A closer look at foundational research
As we conclude another academic year, I am continually amazed at the talents of our students and the success of our faculty. We have a vibrant student body that embraces the challenges of medical school while supporting others in our community. This year more than 50 students volunteered their time to organize our 11th annual Black Tie/White Coat Gala, an event that has raised nearly $500,000 in support of student scholarships and The Free Medical Clinic in Columbia. This issue introduces you to the new humanities and medicine group started by M-II students Lee Day and Nathan Gray. The arts and humanities maintain strong ties to medicine, and Day and Gray established this group to expand horizons beyond the classroom. Many students have participated in a variety of activities from an art show to the organization of a medical school choir. In this issue, we introduce you to three basic science researchers advancing scientific discovery in the laboratories at the School of Medicine. These researchers are studying the fundamental elements of life with relevance to colon cancer, heart attack and diabetes. Our basic science faculty seek findings that offer great potential in improving the quality of life of South Carolinians.

This year has been a banner year for USC athletics, and behind the scenes the USC Sports Medicine program has played a critical role in caring for our Gamecock athletes. Our faculty from the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine are skilled surgeons and clinicians dedicated to providing comprehensive care to all athletes—whether they wear a Gamecock uniform or the uniform of their local softball team. Our new sports medicine clinic at Two Medical Park offers athletes of all ages the modern comforts of a new clinical location combined with state-of-the-art MRI technology for an accurate diagnosis and faster recovery from injury.

Please enjoy this issue of South Carolina Medicine Magazine and join with me in celebrating all our student and faculty achievements.

Richard A. Hoppmann, M.D.
Dean
University of South Carolina School of Medicine
It’s a late spring afternoon, and the room is filling up fast. Three girls stand to one side comparing notes about a recent swim meet. In another corner, Coach Dawn Staley talks with two of her assistants and stops them for a quick reminder. And a few steps away, a cornerback who suffered a foot injury during practice last summer waits for a progress report on how it is healing. As the minutes tick by, more young people, clad in T-shirts, shorts and athletic shoes — some on crutches — begin to spill in.

Finally, it’s 5 p.m. The mood is upbeat, but this isn’t happy hour. These are athletes waiting to see Jeffrey Guy, M.D., assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery and one of four team physicians for USC’s student-athletes. Welcome to a weekly sports clinic held at Williams-Brice Stadium by the USC Sports Medicine Center. The Sports Medicine Center is a collaborative effort between the USC School of Medicine Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine and the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. Swimmers are here to get their year-end physicals; a basketball player is learning the results of an MRI; another is here to have her shoulder evaluated. At 5:10, Guy, team physician for football and women’s and men’s basketball, walks in after a full day of surgery and seeing patients. He flips through the stack of charts on a table, studies each one and then sits down on a stool as he motions to his first patient.

The doctor is in.

In his trademark, soft-spoken manner, Guy talks with a diver whose specialty is the three-meter springboard. She has recovered from a leg injury and is looking forward to May graduation and trying out for the Olympic diving team in a few months. Guy says everything looks good and offers a few words of encouragement. She leaves with a smile.

“Want to get kids into our health care system in a timely way,” Guy said. Stop by the clinic on a Saturday morning in the fall, and you’re likely to see a waiting room packed with high school football players lining up for the Black and Blue Clinic. The weekly sessions are for student-athletes to get checked out and treated for injuries before returning to the practice field. Go to a high school football game, and you’ll see USC athletic trainers and grad students on the sidelines. Their presence can make the difference between life and death.

Quick thinking by a USC athletic trainer last August helped save the life of a high school player during a practice session. The young man appeared OK after taking a hit during a scrimmage but became weak and disoriented. The trainer sensed danger and sent the player to the hospital, where he lapsed into a coma for several days. Doctors said the trainer’s immediate action saved the young man’s life.

The Sports Medicine Center Outreach Program has a college component as well, helping area college athletes receive similar care as USC athletes do. USC sports medicine physicians serve as team physicians to Benedict College, Allen University, Columbus College, S.C. State University and Claflin University.

Athletic injuries are as old as sports, but Guy has noticed how they’ve changed. Knees, shoulders and ankles are typically the most injured, and football is the worst offender, but Guy says two factors are aggravating the situation. “First of all, players are getting bigger,” he said. “They weigh 300 pounds and are 6 feet 8 inches tall. When you get hit by someone that size, the injuries can be more serious.”

“Second, kids are playing year-round sports at an earlier age. When I was a kid, we didn’t play a lot of different sports. Now, they are playing at age 5, and there’s no such thing as free play. Kids are being forced to select a sport and play it, so we’re seeing injuries in kids that we ordinarily didn’t see until they were in their 20s.”

Guy is admittedly proud of the services that are offered by the Sports Medicine Center. “We have an amazing team of physicians and staff and tremendous support from our partners and the School of Medicine. On any given day, if a student-athlete gets hurt, he or she has access to the clinic usually the same or next day,” he said. “We’re providing the school’s chance to get their kids into the system as soon as possible. That’s huge.”

And that’s a victory on any day.

To make an appointment at the USC Sports Medicine Center, call 803-444-6812.
A 9-year-old girl is hearing voices. They’re telling her to kill herself. A patient with schizophrenia is off his medicine. He’s losing his grip on reality. A defiant teen is threatening his parents. They’re frightened and exasperated. TV drama? Not quite. There is a TV monitor, but this is real life. Call it high-tech and high stakes.

Thousands of individuals like these have been helped through a pilot telepsychiatry initiative in South Carolina, a method of treating emergency psychiatric cases that combines video with one-on-one counseling.

“Telepsychiatry is enormously beneficial on many fronts,” said Meera Narasimhan, M.D., professor and chair of the USC School of Medicine’s Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science and author of a report on the pilot project’s clinical, financial and policy implications.

“It has reduced costs and length of hospital stays — in some cases from days to hours,” Narasimhan said. “And, when one considers the average cost of a hospital stay is $2,000 to $2,500 a day, that savings is significant.”

Born out of necessity to relieve overcrowded emergency departments, telepsychiatry draws on the resources and talents of public, private and academic partners, including the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science.

The need is significant: One-quarter of Americans have some form of mental illness, and depression is the second-largest public health problem in the United States. Since the project was launched in 2009, telepsychiatry has served nearly 10,000 patients, resulting in shorter wait times for patients, millions saved in health care costs and, most importantly, increased access and improved care.

Compared with standard mental health care, telepsychiatry has also dramatically improved the rates of follow-up after treatment. And in a rural state like South Carolina that has only 10-12 psychiatrists per 100,000 citizens, that’s significant.

“Telepsychiatry addresses the shortage of providers (psychiatrists) and improves access and affordability while providing quality care,” Narasimhan said. “And the results not only showcase improved services, but also make a very strong business case. Telepsychiatry has the potential to revolutionize patient care.”

In 2009, amid skepticism on the part of emergency department physicians and hospital chief executives, the S.C. Department of Mental Health launched the telepsychiatry initiative with USC’s Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services, the S.C. Hospital Association and the S.C. Office of Research Statistics. The project was funded with a grant from the Duke Endowment and the National Institute of Mental Health.

The goal was to make psychiatrists available to deliver round-the-clock care — through video linkups — to emergency psychiatric patients in 24 participating hospitals, from the Blue Ridge to the Lowcountry. Six full-time psychiatrists, one part-time psychiatrist, a program director and program coordinator were hired. Additional support was provided by technicians. Six other hospitals are expected to join the project this spring.

In recognition of its innovative and collaborative nature, the statewide telepsychiatry initiative received the American Psychiatric Association’s Silver Achievement Award for 2011. In accepting the award, Narasimhan and S.C. Department of Mental Health Director John Magill said the initiative shows immense promise for improving care and outcomes.

“Ultimately, this is about saving lives and improving quality of life for patients and their families and making strategic investments in health care for the citizens of this state,” Magill said. 
Hippocrates once proffered that “wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity.” The father of Western medicine would surely love what’s happening at the School of Medicine.

Last year, two first-year students, Alvin “Lee” Day, above right, and Nathan Gray, above left, launched the Humanities and Medicine Interest Group, and dozens of the students and faculty have embraced the group’s varied activities that center on film, art, literature and music.

“Involvement in the humanities is something that makes you a more complete physician,” Day said, and School of Medicine Dean Richard Hoppmann, M.D., concurs.

“I was delighted when Lee and Nathan came to me with the notion of starting the group,” Hoppmann said. “All aspects of the humanities have a tremendous amount to offer medicine by shedding light on the humanistic side of medicine and helping make us better physicians.”

Craig Maylath, M.D., an assistant professor of internal medicine, became the group’s advisor, with Day and Gray coordinating the organization’s startup. Wanting the group to become part of the medical school’s permanent culture, the two students asked their peers to help lead participation in activities including art, literature, music, film, philosophy, dance and cooking.

“We asked the other students what they were interested in and let them lead,” said Day, adding that Gray, who was an undergraduate music major, heads the music specialty that includes a student choir.

The group’s first event at the beginning of the 2011 fall semester was a lunchtime talk on music and medicine led by Dean Hoppmann. Other speakers have included J.T. Thornhill, M.D., associate dean for medical education and academic affairs, who discussed film and medicine, and James Catroppa, M.D., a clinical assistant professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology who discussed film, art and literature.

Additional activities have included a Friday night literature chat, a talent show, an art auction fundraiser for The Free Medical Clinic and photo safaris to Columbia’s Riverbands Zoo and Congaree National Park.

“We’ve had a great response,” said Day, pointing to turnouts of between 50 and 100 students at some of the group’s meetings.

Faculty response to the group also has been enthusiastic, said Day, who noted that “many faculty members with a passion for the humanities have been very interested and very supportive of the group.”

Maylath, the group’s advisor, said he was impressed by what the students have achieved “because they’re all under very significant time pressure in terms of their studies. For me and the students, the humanities are an outlet. They provide perspective, help open your mind to other experiences and make you a better physician.”

As Day and Gray rotate out of their leadership of the group, they will help choose their successors but plan to continue supporting the fledgling initiative.

“We want to make sure that the next student leaders get whatever they need from us so the group can continue to operate at a high level,” Gray said. “Lee and I want the group to be self-sustaining, which is something that will help it thrive in the years to come.”

The best ideas almost always seem to come from students, Hoppmann said. “When students have a particular interest, enthusiasm and excitement about something, you can usually keep that momentum going,” he said. “It’s key that you have some student champions, but I can tell you that the dean’s office will always be there for the students for these types of activities.

“We encourage our students not to give up their joy of the humanities that might help identify who they are. The Humanities and Medicine Interest Group is an opportunity to keep that flame burning while they are in medical school. I think it is very important for them, both personally and professionally, to have activities outside of medicine, and this is a wonderful approach to that.”
Parents John and Stacee were concerned, but John especially so. “My husband kept saying, ‘I used to do the same thing when I was that age,’” Stacee said. “While we were trying to figure out what was going on with our children, John went to a specialist and learned he had attention deficit disorder. He got medication and saw immediate improvement, especially at his work.”

Parents John and Stacee were concerned, but John especially so. “My husband kept saying, ‘I used to do the same thing when I was that age,’” Stacee said. “While we were trying to figure out what was going on with our children, John went to a specialist and learned he had attention deficit disorder. He got medication and saw immediate improvement, especially at his work.”

John's diagnosis prompted him to have his children evaluated; each was diagnosed with a form of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and a regimen of treatment began. “Thankfully, they’re all doing so much better now,” Stacee said. “As many as one in 10 school-aged children has some form of ADHD,” said Mark Posey, Ph.D., an associate professor of clinical pediatrics at the School of Medicine and a licensed and certified school psychologist. “Girls are less often diagnosed because they can exhibit ADHD behaviors in a sweeter, calmer way.”

For their children’s consultation and treatment John and Stacee went to the Dunbar ADHD Clinic at the USC School of Medicine, a one-stop resource for children, adolescents and young adults. Offering a combination of practical behavioral therapy and carefully prescribed medication, the clinic, part of the Department of Pediatrics, annually treats more than 800 children, adolescents and young adults.

The four-year-old clinic presents an annual conference for medical professionals each spring that provides continuing education credits on ADHD. Family practice physicians and pediatricians are often the first line of assessment for patients with ADHD; many refer patients to the Dunbar ADHD Clinic, and an increasing number of parents are taking their children there first.

To evaluate clients for ADHD, Dunbar clinicians interview parents, their children and school teachers to get a comprehensive understanding of the behaviors involved. “Typical ADHD behaviors include impulsiveness, hyperactivity and an inability to remain focused — at levels that impair normal functioning,” said Mark Posey, Ph.D., an associate professor of clinical pediatrics at the School of Medicine and a licensed and certified school psychologist. “Girls are less often diagnosed because they can exhibit ADHD behaviors in a sweeter, calmer way.”

Many children with ADHD are never diagnosed and suffer the consequences of poor academic performance and social issues. Some aren’t diagnosed until their first year of college. “Parents of kids with ADHD often do a lot of accommodating during the middle and high school years,” Posey said. “But then their children go off to college and there’s no one to keep them organized, and the problem becomes apparent.”

For children in K-12, Posey often recommends simple accommodations in the classroom to help mitigate some of the behavioral issues associated with ADHD. “These accommodations might include working with school officials to assign preferential seating in the classroom, isolated seating during test taking and counseling teachers to gently tap a child’s shoulder — instead of verbally calling him or her out — to remind them to pay attention.”

ADHD is a genetic disorder that can skip generations and might affect only one person in a family. The key to coping — for everyone involved — is understanding the disorder itself. “Initially we were very wary of medications,” said Stacee, the mother of three ADHD-diagnosed children. “But we came to the realization that for our children to have their best chance of success at school, medicine was what it would take. And that’s what we wanted — to give them the opportunity to focus better and receive instruction better and have a chance to succeed.”

As more parents seek those same opportunities for their children, the Dunbar ADHD Clinic’s practice is expanding, bolstered by word-of-mouth endorsements from satisfied parents.

As our patient volume continues to grow, we’ll evaluate how best to expand in terms of adding staff,” Welsh said. “We don’t want to ever have to turn anyone away.”

To make an appointment at Dunbar ADHD Clinic, call 803-935-5343.

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BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH OFTEN LAyS THE GROUNDWORk FOR IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGHS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, AND IT’S HAPPENING AT THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

The phrase “basic science research” at a medical school is often just that: research focused on the fundamentals of human biomachinery that — while important — might be of interest to only a few. But not everything called “basic science” fits that description. Talk to School of Medicine researchers Angela Murphy, Daping Fan and Norma Frizzell about their work, and you’ll soon grasp its relevance to colon cancer, heart attack and diabetes.

So take a peek behind the curtains in the School of Medicine’s three basic science departments’ laboratories. The science is complex, but the applications are apparent. Infection, inflammation and cancer Running cross-country in high school in her native Ireland led to a college scholarship offer that brought Angela Murphy to the United States in 1991. And it was here in South Carolina that her interests in science and exercise intersected, setting the stage for her current career. “For me, being an athlete and really liking science as well (made) exercise science a really good choice,” said Murphy, who earned a Ph.D. at USC in the discipline and did postdoctoral work with exercise science professor Mark Davis, Ph.D.

In 2010, she accepted an assistant professorship in pathology, microbiology and immunology at the School of Medicine and shifted her research agenda. “I’m less focused on the performance side (of exercise) now: my priority is more of a health focus,” she said. But there’s a common thread between her former exercise science research and her current medical research. “Throughout my whole research career, I’ve had an interest in macrophages.”

These cells, part of the human immune system, seek out germs and other foreign substances in the body to eliminate them. Macrophages are also fundamental components of the body’s reaction to strenuous exercise and are closely associated with tissue inflammation. The role of inflammation in the body has long been debated, but it’s clear that too much is definitely not beneficial.

“My previous work was on infection and how exercise can increase susceptibility to infection if it’s exhaustive exercise, and with moderate exercise it can reduce infection,” she said.

Murphy is now studying the role of inflammation in both colon and breast cancer. Her lab has examined a natural compound called quercetin, found in onions, apples and berries, and the complex organic molecule curcumin, one of the primary components of the spice turmeric. Both show the ability to reduce triggers for cancer in polyps that precede the growth of malignant tumors.

Murphy’s findings could lead to greater breakthroughs with the work of her colleagues. “Here at USC we have really good infrastructure for cancer research: the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, the Center for Colon Cancer Research and the Complementary and Alternative Medicine Center here at the School of Medicine,” Murphy said. “We have everything that we need to succeed.”

Attack on plaque: the silent killer Growing up in China, Daping Fan watched his father use traditional Chinese medicine to treat the afflicted. His father’s patients often found relief from naturally derived remedies, including herbs, spices and roots.

Fan followed the same calling into medicine, first by earning a medical degree in China, then coming to the United States in 1999 for a Ph.D. in molecular biology and biochemistry at Southern Illinois University. The traditional remedies from his childhood have, in a sense, been carried forward as well: by isolating the active components in natural products, his laboratory is helping define the precise mechanisms by which they treat disease.

In doing so, Fan, an assistant professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, is helping to mount an attack against atherosclerosis, the underlying cause of heart attacks and
“Atherosclerosis is such a complex problem, among the most complex of human disease. To develop therapies, the first step is to understand the basics.”

Clue to diabetes
Norma Frizzell’s research career has criss-crossed the Atlantic several times, thanks to the pursuit of every scientist’s joy: the accidental discovery.

A native of Ireland, she completed her undergraduate and doctoral degrees at Queen’s University of Belfast. A three-month stint in USC chemistry professor John Baynes’ lab while a Ph.D. candidate at Queens has since proved to be considerably more than a layover in the States.

Invited back for a postdoctoral fellowship in Baynes’ lab, Frizzell and her colleagues uncovered in 2004 a never-before-reported protein modification in biological samples: 2-succino-cysteine (2SC).

Cysteine is one of 20 standard building blocks of proteins, and scientists have categorized a variety of natural modifications of the group. But this one, termed protein succination, was a new one altogether.

“What’s more, it appears to be an important part of an all-too-common disease. “We have shown that succination significantly accumulates in fat cells — known as adipocytes — during diabetes,” Frizzell said.

“There’s no known enzyme that can remove it from the cysteine,” she said. “We believe it overexerts proteins; they’re not able to perform their normal cellular function. Protein succination in the adipocyte might lead to cell death, which we believe is an early event in the development of diabetes.”

When Frizzell’s postdoctoral position ended in 2006, Baynes retired and Frizzell moved back to the UK to work in a different laboratory.

“They believe inflammation accompanies plaque growth, but the mechanisms are just starting to be known,” Fan said. “It is inflammation the cause of plaque? Or is it the reverse?”

Sparstudó, B, an organic compound derived from a Chinese herb, is helping to show the way. “We’ve been able to show that it can inhibit inflammation in several cell types in the arterial wall, and we’re close to understanding its exact mechanism,” he said.

His lab is collaborating with Qian Wang, a professor in USC’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry who is working to synthesize the molecule from scratch. “That will enable us to readily prepare analogs as possible drugs,” Fan said.

“Atherosclerosis is one of the most complex problems in medicine, among the most complex of human disease. To develop therapies, the first step is to understand the basics.”

Strokes. As atherosclerosis progresses, plaques build up in blood vessels, often with no warning signs. Plaques can restrict blood flow and cause tissue death from lack of oxygen. They can also break free, with fragments traveling through the bloodstream and lodging in new locations where blood flow is restricted or blocked completely. The numbers are sobering. “In the end, plaques kill 10 to 30 percent of us.”

“Then Dr. Baynes called me up one day and said it was too early for him to retire, and this work was too exciting!” she said. “He asked if I’d come back to work with him.”

“Match Day is a milestone event in the lives of our School of Medicine graduates,” said Richard W.N. Baynes, M.D., dean of the USC School of Medicine. “Four years of hard work culminate in our students learning the first time where they will be practicing medicine. Match Day provides us a great opportunity to celebrate the achievement and hard work of our graduating medical students on their match.”

On Friday, March 16, 74 School of Medicine students opened letters to learn their fate as future physicians. The School of Medicine’s annual Match Day celebration was held at The Zone inside Williams-Brice Stadium. The Class of 2012 continued a tradition of excellence at the School of Medicine, matching graduates with exceptional residency programs in South Carolina and across the country.

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Friends and supporters of the School of Medicine enjoyed a dazzling evening of fun and entertainment at the 11th-annual Black Tie/White Coat Gala. Held at 701 Whaley in Columbia, the March 2 gala attracted more than 330 guests and raised nearly $50,000. Thanks to the generosity of donors past and present, the annual gala has raised nearly $500,000 in support of The Free Medical Clinic and the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

On November 11, 2011, the University of South Carolina publicly announced Carolina’s Promise, a $1 billion fundraising campaign. The largest and most ambitious in the state’s history, Carolina’s Promise is expected to change the face of Carolina and the School of Medicine.

The $1 billion goal is a combined total of the individual goals from each school, college, regional campus and athletics.

The campaign goal of the School of Medicine is $36 million, with more than half raised from cash, grants, deferred gifts and pledges. Specifically, the medicine campaign will raise funds to:

- expand funding for student scholarships and financial aid
- increase the school’s endowment to strengthen the future of the School of Medicine
- establish a Center for Innovative Technology to accelerate discoveries
- improve the health of communities and individuals, especially women, in South Carolina and beyond
- enhance recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty and
- secure additional endowed Chairs in critical areas.

USC President Harris Pastides said the university has raised more than $556 million in gifts and pledges toward the goal, which he expects to reach in 2015. The quiet phase of the campaign began in July 2007. The School of Medicine has made significant progress towards the $36 million school goal but more support is required. Can we count on you?

Please contact Dean Richard Hoppmann or Mechelle English to learn more about the medical school capital campaign and ways you can donate. Email mechelle.english@uscmed.sc.edu or call 803-216-3300.

Let us all join together to win the SC Medical Alumni Challenge.
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TRIO RECOGNIZED AS HEALTH CARE HEROES

The School of Medicine was well represented at the inaugural Health Care Heroes competition sponsored by the Columbia Regional Business Report. Elliott Chen, M.D., assistant professor of clinical surgery, was named a Health Care Hero, while School of Medicine alumni Todd Crump, M.D., and Carol Smith, former director of marketing and communications, were recognized as finalists. Chen took home top honors in the physician category, one of seven categories featured in the competition.

The award recognizes Chen’s medical missionary work caring for patients with cleft conditions. He travels annually to Ecuador or the Dominican Republic to provide cleft care to underprivileged populations. The medical mission trips offer him an opportunity to share his surgical expertise with patients in need and collaborate with surgeons from around the world who are called to help cleft patients.

In addition to his work internationally, Chen volunteers with a team of local health care providers to provide cleft care to needy kids in the Midlands of South Carolina.

Andrew J. Pate, M.D., (“86) is the first graduate of the School of Medicine elected president of the South Carolina Medical Association (SCMA). He was installed during the organization’s annual meeting in April at Myrtle Beach.

As president, Pate will help formulate SCMA’s legislative priorities and agendas. He will appoint physicians to various committees and preside over all general meetings. He will travel the state advancing the work of SCMA and serve as the organization’s spokesperson.

Prior to his election as president, Pate served SCMA as president-elect, speaker of the house and board member for the past 12 years.

Pate specializes in anesthesiology. He is currently affiliated with the Charleston Anesthesia Group. He and his family reside in Mount Pleasant.

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PEDIATRIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM RECEIVES PERFECT MARKS

Perfection is becoming a common achievement when it comes to graduates of the USC School of Medicine/Palmetto Health Pediatric Residency Program. For the third consecutive year, all graduates passed the American Board of Pediatrics certification examination.

The perfect marks put the residency program among the elite in the country. In the past 10 years, only three of 187 nationwide have achieved perfect scores for three or more consecutive years. Nationally, the average pass rate for pediatric residents is 77 percent.

“This is an accomplishment that allows us to attract some of the brightest pediatric residency candidates in the nation,” said Robert C. Holloman Jr., M.D., director of the pediatric residency program and associate professor of clinical pediatrics. “Residency candidates tell us that our high board pass rates are one of the top reasons they choose our program.”

The achievement marks the eighth time in 11 years that USC School of Medicine graduates have scored a 100 percent pass rate on the exam.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE APPOINTS TWO NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Dean Richard Hopperman recently announced the appointment of two new department chairs. Judith Burgs, M.D., has been named chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Meena Narasimhan, M.D., has been appointed chair of the Department of Neurology and Behavioral Science.

Burgs earned her medical degree from the School of Medicine in 1989 and completed an internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Palmetto Health Richland. After an active clinical affiliation, she joined the faculty as an assistant professor at the School of Medicine in 2010. She previously was president of the USC School of Medicine Alumni Association from 2010 to 2011.

Burgs has earned numerous honors, including the USC School of Medicine Distinguished Physician Alumni of the Year Award and the Kay McFarland USC School of Medicine Women in Medicine Award in 2008 and 2010.

Narasimhan joined the School of Medicine in 2004. She is nationally recognized for her work on a statewide telehealth initiative to improve access, quality and affordable care. She is credited with launching a highly productive research division that has obtained federal and industry funding in the areas of mood disorders, schizophrenia, medical illness, substance use and telemedicine.

Narasimhan has received several regional and national honors for her contributions to research, education and clinical service and is actively involved in global health projects. She received her medical degree from Gandhi Medical College Bhopal in India and completed her psychiatry residency and psychopharmacology fellowship at Yale University.

WHITE COAT CEREMONY WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2014 INTO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

With the transition from preclinical studies to clinical health sciences comes one of the School of Medicine’s time-honored traditions — the White Coat Ceremony. During the Jan. 6 event at the Koger Center for the Arts, 84 rising M-II medical students received their traditional white coats, signifying their achievement and entry into the medical profession.

Calendar of Events

MINI-MED SCHOOL
OCT. 2, 9, 16 AND 23
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Medical School VA Campus: Building 3, M-II Classroom

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FULL-MEMBERSHIP BOARD MEETING FRIDAY, OCT. 5
3 to 4:30 p.m.
J. O’Neal Humphries, M.D., Board Room Bldg. 3, 2nd floor, VA Campus

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TAILGATE
University of South Carolina vs. Georgia Saturday, Oct. 6
Three hours prior to kickoff
ETV, 1101 George Rogers Blvd.

Contact the Alumni and Special Events Office for more information.
Debbie Truluck: 803-216-3303
debbie.truluck@uscmed.sc.edu
Or visit us online at http://alumni.med.sc.edu to:
• serve on the Alumni Board
• submit Alumni Award nominations
• submit updated contact information and class notes
• share your story for future magazines
• request to mentor a student.
The University of South Carolina School of Medicine’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine opened the Sports Medicine Center at Two Medical Park, Suite 104. The 3,000-square-foot center features seven exam rooms, a concussion testing room, a consultation area, fully digital x-rays and the first 1.5 Tesla magnet extremity MRI in South Carolina.

Sports medicine physicians Jeffrey Guy, M.D., Christopher Maczuz, M.D., Jason Stayer, M.D., and Jeff Holloway, M.D., provide comprehensive care for local athletes at the new Sports Medicine Center.

Mary Beth Poston, M.D., ’99, associate professor of clinical internal medicine, received the Clinical Education of the Year award at the Southern Society for General Internal Medicine regional meeting in New Orleans. The award recognizes excellence in teaching and research in general internal medicine. Award winners must demonstrate excellence as a general internal medicine educator in clinical and nonclinical settings and present examples of scholarly research. Poston was nominated for the award by two internal medicine resident physicians.

Lawrence P. Reagan, Ph.D., vice chair and associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, was awarded the USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Health Sciences. His research focuses on neuroplasticity deficits in metabolic disorders like obesity and diabetes, as well as an in-drug-related mood disorders like depressive illness.

Olga C. Rosa, M.D., assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics, presented research at the Ray E. Helfer Society’s annual meeting in Austin, Texas, in March and the Pediatric Academy of Clinical Education’s annual meeting in Boston in April. Her research presentation, “Measuring Quality of Medical Education for Child Abuse Assessments in the Carolinas,” addresses the establishment of quality indicators within a database to evaluate compliance with the American Academy of Pediatric guidelines for the assessment of child abuse. One of only two board-certified child abuse pediatricians in the Midlands, she has been instrumental in establishing a statewide network for reporting child abuse and neglect among health care providers in South Carolina.

James R. Augustine, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, has been named the 2012 Elizabeth Crosby Visiting Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Michigan. He delivered the 22nd-annual Elizabeth Crosby Lectures in March 2012.
Imagine biking from Columbia to Charleston, swimming nearly two and a half miles in the Atlantic Ocean and then running a marathon — all in one day. Accomplishing this feat earns athletes like Eddie Herd, M.D., a 1990 graduate of the USC School of Medicine, the honor of being called an Ironman triathlete.

A pediatrician, Herd balances his training for triathlons with his duties as a doctor. He’s a huge thrill to compete against the top athletes in the world.

Herd has qualified for the Ironman World Championship five times. His most recent race, in October 2011, was special for many reasons. For the first time Belinda also qualified to run in the Ironman World Championship.

“At the Ironman World Championship, the top professionals race in the same race as the amateur qualities like myself,” Herd said. “It is a huge thrill to compete against the top athletes in the world.”

A pediatrician, Herd balances his training for triathlons with his duties as a doctor. He’s practiced medicine from North Carolina to Hawaii, always finding the time to prepare for his next competition.

“It’s a challenge to be a physician and compete in Ironman,” Herd said. “It is critical that I take care of my patients while I train. I must still get in the training I need.”

For Herd, the pursuit of being a triathlete began in 1997. He and his wife, Belinda, visited Kona, Hawaii, home to the Ironman World Championship race. Compelled to qualify for the World Championship, Herd began aggressively training and qualified for the first time to compete in the 1998 race.

“At the Ironman World Championship, the top professionals race in the same race as the amateur qualities like myself,” Herd said. “It is a huge thrill to compete against the top athletes in the world.”

The Herds used the race as a way to raise money for the nursery and obstetrics unit at Kona Community Hospital. Donations totaling $12,000 helped the hospital buy a fetus simulator to train doctors involved with high-risk deliveries.

The race also marked the first time Herd competed following heart surgery in 2009 for a congenital heart defect. Herd admits the surgery has slowed his triathlon times. But the drive and determination to compete still exists. He’s proud to be called an Ironman triathlete and a graduate of the USC School of Medicine.

“I really liked the small class sizes and special attention from the faculty during my basic science and clinical years,” Herd said. “When I started my residency, my colleagues immediately recognized the strong education and leadership that I learned from the faculty there.”

Accomplishing this feat earns athletes like Eddie Herd, M.D., a 1990 graduate of the USC School of Medicine, the honor of being called an Ironman triathlete.

The 51-year-old Herd has competed in 15 Ironman triathlons all over the world. The competition includes a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. Competitors begin at 7 a.m. and have until midnight on race day to complete the course.

Herd said. “I know when we visited here (Kona) in 1997 that this is the place where I wanted to live,” Herd said.

Herd has qualified for the Ironman World Championship five times. His most recent race, in October 2011, was special for many reasons. For the first time Belinda also qualified to run in the Ironman World Championship.

“I am used to seeing my wife on the sidelines during a race cheering for me,” Herd said.

“This year we passed each other on the bicycle course. We trained together and supported each other throughout the competition.”

The Herds used the race as a way to raise money for the nursery and obstetrics unit at Kona Community Hospital. Donations totaling $12,000 helped the hospital buy a fetus simulator to train doctors involved with high-risk deliveries.

The race also marked the first time Herd competed following heart surgery in 2009 for a congenital heart defect. Herd admits the surgery has slowed his triathlon times. But the drive and determination to compete still exists. He’s proud to be called an Ironman triathlete and a graduate of the USC School of Medicine.

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CLASS OF 1981
Bob Crane, M.D. (emergency medicine) — “He sure loves his grandpa! What more could a grandpa ask for, besides a grandma to help him with his homework? Alas, it is true, I am not smarter than a 5th grader, at least in math.”

CLASS OF 1982
James R. Morrow Jr., M.D. (family medicine), established Morrow Family Medicine in Cumming, Ga., in June 2011. Using the motto “bringing care back to health care,” Morrow Family Medicine strives to provide the highest quality health care experience for patients by incorporating his extensive experience working with health information technology into his clinical practice. A 2004 winner of the Healthcare Information Management Systems Society’s Davies Award for Excellence in EMR Implementation, he was also recognized as the 2006 Physician IT Leader of the Year by HIMSS.

CLASS OF 1985
Charlotte Ann Evans, M.D. (family medicine, hospice and palliative care) — “After many years in family medicine, I have moved into hospice and palliative care. I now work full time as the medical director for our not-for-profit organization. It is challenging but very rewarding. We were blessed with a grandson in January 2011, Edward Raven Klett, who, of course, is wonderful!”

CLASS OF 1988
Barbara F. Magee, M.D. (allergy, asthma and immunology), received her master’s degree in medical management from the University of Southern California in May 2011.

CLASS OF 1989
Paul DeMarco, M.D. (internal medicine), is seeing patients at HopeHealth’s new clinic location at Francis Marion University in Florence. S.C. HopeHealth at FMU represents an innovative partnership between HopeHealth, Florence’s community health center, and Francis Marion University. “This alliance allows me to see HopeHealth patients in my office at FMU,” DeMarco said. “I am in the same building that houses FMU’s Student Health Services. I have always been interested in increasing access to care, and it is a privilege for me to assist HopeHealth in expanding access to patients in the Pee Dee region.”

CLASS OF 1999
Brent Barosody, M.D. (OB/GYN), and his wife, Shannon, welcomed their new baby boy, Adam, on April 1, 2011. He joins an older sister, Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to surgery) — “I am in Los Angeles for Kelsey’s second season of Disney XD’s ‘Pair of Kings,’ in which she plays the lead female, Makayla, on the show. (In this photo) her sister joins her at Grauman’s Chinese Theatre for the red carpet premiere of ‘Mr. Popper’s Penguins.’ ”

CLASS OF 2003
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2005
Melanie Blackburn, M.D. (pediatrics) went to Yap, Micronesia, on a medical mission trip.

CLASS OF 2006
Gina M. Berthold, M.D. (medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease), received an award for notable teaching by Tufts University School of Medicine Class of 2011. This year she will complete her infectious disease fellowship at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass.

CLASS OF 2009
Scott Witzel, M.D. (internal medicine) — “I’m currently applying to go back to residency after I return from deployment.”

CLASS OF 2010
Angelia Smith Natili, M.D. (otolaryngology), and Ray Natili were married at Caesar’s Palace in Reno, Nev., in April 2011. The happy couple resides in Galveston, Texas.

CLASS OF 2011
Bob Crane, M.D. (emergency medicine) — “He sure loves his grandpa! What more could a grandpa ask for, besides a grandma to help him with his homework? Alas, it is true, I am not smarter than a 5th grader, at least in math.”

CLASS OF 2012
James R. Morrow Jr., M.D. (family medicine), established Morrow Family Medicine in Cumming, Ga., in June 2011. Using the motto “bringing care back to health care,” Morrow Family Medicine strives to provide the highest quality health care experience for patients by incorporating his extensive experience working with health information technology into his clinical practice. A 2004 winner of the Healthcare Information Management Systems Society’s Davies Award for Excellence in EMR Implementation, he was also recognized as the 2006 Physician IT Leader of the Year by HIMSS.

CLASS OF 2015
Charlotte Ann Evans, M.D. (family medicine, hospice and palliative care) — “After many years in family medicine, I have moved into hospice and palliative care. I now work full time as the medical director for our not-for-profit organization. It is challenging but very rewarding. We were blessed with a grandson in January 2011, Edward Raven Klett, who, of course, is wonderful!”

CLASS OF 2018
Barbara F. Magee, M.D. (allergy, asthma and immunology), received her master’s degree in medical management from the University of Southern California in May 2011.

CLASS OF 2019
Paul DeMarco, M.D. (internal medicine), is seeing patients at HopeHealth’s new clinic location at Francis Marion University in Florence. S.C. HopeHealth at FMU represents an innovative partnership between HopeHealth, Florence’s community health center, and Francis Marion University. “This alliance allows me to see HopeHealth patients in my office at FMU,” DeMarco said. “I am in the same building that houses FMU’s Student Health Services. I have always been interested in increasing access to care, and it is a privilege for me to assist HopeHealth in expanding access to patients in the Pee Dee region.”

CLASS OF 2020
Brent Barosody, M.D. (OB/GYN), and his wife, Shannon, welcomed their new baby boy, Adam, on April 1, 2011. He joins an older sister, Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to surgery) — “I am in Los Angeles for Kelsey’s second season of Disney XD’s ‘Pair of Kings,’ in which she plays the lead female, Makayla, on the show. (In this photo) her sister joins her at Grauman’s Chinese Theatre for the red carpet premiere of ‘Mr. Popper’s Penguins.’ ”

CLASS OF 2021
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2022
Melanie Blackburn, M.D. (pediatrics) went to Yap, Micronesia, on a medical mission trip.

CLASS OF 2023
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2024
Melanie Blackburn, M.D. (pediatrics) went to Yap, Micronesia, on a medical mission trip.

CLASS OF 2025
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2026
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2027
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2028
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2029
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2030
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2031
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2032
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2033
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2034
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2035
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2036
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2037
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2038
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2039
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.

CLASS OF 2040
Ty and Susan (’96) Hagen (hematology, general and trauma surgery) welcomed Kaitlyn Bailey Hagen to their home on May 6, 2011. The couple resides in Boulder, Colo., where Ty is a rheumatologist and Susan practices general and trauma surgery.
Alumni from across the country returned to Columbia to celebrate their class reunions on Saturday, March 3. This year the school celebrated class reunions for 1962, 1967, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2007. The graduating classes raised $17,545 to support the School of Medicine Alumni Scholarship Fund.

To nominate deserving alumni for an alumni award, visit http://alumni.med.sc.edu/nominations/award10.asp
Dedication of J. O’Neal Humphries, M.D., Board Room

To honor J. O’Neal Humphries, M.D. and his more than 30 years of service to the School of Medicine, friends, family and colleagues gathered in January to officially rename the school’s executive conference room in his honor. A Columbia native, Humphries joined the school in 1979 after a distinguished career at Johns Hopkins University. He was dean of the School of Medicine from 1983 to 1994 and instrumental in strengthening its national reputation for training primary care doctors. He continues to serve on the school’s Admissions Committee. The Humphries Society, a group of 16 charter members who honor Humphries’ contributions to medicine, made possible the renaming ceremony. “Dr. Humphries’ legacy lives on in the generations of physicians practicing medicine throughout South Carolina and the world,” said Dean Richard Hoppmann, M.D. “The Humphries Board Room pays tribute to a man who dedicated his life to medicine and contributed greatly to the success of the School of Medicine.”

From left: Richard and Anne Hoppmann with Mary and J. O’Neal Humphries