



DAVID J. COLE, M.D. | PRESIDENT

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

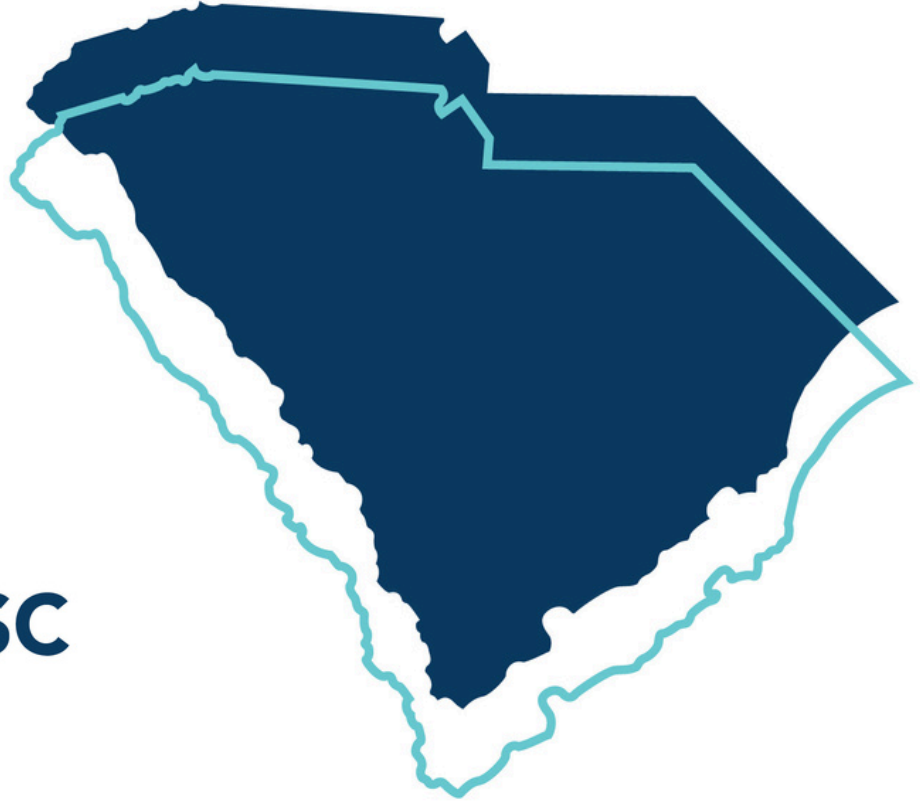
DECEMBER 2024



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MUSC ENTERPRISE



ONEMUSC



- OneMUSC strategic plan was launched, which highlights 20-year aspirational goals: MUSC will be a top 20 academic health system in the nation, and South Carolina will be top 20 in the nation for health outcomes. To guide our path for the future, three new focus areas were introduced: Empower Healthy Communities; Drive Innovation and Health Transformation; and Reshape the Future Workforce.

MUSC ENTERPRISE

- Blue Sky Labs and Blue Sky Landing opened on Nov. 21 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The innovation center will provide much-needed incubation space for early-stage startup companies, as well as education and community space to promote innovation and collaboration.



- MUSC's Well-being Strategic Plan, led by Heather Farley, M.D., MHCDS, FACEP, chief well-being officer, and the Office of Well-being, was created and subsequently approved by Team SC and the President's Council. The plan outlines the creation and execution of a strategy that enables learners and employees to thrive and is focused on four foundational objectives: fostering a culture of well-being, improving efficiency of work, enhancing mental health support, and supporting leaders as they support their teams.
- Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October featured both internal and external education efforts from MUSC, including collaborative panels with the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.
- Payroll commitment accounting went live on July 1. This new functionality will make budget management more efficient, allowing more accurate projections for compensation and fringe benefits on both filled and unfilled positions in upcoming fiscal years.
- The MUSC Foundation Board of Directors approved the restructuring of Institutional Advancement.

MUSC ENTERPRISE

■ For the ninth year, MUSC President David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, and First Lady Kathy Cole hosted the Values in Action (VIA) Awards. This year, MUSC had more nominations than ever and proudly recognized 13 exemplary team members. The VIA Awards highlight MUSC employees who epitomize the core organizational values. 2024 honorees include:

- Compassion: Patrick “Eddie” Wellman and Megan Wallace, LISW-CP
- Collaboration: Sarah Brown, MSN, APRN FNP-BC, Erica Bligen, M.Ed., J. Michael McGinnis, MBA
- Innovation: Franco Cardillo, MHA, E. Baron Short, M.D., MSCR and Lori-Ann Ferraro, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
- Integrity: Kevin Branson, M.A. and Shelley Garvin
- Respect: James “Jim” Tomsic, MEd, Alyson McGugan, RRT, RCP, RPSGT, RST, and Erin Harvey, M.D.



ACADEMICS – EDUCATION

- Alec DeCastro, M.D., an associate professor in the MUSC Department of Family Medicine, has been appointed associate dean for Continuing Medical Education in the College of Medicine.
- The MUSC Health and Wellness Institute and the College of Health Professions launched a new national board-certified health and wellness coach training and education program, which received approval from the National Board for Health and Wellness Coaching (NBHWC) in July 2024. This innovative program aims to empower individuals to become national board-certified health and wellness coaches by equipping them with the skills necessary to support clients in achieving their health and wellness goals.
- The MUSC College of Health Professions (CHP) hosted a Topping Out Celebration in October (right) for “CHP-D,” the college’s fourth building on campus.
- MUSC’s Occupational Therapy Doctorate program, housed in the College of Health Professions, has received approval from the Accreditation Council on Occupational Therapy Education for the substantiative change request to add a hybrid format. The first cohort for the hybrid program is expected to matriculate in August 2025.
- The College of Graduate Studies (CGS) matriculated the largest Ph.D. class in history, which resulted in a 17% increase in the number of applicants and a 66% growth in graduates from fall 2022 to fall 2024. CGS also had successful meetings with the College of Charleston and the Citadel to initiate collaborations on combined degree programs and pursue grant funding through programs such as the NIH Bridges to Doctorate.
- The Student National Pharmaceutical Association elected Sherri McLamb, a student in the MUSC College of Pharmacy, as its National Executive Board’s corresponding secretary.
- The College of Dental Medicine’s Luis Yepes, M.D., was elected president of the Hispanic Dental Association and received two awards from the American Dental Education Association at its annual conference: the Community Service Award and the Hispanic Faculty of the Year Award.
- The MUSC Wellness Center held its third annual Breast Cancer Survivor Expo in October. More than 20 vendors and over 50 attendees participated in the event.
- Family Medicine at MUSC Health Florence and General Internal Medicine at MUSC Health Lancaster enrolled in the 2025 National Residency Match program and have begun recruiting their first cohorts for July 2025. The MUSC Health Catawba Division has received nearly 4,000 applications so far and has begun virtual and onsite interviews.



ACADEMICS – FACULTY

- M. Edward Wilson, M.D., professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, was recently selected for the 2024 Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award by the American Academy of Ophthalmology for his decades-long efforts to improve visual outcomes for infants and children with cataracts.
- Prabhakar Baliga, M.D., professor and chair for the Department of Surgery, was recently selected as vice president and president-elect of the Halsted Society.



*M. Edward
Wilson, M.D.*



*Prabhakar
Baliga, M.D.*



*Brian Lally,
M.D.*



*Diann
Krywko, M.D.*



*Alexander
Alekseyenko, M.D.*



*Charles
Reitman, M.D.*

- Brian Lally, M.D., associate professor and vice chair of operations in the Department of Radiation Medicine, was recently selected as vice president and president-elect of the American College of Radiation Oncology.
- The Department of Emergency Medicine was recently selected for the inaugural 2024 American Association of Women Emergency Physicians Catalyst Award. This award is intended to celebrate a department with outstanding dedication to the well-being and career development of women physicians. Congratulations to Diann Krywko, M.D., professor and chair of our Department of Emergency Medicine, and her team on this recognition.
- Alexander Alekseyenko, M.D., professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, was elected a fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics.
- Charles Reitman, M.D., professor in the Department of Orthopaedics and Physical Medical & Rehabilitation and ICCE chief for Specialty Surgery & Spine, has been named this year's recipient of the David Selby Award from the North America Spine Society (NASS). This award recognizes contributions to the art and science of spinal disorder management through service to NASS.
- Eric Wallen, M.D., has been named chair of the Department of Urology following a national search. He comes to MUSC from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he served as vice chair of education and program director for the UNC Department of Urology, director of the UNC Men's Health Program, and as Supply Chain System medical director for UNC Health.



ACADEMICS – FACULTY

- Philip Costello, M.D., professor and past chair of the Department of Radiology, was awarded the American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS) Gold Medal Award, the highest accolade bestowed by North America’s first radiological society. Costello served as the 118th ARRS president and was recently named chair of the Roentgen Fund Board of Trustees.
- Frampton Gwynette, M.D., professor in the Department of Psychiatry, received the prestigious Frank J. Menolascino Award from the American Psychiatric Association. The award is given to an individual who has made exceptional contributions to the development of unique therapies and the provision of clinical services to persons with intellectual developmental disorders.
- Carol Feghali-Bostwick, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Medicine, received the Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments from the American Thoracic Society (ATS). This award recognizes outstanding scientific research contributions in basic or clinical arenas to enhance the understanding, prevention, and treatment of respiratory disease, critical illness or sleep disorders and recognizes exemplary professionalism, collegiality, and citizenship through mentorship and scientific involvement in the ATS community.
- Marvella Ford, Ph.D., associate director of Population Science and Community Outreach and Engagement, was honored by the Association of Immunization Managers as a 2024 Immunization Champion. Ford was also appointed co-chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group recruitment subcommittee and will serve as a liaison between ECOG-ACRIN and the National Medical Association.



Philip Costello, M.D.



Frampton Gwynette, M.D.



Carol Feghali-Bostwick, Ph.D.



Marvella Ford, Ph.D.



Terri Fowler, DNP



Tese Stephens, Ph.D.

- Terri Fowler, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, associate dean for Practice, Innovative Partnerships and Advocacy and associate professor, was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Inductees were recognized for their substantial and sustained impact on health and health care at the academy’s annual health policy conference in Washington, D.C., in November.
- Tese Stephens, Ph.D., MSN, RN, CNE, professor and associate dean for Academics, was recently elected as the South Carolina representative to the American Nurses Association Membership Assembly.

ACADEMICS – RESEARCH

- U.S. News and World Report introduced a new methodology this year for its “Medical Schools – Research” listing which replaced individual rankings with tier groupings (tiers 1-4, with 1 being the best). MUSC is included among the tier 2 grouping.
- James S. Krause, Ph.D., distinguished university professor and associate dean for research, received a highly prestigious five-year grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research for \$4.4 million. The award will support a national rehabilitation research and training center on the health and function of people aging with physical disabilities. Krause and team partnered with the University of Michigan, and Krause (MUSC CHP) and Michelle Meade, M.D., (Michigan) will serve as co-principal investigators.
- MUSC Research Day in November garnered 203 participants from all six colleges this year, with 136 poster presentations and 67 oral presentations in November. In addition to Ph.D. candidate presentations, there were six undergraduate, six post-baccalaureate, seven master’s and 19 postdoc/resident presentations. Sixty-seven faculty and 20 postdocs served as judges. The keynote speaker was David Odd, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Minnesota, a co-director of the Therapy Modeling & Design Center and a co-investigator for the Cancer Bioengineering Initiative.



- For the fourth year in a row, Research.com ranked three faculty members in the College of Pharmacy in the top 2% worldwide in Biochemistry and Biology: Mark Hamann, Ph.D.; John LeMasters, M.D., Ph.D.; and Danyelle Townsend, Ph.D.

MUSC HEALTH

- MUSC Health was named by the U.S. News and World Report as the No. 1 Hospital in South Carolina.
- The successful expansion of GME residency programs in the RHN continues under the oversight and guidance of the MUSC Health Academic Integration Office. Once fully operational, the three different programs will add 85 new primary care residency positions in the Pee Dee and Catawba areas.



- Amelia AI, a virtual assistant that supports patient access functions like confirming, canceling, and soon rescheduling appointments, was deployed at MUSC. With over 2.5 million calls in Charleston's Patient Access Center, Amelia AI has already achieved a 20% containment in daily call volume.

- MUSC launched a new auto authorization feature to streamline revenue cycle processes, making access to care more seamless for patients. Initially deployed in Charleston, this will be scaled statewide across South Carolina to improve patient experience and efficiency.
- Patrick J. Cawley, M.D., MBA, chief executive officer of MUSC Health and executive vice president for Health Affairs of MUSC, was recognized nationally as one of Becker's Hospital Review's CEOs to Know. He also received the Telehealth Champion Award at the Annual Palmetto Care Connections Telehealth Summit.
- Specialty Pharmacy is on pace to surpass \$800 million in revenue in FY25.



MUSC HEALTH

- MUSC Health opened an orthopedic urgent care clinic in West Ashley. With one location in Orangeburg and one in West Ashley, these clinics are designed exclusively to treat various orthopedic injuries including broken bones, closed fractures, sports-related injuries, sprains and strains, minor dislocations, lacerations, cuts, and swollen joints.
- The Integrated Innovation Institution or I3 “institute model” operational plans are being drafted and are under review for approval. The goal of this new plan is to integrate and synergize clinical, research, and education activities for MUSC to become nationally preeminent in five key domains: cancer, digestive health, heart and vascular, neurosciences, and precision medicine. Like a neural or IT network, the I3 synergizes, connects dots, creates linkages, enables collaboration, and integrates the tripartite mission in a new, more effective way.
- MUSC Health is moving into high-growth areas north of Charleston as it expands its cardiovascular care into Ladson, Summerville, and Walterboro through a partnership with Atlantic Cardiovascular Associates (formerly known as Trident Cardiology Associates). MUSC Health will now run Atlantic’s three existing cardiovascular clinics in Berkeley, Dorchester, and Colleton counties.



MUSC HEALTH

Charleston Division



- MUSC's downtown Charleston campus opened its first Rejuvenation Station. The space's creation and opening were a joint effort between MUHA and the MUSC College of Medicine and is designed to encourage employees and students to meditate, read and relax, gather, and collaborate. To date, MUSC has eight Rejuvenation Stations across the Enterprise with two in development.
- The sixth annual Lowvelo Bike Ride on Nov. 2 had over 1,800 riders and received a record number of sponsorships totaling over \$1.1 million.
- The new Robert K. Stuart, M.D., Blood and Marrow Transplant Center in Ashley River Tower opened on Aug. 2 with multiple rooms and options for patients.
- As part of a partnership with the Hollings Hereditary Cancer Clinic, MUSC opened a special dermatology clinic in Charleston for patients with genetic mutations that lead to skin cancer.
- The pediatric ICU was awarded the Gold Beacon Award, which makes MUSC Health one of only 13 pediatric intensive care units in the country to have this status.

MUSC HEALTH

Charleston Division

- MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital (SJCH) was recognized by U.S. News & World Report in several of its annual Best Children’s Hospital Rankings. SJCH was the only children’s hospital in South Carolina to be ranked, and it moved up two spots in the Southeast region. Six of its specialties were nationally ranked:



- Cardiology and Heart Surgery ranked No. 4 in the nation
- Cancer ranked No. 26 in the nation
- Orthopaedics ranked No. 36 in the nation
- Neonatology ranked No. 44 in the nation
- Nephrology ranked No. 48 in the nation
- Gastroenterology and GI Surgery ranked No. 50 in the nation.

- Kiawah Partners and MUSC Health announced the closing of a conveyed land donation for the future MUSC Health Kiawah Partners Pavilion. The 3-acre parcel will bring vital emergency and specialty care to the residents of Kiawah, Seabrook, and Johns Island.
- New technologies arrived at MUSC Health including a new mobile MRI unit and a new mobile PET CT in Charleston and a new stand-up MRI in West Campus.
- Marion and Kershaw locations both received “A” ratings from Leapfrog. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade measures patient safety.
- MUSC broke ground on a medical office building near the Clements Ferry corridor on Oct. 29. The building will increase access to care for residents of Berkeley and Charleston counties and bring medical specialties closer to home.



MUSC HEALTH

Catawba Division

- MUSC Health Transplant Program — Mid-Carolinas successfully surpassed the milestone of 200 deceased donor kidney transplants in October. The program continues to develop well, with both 1-year conditional survival and the pace with which patients are mobilized from the waitlist favorable to benchmark data as reported by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients.



- The surgical case volume at MUSC Health Lancaster Medical Center has more than doubled since its acquisition. In response to expectations of continued growth, a renovation project for a fifth operating room suite has been completed and has been successfully licensed for use by the South Carolina Department of Public Health.
- The MUSC Health Catawba Division proudly earned a total of 16 Zero Harm awards with MUSC Health Lancaster Medical Center securing 10 awards and Chester Medical Center receiving six. These awards recognize achievements in critical areas, including the prevention of hospital-onset infections like C. diff and surgical site infections as well as initiatives such as Drive to Zero Workplace Violence and Drive to Zero Disparities. MUSC Health had a total of 77 Zero Harm Awards in 2024.



MUSC HEALTH

Midlands Division



- The renovated Sisters House opened in downtown Columbia and will provide temporary housing to on-call staff and future students.
- The MUSC Health Midlands Division broke ground for a new 14,000-square-foot women's clinic in Kershaw County, which will feature state-of-the-art imaging technology.
- MUSC Health Columbia Medical Center Northeast held a ribbon cutting for its new Labor and Delivery unit on Nov. 13 and will start welcoming patients in January.
- The MUSC Health Midlands Division received approval to develop a freestanding, comprehensive imaging suite as part of its breast program. In FY23, it had one 3D mammography machine in the market, and by the end of FY25, it will have six units.

MUSC HEALTH

Orangeburg Division

- MUSC Health – Orangeburg Mabry Cancer Center has been rebranded as a Hollings Cancer Center location, expanding access to innovative treatment options, research and expertise.
- The MUSC Health Orangeburg Division procured and operationalized its fourth MUSC Health branded helicopter on the Orangeburg campus at no cost to MUSC Health.
- The Cardiac Cath Lab in Orangeburg reached 250 percutaneous coronary interventions.



Pee Dee Division

- The MUSC Health Pee Dee Division formally joined the Hollings Cancer Network.
- MUSC Health Florence started the first LPN to Surgical Tech program in the state of South Carolina.
- MUSC Health Florence completed its first bariatric surgery cases in collaboration with the MUSC Surgery Department and Rana Pullat, M.D.



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muschealth.org