



DAVID J. COLE, M.D., FACS | PRESIDENT

Medical University of South Carolina and  
Medical University Hospital Authority  
Board of Trustees President's Report

**APRIL 2025**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

➤ MUSC Enterprise	Page	02
➤ Academics – Education	Page	03-04
➤ Academics – Faculty	Page	05
➤ MUSC Health	Page	06-07
➤ MUSC Health Regional Divisions	Page	08-10
Charleston Division	Page	08
Catawba Division	Page	09
Midlands Division	Page	10
Pee Dee Division	Page	10

# MUSC ENTERPRISE



- In January, more than 650 guests celebrated the Bicentennial at a gala benefiting students in all six colleges across the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). The event successfully raised over \$100,000 for the MUSC Bicentennial Scholarship.
- MUSC is partnering with Care.com, the world's largest platform for finding and managing care for children and adults, to provide benefits-eligible employees with a complimentary Care.com premium membership. Employees can receive five days of subsidized backup dependent care, for use when regular care is disrupted, preventing return to work. The platform launched on Jan. 1.
- In March, the MUSC Foundation welcomed Carol Shannon as the new vice president of Institutional Advancement.
- Mark Rosenberg, M.D., launched a human performance study with the 437th Airlift Wing (AW) pilots at Joint Base Charleston, using the REACT Neuro VR platform to assess the effects of high-altitude flight on performance and recovery. He is also developing an educational program for the 437th AW to optimize pilot and aircrew health.

# ACADEMICS – EDUCATION

- MUSC has been classified as a Carnegie R1 institution for 2025. R1 institutions are defined as those that have at least \$50M in research expenditures and grant a minimum of 70 research doctorates. Based on a cumulative review of awards information from the Higher Education Research Development (HERD) survey, MUSC is one of just 187 R1 institutions out of 4,000 considered colleges and universities in the United States.
- The MUSC College of Nursing (CON) RN to BSN program has been ranked #10 in the nation for Best Online Bachelor's Programs by U.S. News & World Report for 2025.
- The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) approved a Pathologists' Assistant program at MUSC, which will be housed in the Department of Clinical Sciences within the College of Health Professions (CHP).
- The MUSC College of Graduate Studies (CGS) increased applications to its Ph.D. program by 30%. CGS revised its core curriculum to ensure that students receive the same quality education while allowing increased availability for research lab experience. Additionally, it expanded mentor training opportunities to ensure that students receive relevant and targeted professional and academic development guidance throughout their Ph.D. careers.
- The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved two new training programs for MUSC: Interventional Pulmonology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R). The Interventional Pulmonology training program is the first in the state of South Carolina. All new residency programs participated in the National Residency Match Program for 2025.
- The James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine (CDM) launched the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) certificate program in partnership with the American Dental Association (ADA). MUSC is one of more than a dozen universities serving as a national training site for this continuing education program for dental assistants and hygienists. The MUSC CDHC program is a nine-month certificate program and is administered by the Center for Rural Oral Health Research and Community Engagement at MUSC Health Marion Medical Center.
- An MUSC Health Science Cohort, as part of a new Charleston County School District (CCSD) Early College High School, has been launched. This is part of a new collaboration between MUSC, CCSD and Trident Technical College (TTC) and will provide students with hands-on clinical experiences, industry certifications and dual-enrollment opportunities to prepare them for careers in health care. Nearly 200 students expressed interest during open enrollment, with 88 meeting the eligibility criteria.



# ACADEMICS – EDUCATION

- Leaders from the CON gathered with the MUSC Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of a new learning hub that will prepare an additional 40 undergraduate nursing students annually with hands-on skills in realistic settings.



- The MUSC College of Medicine (COM) Match Day took place on March 21. Of the 175 graduating students of the class of 2025, 98.8% secured residency positions. Of these, 26% will remain at MUSC, with a total of 34% staying in the state for their residency training, and 39% entering primary care.



# ACADEMICS – FACULTY

- Yuri Peterson, Ph.D., professor and interim co-chair of the Department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences in the MUSC College of Pharmacy (COP), was elected to the National Academy of Inventors Fellows Class of 2024, which is the highest distinction offered exclusively to inventors.
- Laura Dell'Aiera, DHSc, division director of the Cardiovascular Perfusion program within the CHP, was inducted into the American Academy of Cardiovascular Perfusion (AACP) Fellowship during the 2025 AACP annual meeting for her leadership and contributions to the field.
- Amanda K. Giles, OTD, faculty in the CHP, has been selected as the recipient of the 2025 Distinguished Educator Award from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). This award recognizes educators who have demonstrated excellence in teaching and learning and who are committed to evidence-based practice. It also honors educators who are making a difference in the lives of students and their communities.
- Twylla Kirchen, Ph.D., and Michelle L. Woodbury, Ph.D., faculty members within the CHP, have been selected as recipients of the AOTA 2025 Roster of Fellows Award. This award recognizes occupational therapists who, through their knowledge, expertise, leadership, advocacy and/or guidance, have made a significant contribution over time to the profession with a measured impact on consumers of occupational therapy services and/or members of the association.
- Michelle Hudspeth, M.D., professor in the Department of Pediatrics in the COM, has been named secretary/treasurer of the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.
- Marvella Ford, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences in the COM, was invited to serve on the S.C. Department of Public Health Cancer Control Advisory Committee.
- South Carolina Academy of Science (SCAS) has selected Steven Kautz, Ph.D., chair for the Department of Health Sciences and Research in the COM, as the winner of the 2025 Governor's Award of Excellence in Scientific Research for his work as a stroke researcher, which includes leading South Carolina's first neural function rehabilitation research facility.
- SCAS has selected Jennifer Dahne, Ph.D., professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, as the 2025 Governor's Young Scientist Award for Excellence in Scientific Research (YESR) winner for her efforts to reduce the public health impact of behavioral health disorders — with a focus on tobacco use and depression. Both Kautz and Dahne will be honored during an South Carolina Statehouse ceremony.

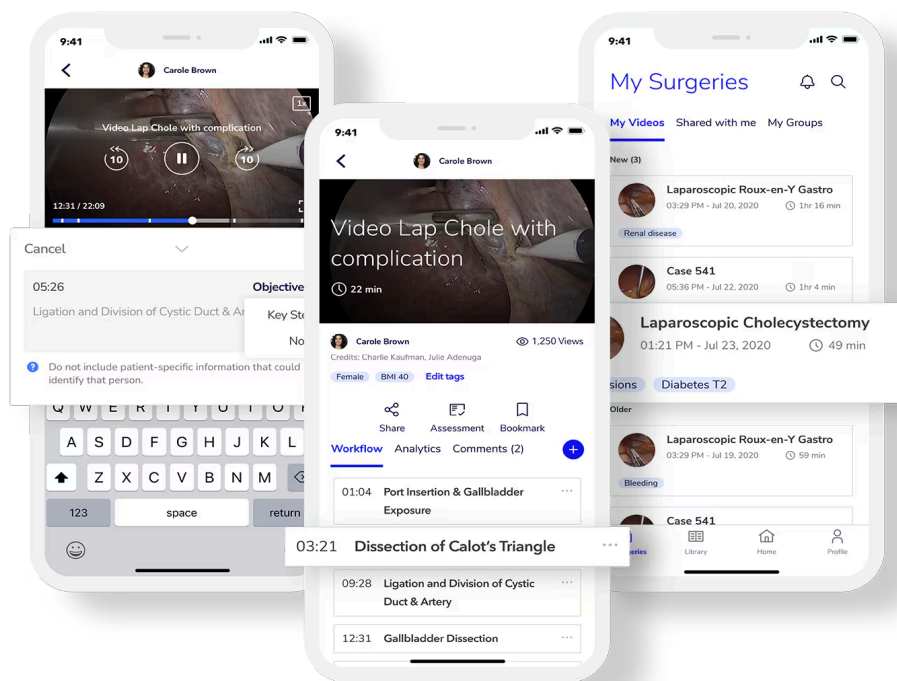
# MUSC HEALTH



- In March, the MUSC Health Kiawah Partners Pavilion construction project completed ground clearing and started operation planning meetings, which they celebrated with a topping out ceremony. The expected go-live date is January 2026.
- In February, MUSC Health celebrated the groundbreaking of a new medical office building in Bluffton that will bring medical specialties closer to home. The facility, which will be known as the MUSC Health Bluffton Medical Pavilion, will increase access to specialized care for those in the surrounding communities of Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties.
- DAX Copilot is an AI-enabled ambient scribe technology. Piloting this platform with 125 MUSC physicians and advanced practice providers (APPs) has significantly decreased the burden of documentation. Based on these results, MUSC Health has invested in an enterprise license for every physician and APP, including residents and fellows. The rollout of the enterprise licenses for DAX integrated into Epic's mobile app (Haiku) is expected in May.
- The Quai.MD application was piloted in the two MUSC Health-Charleston emergency rooms and is now available to all MUSC Health ER physicians. Quai.MD is an AI-based system that automates clinical pathway execution by providers, personalized to their patients.

# MUSC HEALTH

- Coastal Pediatric Associates (CPA) providers and staff are now part of the MUSC Children's Health family. This partnership expands MUSC Health's pediatric footprint throughout the Lowcountry and brings high-quality care to more families. The enterprise looks forward to welcoming CPA providers and staff into the MUSC Health family and continuing to deliver outstanding pediatric care together.
- The ED Navigation Campaign is now live in the MUSC Health Pee Dee and Catawba markets. This campaign enrolls eligible patients who made six or more Emergency Department visits in the last 12 months in our free ED Navigation program as part of the S.C. Quality Achievement Program. Patients are offered a virtual or in-person appointment with a primary care provider and can schedule directly within the Notable experience.
- MUSC Health completed a six-month pilot of Medtronic Touch Surgery AI-enabled surgical video management platform. The top two ways the platform was used during the pilot were reviewing surgical video to improve technique and also in the education, coaching and training of peers and trainees. An impressive 84% of respondents said that they were very satisfied with the platform.



*Image from Medtronic.*

# MUSC HEALTH

## Charleston Division



- MUSC Health has become the only place on the East Coast to test an entirely under-the-skin cochlear implant in a patient as part of a clinical trial.
- The MUSC Health University Medical Center was listed as #1 in the state of South Carolina in Newsweek's America's Best-in-State Hospitals for 2025. It was also ranked as "High Performing" in the U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals for Maternity Care rankings.
- The MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital celebrated its fifth anniversary in February.
- MUSC Health-Charleston continues to partner with the nonprofit Vision to Learn, an organization that opened a Charleston County location in 2021 and a Dorchester County location in 2024. The partnership provides eye exams and prescription glasses to students, and as of Jan. 20, over 11,000 students have had eye exams, and almost 9,000 have received glasses.
- The MUSC Heart & Vascular Health Institute was the first in the country to implant a new, experimental treatment device in a patient suffering from tricuspid regurgitation.
- MUSC Health-Orangeburg had a successful Joint Commission triennial survey. As an unannounced evaluation of a health care organization's compliance with accreditation standards, this survey shows that MUSC Health-Orangeburg has high safety standards and high-quality patient care. The survey is conducted a minimum of once every three years.
- MUSC Hollings Cancer Center-Orangeburg installed a new CT simulator. This real-time, CT-linked, 3-D treatment planning system allows physicians to map a patient's anatomy with detailed images.
- A new MUSC Health Orangeburg Advisory Board was established and will serve as a community liaison resource, providing recommendations to the board of trustees.

# MUSC HEALTH

## Catawba Division

- MUSC Health Transplant Program-Mid-Carolinas has performed 243 deceased donor transplants to date with excellent quality outcomes, as reported by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR). Effective February, the program has been granted interim approval to proceed with living donor transplants. This is an important next step for the program and advances access to lifesaving transplants to all South Carolinians.
- The MUSC Health Catawba Division and the CHP partnered to study the effects of adaptive bicycles in elementary schools for children with physical or cognitive disabilities. The Pedals Possible program began at MUSC Health-Lancaster and now provides adaptive bicycles to schools in several locations across the state. Findings were recently published in the *Frontiers in Pediatrics* journal, demonstrating statistically significant improvements in students' physical activity levels and social participation.



# MUSC HEALTH

## Midlands Division

- In November, the MUSC Health Kershaw Medical Center received accreditation from DNV Healthcare Inc. Det Norske Veritas (DNV) Healthcare is a national hospital accreditation organization that focuses primarily on hospitals and health care systems.
- The MUSC Health Kershaw Medical Center launched its new da Vinci robotic surgery program in February. The da Vinci robot enhances precision, improves recovery times and provides this community hospital with the highest level of surgical care.
- MUSC Health Columbia Medical Center received Joint Commission Chest Pain certification and DNV Healthcare Primary Stroke Certification.



# MUSC HEALTH

## Pee Dee Division

- MUSC Health Florence Medical Center announced the opening of a new MUSC Hollings Cancer Center facility to be located on their campus.
- Eleven MUSC Health-Pee Dee Division nurses were selected as Palmetto Gold Award winners. This award is only given to 100 nurses annually across the state.
- The MUSC Health Florence Medical Center Emergency Department received its Pediatric Readiness Certification with zero deficiencies.





[musc.edu](http://musc.edu)



[muschealth.org](http://muschealth.org)