout the week on your units

local organizations as they seek to shift their dollars to support local food and drink purveyors, but it also serves as a launchpad to improved health outcomes at the individual level.

Eating local isn't merely a fleeting trend but rather a conscious return to the way humans have consumed food for thousands of years. The 'eat local' movement has been a decades-long effort to improve local economies, develop more sustainable food networks and generate healthier food consumption practices linked to improved health outcomes.

The primary benefit of eating locally grown foods is that it gives your body the nutrients it needs and limits the substances that can be harmful to you in high quantities, such as refined sugar, high fructose corn syrup, salt and synthetic trans fats, which are often found in highly processed packaged foods.

A growing body of research strongly suggests that by choosing to eat local, you can reduce or reverse a variety of risk factors for chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol, hypertension and even many different types of cancers. "Food as medicine" is a term now commonly used to describe an emerging recognition among health professionals that food plays not just a supplemental but a central role in overall health and well-being. When the emphasis is placed on eating locally, there is a natural reduction in the consumption of highly processed/preserved food

items that negatively impact our health, so not only does eating locally bolster the local economy, but it can also impact your well-being and longevity and reduce a variety of biometric risk factors.

You can start supporting the eat local movement with small shifts in what you choose to purchase and from whom. For example, purchasing produce directly from farmers at farmers markets, participating in a CSA (community supported agriculture) and buying regional foods from the grocery store, which are usually labeled with the 'certified South Carolina' seal, are all ways to make a shift. You can also encourage food vendors and restaurants to buy local by asking which items on the menu are from South Carolina.

Start today by joining the 2023 MUSC Eat Drink Local Challenge team, leading MUSC to victory for the 2023 Eat Local Season Challenge. Together we have the power to make a tremendous impact on our community and our own health. Simply use the team name "MUSC" when signing up and pledge to shift \$10-plus of your weekly food spending to local food sources throughout the month of May. This year's campaign includes amazing prizes for those who prove that they're shifting their spending by submitting receipts along the way.

Visit <https://www.lowcountrylocalfirst.org/events/eat-drink-local-month-2023> or email daporek@muscd.edu for more information.

TALK *Continued from Page Eight*

argument. He said creating pathogens through gain-of-function research is expensive, and scientists could use the funding for better purposes.

In concluding his presentation, he said: “Gain-of-function research is only a small part of virology and microbiology research. So, we need to be careful about what we actually are discussing and deciding shouldn't happen. But I think the purported benefits of gain-of-function research are exaggerated and dependent upon subsequent downstream surveillance and therapeutics, which you're not guaranteed.”

Flume stressed that when the potential outcomes of errors could be dire, even if they are rare, scientists need to be especially cautious in taking risks.

ARGUMENTS FOR GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH

Traktman opened her remarks by making it clear that in her view, people's assumptions about gain-of-function research aren't always on target. “I think this is a really important conversation. And the first thing I would say is that there's very little consensus on what gain-of-function research is. What you've heard about gain of function is that it's an attempt to increase virulence or increase transmissibility. And I would argue that's not the case,” she said.

“What virologists have always tried to do is manipulate, provide evolutionary opportunities, mix and match to see what the relationship between genotype and phenotype is. How do viruses and bacteria change? What's responsible among their genes for how they behave?”

Traktman used the pandemic as an example of how virologists' work benefits the public. “One of the anti-COVID vaccines is based on adenovirus that has the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein inserted into it. That's gain-of-gene research. And yet, that's a licensed vaccine,” she said.

“So I think gain-of-function research is much more broadly defined as understanding what things do.”

Traktman said the number of experiments done to make viruses more dangerous is very small. Scientists are much more focused on using technology and other methods to examine and experiment with pathogens to understand them and find ways to help people.

“I think if you look at recent triumphs in virology – drugs against HIV, drugs against the hepatitis C virus that have changed a generation of public health – they came from day after day after day working in the lab to say, ‘OK, what does this enzyme do if we swap that with another virus?’ ‘Does it have a bigger error rate or a lower error rate that led to drugs that are really dramatic?’”

Traktman said in her experience, people are appropriately cautious when it comes to publishing scientific journal articles about research. “When I write a publication, I have to check: ‘Is this going to make the pathogen more virulent?’ ‘Is it going to make it more transmissible?’ The article goes to an editor who has a panel of advisers on biosecurity. So in fact, there's a lot of oversight of this.”

Traktman also said educational institutions such as MUSC have important roles to play. “We need students and faculty to say, ‘Have you thought about this?’ ‘Have you thought about that?’ When it comes to violations of our rules for animal studies or human studies, there's real teeth for that. So I think we need to make it clear that it's a privilege to work on infectious agents and pathogens, and you have to take that seriously.”

LARGER CONTEXT

The MUSC Global Health Week discussion about gain-of-function research came as the U.S. National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity considers new oversight for such research. Challenges include ensuring

IDEAS *Continued from Page Three*

testing here at MUSC with physicians who have already voiced interest in using our product in the Emergency Department. We also hope to get our project into the hands of Charleston EMS,” said Kim. “We hope to get a basic prototype done within the next year so that we can hand these prototypes off and do a small-scale clinical trial here at MUSC.”

While Kim walked away with the grand prize, Lemon said all of the competing students, most of whom are acting as CEOs in their own startup companies, have bright

that restrictions don't stifle important research or make it hard for scientists to respond to a public health crisis.

The board will also consider how to regulate privately funded research, figure out what role research sites will play in deciding what's risky and consider how expensive it will be for scientists to comply with U.S. standards.

And there's the question of how to define gain of function. At the MUSC debate, Sweat, the moderator, pointed that out. “I just pick up from both of your discussions that there's a nonspecific definition of what gain of function is. I'm just wondering: ‘Is there a line that we draw that we could better specify this?’”

“How long do we have?” Flume joked in response.

“It's about making sure that you have all the right things in place to be sure you've covered your bases if something could get out. But the other part of that is educating the community as to why that decision was made, why it's okay and what steps are being taken.”

Traktman agreed. “I think communication is huge. I think historically, scientists haven't done a great job at that. But that's changing,” she said.

“I think we also need a seat at the table. And that, I mean, that we need

futures and have gained valuable experience and support for future pitches outside the University.

“Our students showed outstanding entrepreneurial ingenuity this year. I am amazed by the startup companies presented at this year's innovation week,” said Lemon. “Their hard work and dedication to the care and improvement of health care solutions using cutting-edge technology is a testament to the future of health care. I am glad that MUSC Libraries was able to help facilitate some of the prototypes for their ideas using our new 3D print maker space, The Dream Studio.”

to be talking to community groups, the board of trustees, the hospital groups, everybody and sort of demystifying some of what the research is and explaining how it's done, what the precautions are, you know, why people do these kinds of experiments and what comes out of it.”

MUSC's annual Global Health Week, open to the public, provided one such place for that.

OneMUSC Festival celebrating MUSC employees set for May 12

Save the date for Friday, May 12, from 1–5 p.m., for the OneMUSC Festival on the Charleston Medical District Greenway. This celebration and appreciation event honors all MUSC employees and care team members. Come join in the fun, which will feature delicious food, fun activities and an opportunity to meet and connect with colleagues from across the Charleston campus.

Various events will be scheduled at different times of the day at various offsite locations. Look out for more details to come!

WOMEN *Continued from Page Six*

Wofford College, Clemson University, the University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston. The conference included speakers from various surgical specialties, a hands-on ultrasound workshop hosted by the COM Ultrasound Interest Group and a suturing workshop hosted by the COM Surgery Interest Group.

During Hollinger’s session, she spoke about her path to surgery from medical school, getting into a general surgery residency and later choosing pediatric surgery as a fellowship. She shared some typical pediatric surgical cases she encounters, ranging from inguinal hernias to gastroschisis.

“The students loved seeing the variety of highly complex procedures Dr. Hollinger does day to day,” said medical student Shipra Bethi, who helped to plan the conference. “They learned about the breadth of knowledge required to be a pediatric surgeon and

how long-term patient relationships are frequent in Dr. Hollinger’s field.” Bethi is one of three conference coordinators and medical students along with Katherine Bishara and Kelly Atherton.

Other presenters included Colleen Donahue, M.D., Colorectal Surgery (read about her shift from Team USA skater to standout surgeon here); Sara Van Nortwick, M.D., Orthopaedic Surgery; Eliza McElwee, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Clarice Clemmens, M.D., Otolaryngology.

Donahue, in her session, explained the challenging road from undergraduate education into medical school and residency training, focusing on how to persevere when times get tough. “While the journey to becoming a female surgeon may have obstacles along the way, the end result makes it all worthwhile,” she said. She then touched on some highlights from her time in training, including lifelong friendships she made and mentors she found along the way. She shared one



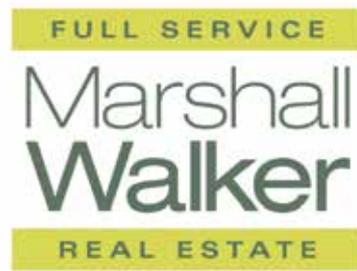
Almost 90 students attended the conference at MUSC to learn from surgeons and get an idea of what working in the field entails.

Photo Provided

of her favorite experiences of traveling to Guatemala as part of a surgical mission trip as a resident, which she has continued to do annually.

A key benefit of the event was the valuable opportunity for high school and college students to connect with medical students and faculty. Hollinger

shared that the speakers generated such robust interest that students formed lines to ask each presenter questions afterward. Many more have since contacted MUSC faculty members expressing interest in shadowing opportunities.



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