



Education

Research

Patient Care

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

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

**AUGUST 2025**





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# 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.

- More than 1,000 leaders from across the MUSC enterprise gathered for the inaugural leadership forum, Stronger Together, in April. Many leaders from the Charleston region joined in person at the Charleston Gaillard Center, while leaders from the Regional Health Network across the state joined live via Teams to align more fully for a common purpose.



*Engaged leaders at the Leadership Forum in April.*

- The OneMUSC strategic plan was launched, highlighting the organization's 20-year aspirational goals: MUSC will become a top 20 academic health system in the nation, and South Carolina will be among the top 20 in the nation for health outcomes. To guide our path for the future, three new focus areas were introduced: Empowering Healthy Communities, Driving Innovation and Health Transformation and Reshaping the Future Workforce.
- The MUSC Board of Trustees (BOT) and the MUSC Foundation Board of Directors approved the restructuring of Institutional Advancement in December. In March, the MUSC Foundation welcomed Carol Shannon as the new vice president of Institutional Advancement.
- FY25 was MUSC's most successful fundraising year in its history with over \$134 million raised for colleges, clinical areas and research. Included in this total is the largest single gift to MUSC: an anonymous gift of \$50 million. It is the wish of the donors that MUSC will utilize these funds to support the College of Medicine's (COM) commitment to innovative medical education and to enable the expansion of opportunities to train more physicians at a time when our state is facing a significant physician shortage.
- MUSC's well-being strategic plan, led by the Center for Workplace Well-being, was launched. 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 the efficiency of work, enhancing mental health support and supporting leaders as they support their teams.



# 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. 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.; and 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.



- MUSC has partnered 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. Benefits-eligible employees can receive five days of subsidized backup dependent care for use when regular care is disrupted, preventing their return to work. The platform launched on Jan. 1.
- In partnership with Andor, MUSC introduced a virtual Transitional Care Management program designed to reduce hospital readmissions, improve patient satisfaction and close post-discharge care gaps. In addition, this partnership also launched a virtual pre-procedure engagement program for colonoscopy patients to streamline pre-surgical preparation, increase compliance and reduce last-minute cancellations.



- MUSC Strategic Partnerships and the Zucker Institute for Innovation Commercialization represented the South Carolina Delegation at the BIO International Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. BIO International is the world’s largest gathering of biotechnology and biopharmaceutical leaders.

# MUSC ENTERPRISE



*Genetic counselor Libby Malphrus educates patients about how genetics can impact their cancer risk.*



*Daniel Judge, M.D., the Edwin & Teresa Rogers endowed professor at MUSC, started the MUSC Health Cardiovascular Genetics program to specifically address the state's leading cause of death: heart disease.*

- In partnership with Helix, MUSC has now enrolled 84,370 in the In Our DNA SC program, with our goal to reach 100,000 enrollments by Jan. 31, 2026. Of those with results returned, 894 individuals, or one in 59, have been identified at a higher risk. We have also launched pharmacogenomics testing and can now collect both saliva and blood samples, which will allow MUSC to participate in additional life science studies and research for the people of South Carolina.
- Now in its seventh year, MUSC's 10-year strategic partnership with Siemens Healthineers continues to deliver measurable value through enhanced care efficiency, cutting-edge technologies and collaborative innovation. A recent milestone enables the reinvestment of joint-development funds into forward-looking initiatives that benefit both organizations. Among the first of these is a project focused on exploring novel approaches to training and upskilling imaging technologists in specialized modalities – an effort that underscores the partnership's commitment to workforce development and sustainable innovation.

**SIEMENS**  
**Healthineers**

# ACADEMICS – EDUCATION

- MUSC leaders, physicians, medical students, alumni, faculty and staff gathered in December to celebrate the groundbreaking of the future COM building that will enhance and better support innovative medical education. The project marks the first time in more than a century that the University’s flagship college will have a dedicated building.
- Leaders from the MUSC College of Nursing (CON) gathered with the MUSC BOT, 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.
- In-state students at the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine (CDM) will benefit from a significant reduction in tuition and fees, thanks to mitigation funding approved by the South Carolina State Legislature. This investment will reduce in-state tuition and fees by approximately 30% for the fall 2025 semester.
- MUSC’s Doctor of Occupational Therapy program, housed in the College of Health Professions (CHP), has received approval from the Accreditation Council on Occupational Therapy Education for the substantive change request to add a hybrid format. The first cohort for the hybrid program is expected to matriculate in August.
- CHP hosted a topping-out celebration in October for “CHP-D,” the college’s fourth building on campus.
- The College of Graduate Studies (CGS) matriculated the largest Ph.D. class in history, which resulted in a 66% growth in graduates from fall 2022 to fall 2024. CGS also increased applications to its Ph.D. program by 34%, and after implementing a more selective admissions process, declined offers decreased by 71%.
- The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) approved a Pathologists’ Assistant Studies program at MUSC, which will be housed in the Department of Clinical Sciences within CHP.
- CGS revised its core curriculum to ensure that students receive the same quality education while allowing for increased availability of research lab experience. Additionally, it expanded mentor training opportunities so that students can receive relevant and targeted professional and academic development guidance throughout their Ph.D. careers.



# ACADEMICS – EDUCATION

- The 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 administered by the Center for Rural Oral Health Research and Community Engagement at MUSC Health Marion Medical Center.
- The MUSC Health Science Cohort has been launched as part of the new Charleston County School District (CCSD) Early College High School. 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.
- CHP and the MUSC Health and Wellness Institute 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 Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Board of Directors issued its final report on the accreditation of the MUSC College of Pharmacy (COP), finding the college to be compliant with all standards and granting the COP the full eight-year accreditation term.
- COM Match Day took place on March 21. Of the 175 graduating students in 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.
- The COP Class of 2025 posted a match rate of 89% in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP) National Matching Service. This success comfortably surpasses the national average for post-graduate year one (PGY1); the PGY2 match is tied for the top spot in the country at 100%.



# ACADEMICS – EDUCATION

- The annual U.S. News & World Report rankings were released in April for Best Medical Schools, and COM ranked in the tier 2 grouping for Research alongside Dartmouth College, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, University of Florida, University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of Connecticut.
- The CON R.N. to BSN program was ranked No. 10 in the nation for Best Online Bachelor's Programs by U.S. News & World Report for 2025.
- 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. Both new residency programs participated in the National Residency Match Program for 2025.
- MUSC successfully expanded its Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency programs in the RHN locations under the oversight and guidance of the MUSC Health Academic Integration Office.
- Family Medicine at MUSC Health Florence Medical Center and General Internal Medicine at MUSC Health Lancaster Medical Center enrolled in the 2025 National Residency Match program and achieved a 100% match rate. They welcomed their first cohorts of residents on July 1. The MUSC Health Catawba Division has received nearly 4,000 applications to date for its program and has begun virtual and on-site interviews.
- CON launched the Center of Excellence in Behavioral Health Nursing to drive innovation in behavioral health education, research and clinical practice. The Center is focused on expanding access to high-quality behavioral health care across South Carolina and nationally.
- More than 130 high school students from across Orangeburg, Calhoun and Barnwell counties participated in a unique hands-on learning experience designed to spark interest in health care and medical technology careers. The event, hosted by MUSC Health, took place at the Broughton Street Gymnasium in Orangeburg and featured immersive demonstrations of real-world medical technology and tools.

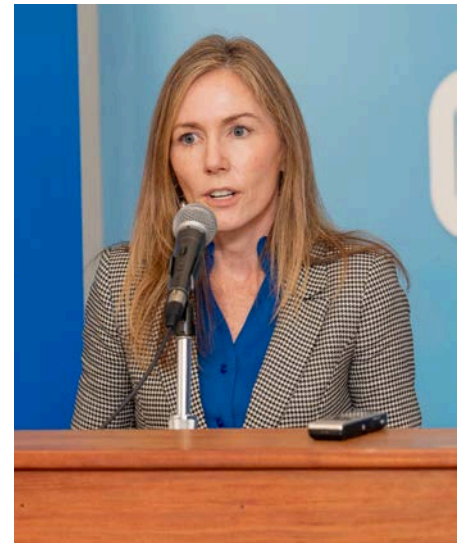


# ACADEMICS – RESEARCH

- MUSC has been designated a Carnegie R1 institution for 2025. R1 institutions are defined as those that have at least \$50 million 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 only 187 R1 institutions out of 4,000 considered colleges and universities in the United States.
- The Integrated Innovation Institutes or I<sup>3</sup> “institute model” strategic plans are approved; operational plans are being drafted. The goal of this new plan is to integrate and synergize clinical, research and educational 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 Information Technology (IT) network, the I<sup>3</sup> synergizes, connects dots, creates linkages, enables collaboration and integrates the tripartite mission in a new, more effective way.



*From left, Chief Innovation Officer Jesse Goodwin, Ph.D., watches as MUSC President David Cole, Charleston Mayor William Cogswell and Ashley Teasdel from the S.C. Department of Commerce prepare to cut a ceremonial ribbon.*



*Jesse Goodwin, Ph.D., speaks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in November.*

- The Blue Sky Innovation Center, part of MUSC’s Innovation District, 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.



# ACADEMICS – RESEARCH

- MUSC Research Day in November included 203 participants, representing all six colleges, with 136 poster presentations and 67 oral presentations. 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 members 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 COP faculty members 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 South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Center (SCTR) was awarded \$26.5 million in funding over the next seven years. For 15 years, this Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) hub has had a huge impact on research at MUSC and other efforts across the state. SCTR is one of approximately 60 CTSA's in the country.
- The MUSC Scleroderma Center was officially recognized as a Designated Scleroderma Research and Treatment Center by the National Scleroderma Foundation – an honor held by only a select group of institutions across the country. MUSC is the only designated center in the state.
- Tim Stemmler, Ph.D., vice president of Research, has been designated as the next chair for the SC Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). A three-year appointment, the chair coordinates the state's EPSCoR agenda and works with the state's other academic institutional leaders and state legislature to advance research interests and initiatives.
- The internationally renowned 9th Charleston Workshop on Light Microscopy for the Biosciences was led by John Lemasters, M.D., Ph.D., the GlaxoSmithKline Distinguished Endowed Chair at MUSC, who gave students from around the world an opportunity to use state-of-the-art equipment and interact with leading scientists in the field.



# ACADEMICS – FACULTY

- CDM'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.
- Prabhakar Baliga, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, was recently selected as vice president and president-elect of the Halsted Society.
- 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.
- The South Carolina Academy of Science (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.
- 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.
- Terri Fowler, DNP, APRN, 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.
- Amanda K. Giles, OTD, associate professor in 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.
- Frampton Gwynette, M.D., professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, 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.



# ACADEMICS – FACULTY

- SCAS has selected Steven Kautz, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Health Sciences and Research in CHP, 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.
- James S. Krause, Ph.D., Distinguished University Professor and associate dean for Research for CHP, 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 focused on the health and function of people aging with physical disabilities.
- Twylla Kirchen, Ph.D., and Michelle L. Woodbury, Ph.D., CHP faculty members, 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.
- The Department of Emergency Medicine was 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.
- 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.
- Kathleen Lindell, Ph.D., associate professor in CON and the Mary Swain Endowed Chair in Palliative Care Health, was appointed commissioner and co-chair of the Patient and Advisory Committee for the Lancet Respiratory Commission on Palliative Care in Serious Respiratory Illness (SRI), a global, three-year initiative focused on improving palliative care access and outcomes for individuals with SRI and their caregivers. Lindell was also elected to the American Thoracic Society Board of Directors, where she serves as the only nurse member, and was named associate editor of Heart & Lung: The Journal of Acute and Critical Care, in May.
- Patrick McNeal, DMSc, and Joshua Stone, Ph.D., faculty in the physician assistant studies residential division within CHP, each received the Toltech User Meeting Award for Most Forward-Thinking Design at the 2025 Virtual User Meeting. The award recognized their work integrating the VH Dissector and point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) into anatomy education for physician assistant students at MUSC, with a focus on innovative and adaptable curriculum design.

# ACADEMICS – FACULTY

- Besim Ogretmen, Ph.D., and Shikhar Mehrotra, Ph.D., co-founded Lipo-Immuno Tech to provide a method for commercializing their work. It was the only South Carolina company selected to participate in the SCbioDrive accelerator program this past spring.
- Yuri Peterson, Ph.D., professor and interim co-chair of the Department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences in COP, was elected to the National Academy of Inventors Fellows Class of 2024, which is the highest distinction offered exclusively to inventors.
- Charles Reitman, M.D., professor in the Department of Orthopaedics and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Integrated Centers of Clinical Excellence (ICCE) chief for Specialty Surgery and Spine, has been named this year's recipient of the David Selby Award from the North American Spine Society (NASS). This award recognizes contributions to the art and science of spinal disorder management through service to NASS.
- Ken Ruggiero, Ph.D., CON professor and SmartState Endowed Chair of the Technology Applications Center for Healthful Lifestyles (TACHL), was featured in the American Journal of Psychiatry for his team's work on the Bounce Back Now app. The journal featured it on the cover and included editorial commentary, a podcast episode and a news article on the topic.
- M. Edward Wilson, M.D., professor in the COM 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.
- 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.
- The American Chemical Society Division of Medicinal Chemistry (MEDI) created the Woster Award in honor of the late Patrick Woster, Ph.D., who served as the SmartState Endowed Chair in Drug Discovery and chair of the COP Department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences.
- Patrick J. Cawley, M.D., chief executive officer of MUSC Health and executive vice president for Health Affairs, University, 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.

# MUSC HEALTH

- MUSC Health was recently named by U.S. News & World Report as the No. 1 hospital in South Carolina for the eleventh consecutive year.
- MUSC Health is moving into high-growth areas north and west 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.
- The MUSC Health Marion and Kershaw locations both received "A" ratings from Leapfrog. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade measures patient safety.
- MUSC Health 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 to improve patient experience and efficiency.
- MUSC Health opened an orthopedic urgent care clinic in West Ashley. With one location in Orangeburg and another 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 MUSC Board of Trustees approved investments for MUSC Health's upcoming locations.
  - Nexton hospital and medical office building.
  - Indian Land hospital and medical office building.
  - Nexton and Indian Land equipment financing.
  - MUSC Health Jean and Hugh K. Leatherman Behavioral Health Care Pavilion.
- MUSC announced plans to expand the existing Cellular Therapy program and create an Integrated Center for Cellular Therapy (ICCT), with the goal of becoming the country's leading program. The existing facility is the only certified cellular therapy center in South Carolina, supporting a range of cutting-edge treatment options for diseases and conditions, such as cancer, diabetes and sickle cell disease.
- 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.



# 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.
- 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 have made six or more ED 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 platform.
- The state approved a \$5 million increase in support of Hollings Cancer Center (HCC), now totaling \$20 million, which is essential as we accelerate preeminence in cancer and research care.
- HCC completed its first economic impact study, showing an \$860 million impact on South Carolina, associated with 4,021 jobs in the state; estimated tax revenue of \$17.5 million; significant contributions to the knowledge economy; a high employment multiplier of 2.8 (the creation of 18 jobs for every 10 in our facilities); and an average annual wage that exceeds the overall average of South Carolina by 63%.
- Leaders from MUSC and Shriners Hospitals for Children hosted a special ceremony to unveil a new statue outside the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital (SJCH). The event celebrated MUSC's vital role as a regional hub for pediatric burn care in the Southeast with Shriners Children's support. MUSC and Shriners Hospitals for Children signed a letter of intent to collaborate further on enhancing pediatric burn care.
- MUSC Health announced a strategic partnership with Intuitive Health to expand access to care by launching combined ED and urgent care facilities across South Carolina, streamlining care delivery and improving patient access statewide.
- MUSC Health expanded its Kids Eat Free at MUSC program to increase the number of free healthy meals to children across South Carolina to include sites in Kershaw, Lancaster, Chester and Orangeburg counties. Kids Eat Free is a federally funded, state-administered summer food service program that provides reimbursement to approved locations that serve free healthy meals to children and teens in low-income areas during the summer months when school is not in session.

# MUSC HEALTH

- Multiple AI-enhanced technology applications were employed across the enterprise to increase efficiency and enhance patient experience.
- Automation tools from MUSC partner Notable achieved a 40% success rate in securing prior authorizations with select payers, now processing 25 to 27% of radiology work queues and accelerating patient access to care. MUSC also hosted its inaugural FlowJam with Notable, a collaborative build-a-thon where clinical and operational teams partnered with digital experts to design and deploy AI-powered workflows, accelerating innovation from concept to implementation in just days.
- Amelia AI, a virtual assistant that supports patient-access functions, such as confirming, canceling and rescheduling appointments, was deployed with the Revenue Cycle customer service team. Early results show a 25% call deflection rate, easing daily call volumes handled by agents as they handle 1,200 calls a day.
- DAX Copilot is an AI-enabled ambient scribe technology. Based on positive results during the pilot phase, MUSC Health invested in an enterprise license for every physician and advanced practice provider (APP), including residents and fellows.
- The Quai.MD application was piloted in the two MUSC Health-Charleston emergency departments (ED) and is now available to all MUSC Health ED physicians. Quai.MD is an AI-based system that automates clinical pathway execution by providers, personalized to their patients.
- MUSC Health completed a six-month pilot of Medtronic's Touch Surgery AI-enabled surgical video management platform. The top two ways the platform was used during the pilot included reviewing surgical video to improve technique and in the education, coaching and training of peers and trainees. An impressive 84% of respondents said they were very satisfied with the platform.
- In April, MUSC Health launched DexCare, a new digital scheduling experience, across 13 specialties. With over 3,000 appointments booked since its inception – 88% by new patients – the platform is improving access and supporting strategic growth.
- Project Phoenix, a collaboration between Alejandro Spiotta, M.D., and Medtronic, was launched to modernize and optimize AI-enabled surgical video management in Neuroendovascular Surgery, enhancing efficiency and clinical education.



# MUSC HEALTH

## Charleston Division

- The MUSC Health University Medical Center was listed as No. 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.
- MUSC SJCH celebrated its fifth anniversary in February and 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.

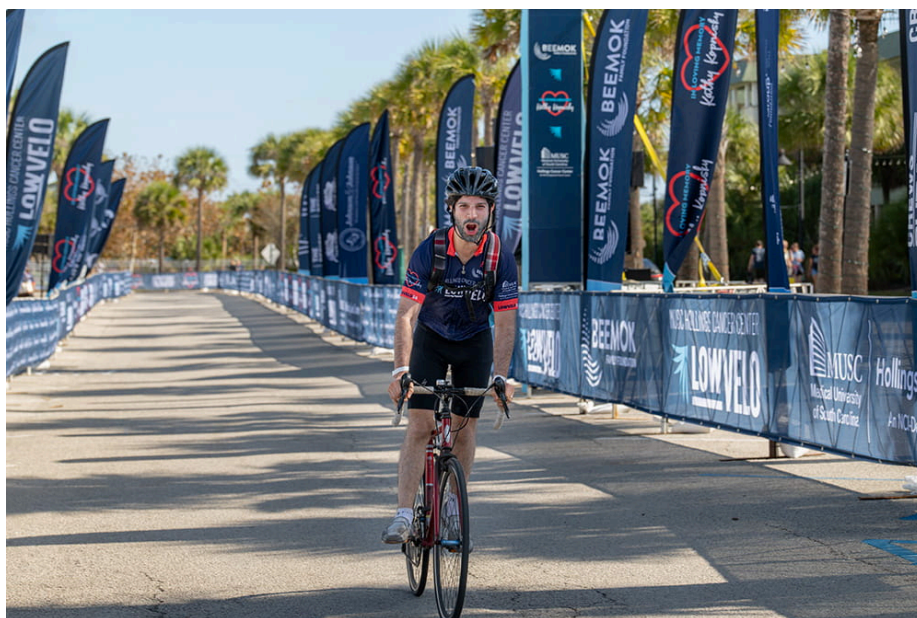


- The MUSC BOT approved a resolution to initiate the planning and construction of a state-of-the-art comprehensive cancer hospital in Charleston, which will provide one-stop integrated inpatient and outpatient services for cancer patients.
- The new Robert K. Stuart, M.D. Blood and Marrow Transplant Center in Ashley River Tower opened on Aug. 2 with multiple rooms and options for patients.
- MUSC Health 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

## Charleston Division

- 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. HCC then later received an award for the best cancer center event or sponsorship by the Cancer Marketing and Communications Association for this event.



*Dr. Leonardo Ferreira has been an ardent supporter of LOWVELO since his arrival at MUSC Hollings Cancer Center.*

- 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.
- New technologies arrived at MUSC Health, including a mobile MRI unit and mobile PET CT in Charleston and a stand-up MRI at the West Ashley Medical Pavilion.
- MUSC Health Orangeburg Mabry Cancer Center has been rebranded as an HCC 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.
- 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.

# 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 the Medical University Health Authority (MUHA) and COM 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.
- 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. As of Jan. 20, more than 11,000 students had eye exams, and almost 9,000 students received glasses.
- The MUSC Heart and 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 launched emergency psychiatric assessment, treatment and healing (EmPATH) units to help ED patients suffering from behavioral health crises to get streamlined care in calm environments with the first pediatric EmPATH unit in the nation having launched at the SJCH in March.
- A new MUSC Health Orangeburg advisory board was established and will serve as a community liaison resource, providing recommendations to the MUSC BOT.
- The 2025 Press Ganey results for Charleston hospitals showed that teammate engagement reached the 75th percentile when compared with other academic medical centers. Culture of safety reached the 78th percentile, and clinical trial managers who feel they belong to the organization reached the 87th percentile.
- The pediatric intensive care unit (ICU) was awarded the Gold Beacon Award, which makes MUSC Health one of only 13 pediatric ICUs in the country to have attained this status.
- MUSC Health Orangeburg now offers a Virtual Provider in Triage (VPIT) to cut down door-to-provider times in the ED.



*A look at the group therapy area in an EmPATH unit. The unit is designed to quickly get people facing behavioral health crises personalized care away from the bustle of ED.*

# MUSC HEALTH

## Catawba Division

- 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 successfully licensed for use by the South Carolina Department of Public Health.
- The MUSC Health Catawba Division proudly earned 16 Zero Harm awards with MUSC Health Lancaster Medical Center securing 10 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 received a total of 77 Zero Harm Awards in 2024.
- 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 was 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 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 Medical Center 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.
- The Program for Understanding Life in a Healthcare Setting (PULSE) partnered with the local district's health sciences class to expose students to careers in health care via a hands-on approach over the entire school year.
- Key milestones were reached in the development of the MUSC Health Indian Land Medical Center, including site permit approvals from Lancaster County, commencement of work for key utilities on the site and the acceptance of a guaranteed maximum price.





# MUSC HEALTH

## Midlands Division



*From left, Dr. Mac Leppard, Sister Nancy Hendershot, Sister Judith Ann Karam and MUSC Health Midlands Division CEO Matt Littlejohn prepare to cut the ceremonial ribbon in front of Sisters House.*



*MUSC Health Midlands leaders, government officials from Kershaw County and developers of the women's center hold a ceremonial groundbreaking.*

- 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 started 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 FY 2023, it had one 3D mammography machine in the market; today, it has six units.
- In November 2024, the MUSC Health Kershaw Medical Center received accreditation from Det Norske Veritas (DNV) Healthcare Inc. 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 the community 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

## Midlands Division

- A new imaging suite dedicated to expanding mammography access to patients, as well as comprehensive care for breast cancer patients, opened in June at the MUSC Health Kershaw Medical Center. The new suite includes two 3D mammography machines; state-of-the-art ultrasound; and procedure capabilities for biopsies, including stereotactic. The suite is co-located with Hart Parker, M.D., to accommodate patients needing quick access to surgical intervention.
- MUSC Health Columbia Downtown Medical Center welcomed approximately 50 community leaders to celebrate the new hybrid operating room/cardiac intensive care unit (CICU) opening with a ribbon-cutting event and campus tours. The new CICU will advance its heart failure program.



*The new hybrid operating room will allow patients who need multiple procedures to get them in one place.*

- MUSC's focus on workforce development helped to expand our partnership with Midlands Technical College, which added three new rotation disciplines that include phlebotomy tech, respiratory tech and cardiac care.
- The MUSC Health Camden Women's Pavilion opened in July. As a new, state-of-the-art building, it is dedicated to providing comprehensive women's care services such as OB-GYN, mammography, ultrasound, x-ray and primary care.

# MUSC HEALTH

## PeeDee Division

- MUSC Health Florence Medical Center started the first LPN to Surgical Tech program in the state of South Carolina.
- The MUSC Health Pee Dee Division formally joined the HCC network, as we expand cancer care statewide.
- MUSC Health Florence Medical Center completed its first bariatric surgery cases in collaboration with the MUSC Department of Surgery and Rana Pullatt, M.D.
- MUSC Health Florence Medical Center announced the opening of a new MUSC HCC facility to be located on its 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.



*MUSC Health-Pee Dee Divisions' Palmetto Gold Award winners celebrated at the 2025 Palmetto Gold Gala in April.*

- The MUSC Health Florence Medical Center ED received its Pediatric Readiness Certification with zero deficiencies.
- The Pee Dee Workforce Development team was awarded \$50,000 from the Truist Foundation to support the expansion of OneMUSC Workforce Development initiatives. Funds will enhance the current programming and create additional opportunities across the Pee Dee region.
- MUSC Health Florence, Black River and Marion medical centers are in the top 25th percentile in the country, according to the Vizient Quality-Accountability scorecard.



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