Centering Pregnancy: A group approach to prenatal care
This summer marked a new beginning in the storied history of the School of Medicine with the opening of a clinical training center in Florence. Our third-year medical students are spending one week of their clerkship rotations at our new Florence campus. Beginning in the summer of 2015, 10 to 12 students will train in Florence on a full-time basis.

As a lifelong South Carolinian and former resident of the Pee Dee region, I recognize the health care challenges that face our state. South Carolina has many underserved areas and there is a significant need for more primary care physicians, especially in the Pee Dee. As one of our state’s primary institutions of medical education, it is our responsibility to train future physicians to meet the health care needs of South Carolinians.

Our expansion into Florence will introduce our students to the practitioners and medical practices in the region and allow them to experience medicine in a different health care setting than what is offered in Columbia. Alumni practicing in the Florence area will have the opportunity to serve as faculty and interact and mentor these students. In addition, the expansion creates new partnerships for the School of Medicine with Francis Marion University and the Pee Dee region’s medical providers in McLeod Regional Medical Center and Carolinas Hospital System. Together, we all share the same goal of improving access to quality health care in our state through education and training.

Dr. Bill Hester, a long-time practitioner and former program director for the Family Medicine Residency Program at McLeod Regional Medical Center, will lead our program. I have tremendous confidence in Dr. Hester and trust that his knowledge and experience in the Florence medical community will be a significant asset to our program.

In addition to the new beginnings in Florence, I hope you will enjoy reading about two new clinical programs at the School of Medicine. The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is offering patients a new option in prenatal care called CenteringPregnancy, and neurologists at USC and Palmetto Health are expanding stroke care in South Carolina with the use of telestroke technology.

As we prepare for another academic year, we celebrate these new beginnings and the expansion of our health care services and footprint in South Carolina.

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Interim Dean, University of South Carolina School of Medicine
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Neurologists are turning to technology to save critical minutes in diagnosing and treating stroke patients.

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when every minute counts

A FAST-TRACK NEUROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM ADMINISTERED BY THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PALMETTO HEALTH RICHLAND IS HELPING STROKE PATIENTS GET QUICK AND EFFECTIVE TREATMENT.

Souvik Sen, M.D.

Staving off the long-term effects of a stroke is a time-sensitive undertaking that can mean the difference between a crippling disability and walking out of the hospital with no lingering effects.

The School of Medicine and Palmetto Health Richland are helping South Carolina stroke sufferers beat the clock — and the odds — with telemedicine, a potent tool that greatly expands the geographic range of rapid stroke assessment and treatment.

Using a technology system produced by the company REACH Health, Columbia-based specialists are able to use a laptop computer to consult with six remote hospitals throughout South Carolina.

The technology package has just what a physician needs to make a diagnosis quickly and effectively, according to Souvik Sen, M.D., professor and chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Neurology and endowed chair of the SmartState Stroke Center of Economic Excellence.

“The internet connection is secure, so there are no privacy issues. Not only can you see the patient, you can look at the scan and the blood work,” Sen said. “You’re able to do the whole consultation on the system itself.”

Being able to do stroke assessments remotely is crucial in rural areas that make up a large part of the S.C. landscape. Transportation to a specialist can cost time, which is a particularly precious commodity in the early stages of a clot-based stroke.

A blood clot in the brain is the cause of ischemic strokes, which constitute 80-85 percent of all strokes. The clot restricts blood flow to a portion of the brain, depriving it of oxygen and typically causing one or more of the five common symptoms of stroke — weakness or numbness of the face, arms or legs (usually on one side of the body); difficulty speaking; trouble seeing; difficulty walking or dizziness; or sudden severe headache with no other apparent cause. Any of the symptoms is cause for calling 911 or visiting the emergency room immediately.

Swift action is called for partly because one of the common medical treatments of ischemic stroke — a drug called tissue plasminogen activator (TPA) — has a very quick-to-close time window of effectiveness. Oxygen deprivation in the brain caused by a blood clot will kill brain cells if blood flow isn’t restored. TPA can dissolve the clot quickly and, if administered soon enough, even eliminate symptoms altogether in the space of a few hours.

But “soon” is soon indeed, with every minute that passes potentially representing millions of cells dying. Getting the medication into
a stroke patient in under three hours is the FDA-approved indication, and every minute under that goal enhances a patient’s long-term outlook.

“We had a patient who came to Lake City hospital, and within an hour and ten minutes from symptom onset, we had TPA infusing,” Sen said. “If we had not had the system in place, that patient would essentially have had to wait until they got shipped by ambulance here or to a hospital in Florence. If you delay another hour to an hour and a half, sometimes TPA doesn’t even work.

“By the time the ambulance got them here, the patient was completely back to normal with no stroke symptom. To me, we had already saved the brain, we were just following up on the TPA treatment with monitoring here.”

But TPA is decidedly not called for with hemorrhagic (or bleeding) stroke, which accounts for the other 15–20 percent of stroke incidents. That’s one reason it’s so important to quickly get patients in contact with neurological experts at Palmetto Health Richland, the only Joint Commission-certified stroke center in the Midlands, for a thorough assessment.

Other treatments are also available at the stroke center. One is interventional stroke management, involving a catheter inserted in an artery at the groin and threaded all the way to the brain, where the clot might be found and removed. Another is an experimental stem cell trial — the only one of its kind in South Carolina — in which stem cells are intended to repair the brain.

Both techniques also have short time frames before they are deemed no longer effective: 8 hours and 48 hours, respectively. Rapid assessment through the REACH system, Sen said, is invaluable at each step of possible treatment that might diminish the need for later rehabilitation.
baby makes three

MOTHERS-TO-BE GET A FULL DOSE OF BONDING AND EDUCATION IN NEW OBSTETRICS PROGRAM
“I love the education component,” first-time mom Ari Foster, 25, said just two months away from giving birth to her first child. “It takes away the feeling of being overwhelmed, knowing I have (more) time to talk to professionals.”

Foster is receiving her prenatal care in a group-centered program called CenteringPregnancy™ now being offered by the School of Medicine’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at University Specialty Clinics. CenteringPregnancy is gaining popularity, as a way to provide prenatal care and education about what to expect during pregnancy and delivery. Groups are facilitated by nurse practitioners or physicians with CenteringPregnancy training and expertise in providing prenatal care and co-facilitated by nursing staff trained in CenteringPregnancy. During each two-hour group session, these women spend individual time with the nurse practitioner or physician just as they would in traditional care. They spend the remaining time involved in group education and sharing which promotes bonding, new friendships and the free flow of information.

CenteringPregnancy is a national model of group prenatal care maintained by the Centering Healthcare Institute based in Boston. University Specialty Clinics was selected in a competitive bidding process to implement CenteringPregnancy as part of a planned expansion of CenteringPregnancy in South Carolina. Greenville Hospital System has been providing Centering care for several years and is coordinating the South Carolina expansion with sponsorship by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and March of Dimes.

“We are pleased to offer CenteringPregnancy to women in the Columbia area, as group-centered prenatal care fills a niche not currently offered in the community,” said Judith T. Burgis, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. “CenteringPregnancy empowers women to participate in their own care and become better parents. Research has shown that Centering can improve patient satisfaction and health outcomes. We welcome inquiries and are accepting new patients.”

The Centering program is designed for women with uncomplicated pregnancies and is ideal for first-time mothers. Patients see their health care provider for the first prenatal appointment, participate in CenteringPregnancy for approximately ten group sessions, then return to traditional care with their health care provider for the last month of pregnancy and the delivery.

“It’s my first child, but it’s not my first pregnancy.”

Siulee Diaz’s words reveal some of the apprehension she felt as she approached her July due date. She had a miscarriage in the first trimester of her first pregnancy and had more than the usual worry during her second pregnancy. The 20-year-old is just one of dozens of women who have become involved in the Centering approach to prenatal care at University Specialty Clinics.

The group sessions are where the women – all with due dates within a month of each other – share their experiences. Diaz had a miscarriage at 11 weeks about a year before she found out she was pregnant again.

“It was hard for me,” she said. “I was thinking more of the worst rather than the better, just the thought of maybe tomorrow, I won’t feel her. This is helping me not be too scared. I can talk to everybody. It’s really cool just to see somebody else going through the same thing.”

Women like the Centering approach where they go straight to the group location with no time spent in the waiting room. Groups start on time and end on time. Fathers or other birthing partners attend certain sessions such as the labor and delivery sessions. The same facilitator and co-facilitator stay with the group throughout the ten sessions.

For Foster, the biggest fear was breastfeeding.

“It was just all the horror stories and not knowing much about it,” said Foster, who is a homework lab instructor at the Fort Jackson Youth Center and is working on a master’s in social work. “My mom didn’t breastfeed. I wasn’t raised around it and knew nothing about it. I knew overall that it was healthier for the baby, but as far as the pumps and scheduling and symptoms and other stuff, I had questions about that.”

After CenteringPregnancy sessions, Foster said she planned to breastfeed her baby.

“I get more confidence with each visit,” she said. “I feel like it’s getting me ready for that moment.”

“We do everything that would be done in a regular OB visit but, in addition, we have more time for patient education,” said Beverly Huegel, M.S.N., a nurse practitioner who is a facilitator for University Specialty Clinics’ CenteringPregnancy groups. “The result is improved patient satisfaction. In other practices where they have been doing this for years, patients often come back with their second pregnancy for the camaraderie.”

According to Centering Healthcare Institute data, women in Centering care have a 94 percent satisfaction rate compared with a 72 percent satisfaction rate for women in traditional prenatal care. Nationally, graduates of the program tend to have healthier and heavier babies – about one pound larger – than average. Women in the program have lower rate of preterm births and are more likely than others to breastfeed.

In today’s transient society, young mothers may find themselves without the benefit of having extended family members close by. Through the Centering model, women feel educated, reassured and confident that they can handle pregnancy, delivery and the first few weeks at home.

For more information on CenteringPregnancy at University Specialty Clinics, call 803-545-5762.
Healing Back Pain
At 80 years old, Jean Harkey exercises, enjoys the outdoors and bakes cakes for her great-grandchildren. But in January, a pain in her lower back sidelined her from the activities she loves.

“I would start cooking in the kitchen and could only stand for three or four minutes before my back and hip hurt,” Harkey said. “The pain interfered with everything.”

Harkey attributed the pain to a hip replacement procedure she underwent a year earlier. She feared another surgery may be in her future.

“That is what pops in your mind; you always think the worst,” Harkey said.

A visit to USC spine surgeon Dr. Greg Grabowski calmed Harkey’s worries. He examined her back and determined a herniated disc was the source of her pain. Instead of surgery, he recommended aggressive physical therapy and treatment with an epidural steroid injection.

“The road that takes someone to the point of surgery is often a fairly lengthy one,” said Grabowski, M.D., assistant professor of clinical orthopaedic surgery and a fellowship-trained spinal surgeon. “We look at all the non-operative care options available before considering surgery.”

Non-operative treatment options include anti-inflammatory medications, oral and injectable steroids and physical therapy. Grabowski estimated that despite the intensity of symptoms that come with lumbar disc herniations, nine out of 10 patients will find the non-operative care to be sufficient in eliminating their pain. But patients whose symptoms do not improve with these types of treatments, or those displaying nerve damage, muscular weakness or signs of spinal cord injury, are likely to find surgery is their best option.

The pain tolerance varies for each patient. Some people will live with back and leg pain for months before seeing a doctor, while others seek medical attention right away.

“Someone will say ‘A year ago I used to walk a mile a day; six months ago I could walk a half a mile, but today I can only walk a block,’” Grabowski said. “That is a very typical story. Usually what happens is that there is a point in time where a person is no longer willing to accept the limitations their spinal issue puts on them.

Grabowski said younger people often experience more disc-related problems, while older adults are subject to arthritis-related pinched nerves or stenosis. He encourages patients of all ages to engage in core strengthening exercises to keep the muscles of their stomach and back as strong as possible.

Harkey found physical therapy to be the right course of treatment. After six weeks of seeing the physical therapist, she is pain free and once again enjoying her active lifestyle.

“When you find a doctor that you trust, it makes a huge difference,” Harkey said. “I trusted Dr. Grabowski’s diagnosis and worked hard at my physical therapy. I’m happy and healthy now and back on my feet.”

If back and leg pain impacts your lifestyle, ask your primary care physician to refer you by calling the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine at 803-434-6812.
One of South Carolina’s oldest towns will become the School of Medicine’s newest clinical education site for its students this coming fall.

Florence, located about 60 miles east of Columbia and with a metropolitan area population of more than 200,000, will host USC medical students for one-week rotations in 2014-15. Rotations will include family medicine, surgery, OB/GYN, internal medicine, pediatrics and psychiatry.

In the 2015-16 academic year, about a dozen third-year medical students will relocate to Florence and complete all of their rotations there, while regularly videoconferencing with School of Medicine faculty for classroom instruction.

“The Pee Dee is an underserved area medically, so an opportunity to have new clinical partners there and perhaps have students who fall in love with that part of the state and decide to practice there is huge,” said J.T. Thornhill, M.D., associate dean for medical education and academic affairs at the School of Medicine.

Interest among Florence-area physicians and hospitals in developing the city as a clinical site for the USC School of Medicine has been growing for some time.

“This is great timing for us,” Thornhill said. “After more than 20 years, we’re phasing out of the Greenville site, and Florence approached us. They’ve had family medicine residents from all over the country since 1980 as well as medical students from MUSC and D.O. students from Spartanburg in recent years. I think they’ve been bitten by the teaching bug, and that’s a good thing.”

The partnership involves several key players beyond the School of Medicine including McLeod Regional Medical Center, Carolinas Hospital System, Francis Marion University and the city of Florence.

Grant funds from the state Department of Health and Human Services will help fund a new three-story health education building in downtown Florence for USC medical students and nurse practitioner and physician assistant students from Francis Marion. The
building is expected to be completed in fall 2016 and will include classrooms, advanced videoconferencing capabilities and a simulation center. "I think a lot of people not familiar with the Pee Dee area would be impressed at what Florence has to offer both in medicine and outside of it," said Lauren Wingfield, one of several USC medical students who spent last summer in Florence through a McLeod Medical Student Fellowship. "McLeod Hospital has all the cutting-edge technology, excellent doctors, and emphasis in quality, and Florence has many of the advantages of a larger town while maintaining the family atmosphere of a small one. In my summer there, I always had a new place to eat or park to explore with my dog."

Bill Hester, M.D., assistant dean for medical student education at the Florence site, has overseen the family medicine residency program in Florence for many years. In preparation for the new initiative to welcome USC medical students, Hester has begun procuring housing for those students and recruiting physicians who will hold clinical faculty positions. "We felt like we had a lot to offer in hospital bedside and office exam room experiences to medical students so it made sense to partner with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine," Hester said. "We've been teaching family medicine residents for a long time, and we're looking forward to welcoming USC's third- and fourth-year medical students."

In addition to Hester, the Florence site will eventually include student support and administrative staff. "To say I was a bit apprehensive to spend six full weeks in a small town like Florence is an understatement," said Adam Brunson, another USC medical student who spent part of last summer at McLeod Regional Medical Center. "Little did I know that the hospitals there have over a million people in the regions they serve. I almost feel that Florence is a health care hub with a small city attached to it, allowing health care providers the opportunities to provide care to the fullest of their capabilities. "To anyone interested in practicing medicine in a city like this, I say get there while you can before everyone else does."
three of a kind
At first blush, the idea that depression and cardiovascular disease are closely related might seem unlikely.

How could pervasive feelings of sadness or hopelessness — a problem seemingly of the mind only — affect one’s risk for developing high blood pressure?

But it’s true. Individuals with hypertension are much more likely to develop a psychiatric disorder down the road. And those who are clinically depressed are more likely to have a heart attack.

Understanding the underlying mechanisms is imperative in order to better treat the two illnesses because some treatments for depression exacerbate cardiovascular disease, and vice versa. That’s where the School of Medicine’s Susan Wood, Ph.D., is poised to make a contribution.

An assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, Wood, who came to the school in spring 2013, has spent the past seven years developing a highly refined animal model.

While she works with rodents in the laboratory, Wood’s research is rooted in some well-established clinical results with humans. “In humans, if we passively cope with stress — if we just kind of let it happen — it’s associated with an increased risk of developing psychiatric disorders,” she said. “But if we proactively cope and take a stand, saying, ‘I’m not going to let this affect me,’ then it’s associated with being resilient to the stress.”

Wood’s animal model uses a common source of stress — a bully, essentially — and, as in humans, the subjects of the stress vary greatly in their coping response.

A laboratory rodent (the intruder) is introduced to a much larger rodent (the resident). In clinical terms, this situation is called a ‘resident-intruder model.’ In the rat world, finding yourself in a cage with a much larger rat is quite stressful. In the presence of this large resident, some of the smaller rat intruders roll onto their backs and expose their bellies, much like a small dog will do in the presence of a much larger dog.

“In the passive response, the animal exhibits a supine posture each day,” Wood said. “This is a response they adopt naturally. And in seven years of studying this model, I’ve found that this submissive, passive response leads to pathology.”

The pathology includes depressive-like symptoms as well as a range of biomolecular markers indicating that cardiovascular disease is soon to follow.

Rodents are very hierarchical. They all want to be at the top, and when they’re reduced to forced submission, it’s damaging to their health. But in Wood’s animal model, individual differences in the rats come into play: some don’t roll over when confronted by the “bully resident”; they stand up for themselves and resist lying on their backs in submission.

In the face of stress, these individuals are more resilient, and their outcomes are much better. They develop neither depressive-like symptoms nor the markings of cardiovascular disease.

“I think that’s one of the great features of this model,” Wood said. “It mimics what we see in humans. If you passively cope, you’re more vulnerable. In this animal model if you passively cope, you’re more vulnerable as well. It increases the translational value of the research.”

Wood has been carefully studying the differences between resilient and vulnerable individuals, and one defining difference is brain inflammation, which is known to be associated with many disorders, including arthritis, depression, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

“Recently, we’ve started to understand that not only is the inflammation that’s in our bodies — south of the blood-brain barrier, basically — contributing to these diseases, but that stress can produce changes in the inflammatory factors in the brain, as well.”

Using her animal model, Wood has shown a distinct difference in brain inflammation between vulnerable and resilient individuals, with some markers for inflammation increased in the former but suppressed in the latter. Focusing on the “fight-or-flight” part of the brain, she has begun to develop a plan to convert vulnerable individuals into resilient ones.

Wood has spent years identifying brain regions, neuromodulators and neurochemical changes associated with these two very different responses. Now she wants to see if her team can actually produce the response. Instead of just saying there’s an association, she hopes to make a certain change in the brain that will cause the animal to be resilient.

“Our work is focused on identifying novel treatment options for these co-occurring disorders, and therapeutics with potential to produce a more resilient individual in the face of stress,” she said.
AFTER A MEDICAL CAREER SPANNING MORE THAN SIX DECADES INCLUDING MORE THAN 30 YEARS AT THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DR. J. O’NEAL HUMPHRIES RETIRED IN MAY. HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN MEDICINE IS REFLECTED IN THE ADMIRATION FROM HIS FORMER STUDENTS, WHO OFFERED THESE TRIBUTES TO THEIR FORMER DEAN AND PROFESSOR.
I will forever remember standing alongside patients with Dr. Humphries, learning the basics of cardiology. My amazement that he could tell a man's blood pressure by feeling his pulse, his easy manner of teaching the "ssshhh bump" of murmurs, and his shared excitement when we finally caught on to EKG findings. He is a world-class clinician and a wonderful and patient teacher. USC medical students have been so lucky to have been able to learn from him; he will be missed. Thank you for your decades of dedication to medical education and patient care.

Katy Imgrund, M.D.
Class of 2009

Dr. Humphries was always an inspiration for me to learn. He amazed me with his physical exam abilities. His observational skills were unsurpassed, and I have tried ever since to come as close to his ability as I could.

John B. Eberly, M.D.
Class of 1989

I have extremely fond memories of Dr. Humphries and often think of his influence on my becoming a cardiologist. I always remember his calm demeanor, warm and kind personality and amazing clinical insight. I spoke to him about my dilemma as I tried to pick residency programs and to decide whether I wanted medicine and perhaps cardiology or go in another direction. We spoke through the issues at length, and he helped me clarify what I wanted. He also taught me to remain curious and always seek to continue to learn. I know his wisdom and kindness have touched the lives and careers of many students, and I am grateful that I have been one of those students.

Robert (Bob) Shor, M.D., FACC
Class of 1982

Dr. Humphries interviewed me when I came to the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and was a big part of why I came here for medical school. As a fourth year, I took the class that he taught about reading EKGs, which has continued to help me as a resident. I was always surprised to hear how distinguished his career has been because he is so humble and approachable. He has the ability to make you feel like whatever you are saying is truly important to him, no matter what the subject. This is a rare gift.

Elizabeth-Clare Porter, M.D.
Class of 2011

With great fondness and respect, I want to add my thanks to Dr. Humphries for the example of excellence in clinical care, teaching and leadership that he has been to me throughout my years at the USC School of Medicine. Having just celebrated our 20th reunion as the graduating class of 1994, we were privileged to have him as our dean, our top clinical teacher in cardiology and our kindest mentor. I have also seen his gentleness and care as he served year after year on the Admission Committee, always a wonderful ambassador for our school.

Donna Ray, M.D.
Class of 1994

Dr. Humphries always seemed to be able to more accurately depict a person's cardiac health better with a stethoscope and his ears than most could with a hospital full of diagnostic equipment. His abilities clearly stemmed from a deep understanding of that which he observed. It was his systematic and measured process guided by that understanding and applied equally to all patients that so impressed me. It is that same approach which I strive to this day to apply in my chosen field of psychiatry.

Al Edwards, M.D.
Class of 1982
SOUTH CAROLINA BETA CHAPTER OF ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA HONOR MEDICAL SOCIETY HOLDS SPRING INDUCTION

On March 20, the South Carolina Beta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA) Honor Medical Society held its 2014 spring induction banquet. With more than 100 attendees, 15 students from the classes of 2014 and 2015 were inducted into AΩA, along with three resident physicians, two School of Medicine faculty members and two alumni. Carol A. Aschenbrener, M.D., chief medical education officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges, was the AΩA visiting professor and guest speaker for the event. In addition, Matthew A. Marcus, M.D., was recognized with the AΩA Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award.

Inductees to the South Carolina Beta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA) Honor Medical Society include:

**Class of 2014**
- Alicia Bonanno
- Meredith Calcina
- Adella Deanna Dunagan
- Stephanie Horton Hrisko
- Ashley Nicole Martinez
- Elizabeth Green Williams
- Malissa Blair Wilson

**Resident Physicians**
- Frank Alexander Clark, M.D.
  Psychiatry – Palmetto Health
- Elizabeth Cutrell, D.O.
  Pediatrics – Palmetto Health
- Natalie R. Prochak, M.D.
  Internal Medicine – Palmetto Health

**Class of 2015**
- Jessica M. Demarest
- Donald R. Fredericks Jr.
- Mackenzie Gwynne
- Donna Mayeda
- Lauren Mozingo
- Katherine Neuffer
- J. Parker Rogers
- James D. Weinberg

**Faculty**
- Divya Ahuja, M.D.
  Department of Internal Medicine
- Theodore Tom Faber, M.D.
  Department of Neurology

**Alumni**
- Charles J. Carter Jr., M.D. – Class of 1999
- John Conway Ropp III, M.D. – Class of 2001

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The University of South Carolina School of Medicine invites you to like us on Facebook. Join alumni and friends in staying up to date with the latest health news, research, events, photos and videos on the School of Medicine’s official Facebook page. Like us today by visiting www.facebook.com/UofSCMedicine.

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Calendar of Events

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31**
**ALUMNI BOARD MEETING**
J. O’Neal Humphries, M.D., Board Room
Bldg. 3, 2nd Floor, VA Campus

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1**
**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TAILGATE**
Three hours prior to kickoff
University of Tennessee vs. University of South Carolina
ETV, 1101 George Rogers Blvd.
Register by contacting
Debbie Truluck at 803-216-3303 or
Debbie.Truluck@uscmed.sc.edu
FUTURE REVEALED: MEDICAL STUDENTS LEARN THEIR MATCH

The next chapter in the careers of 81 fourth-year medical students at the University of South Carolina was revealed during the School of Medicine’s annual Match Day ceremony March 21.

During the event, members of the class of 2014 were called to the stage one by one to open a white envelope that disclosed their future specialty and the location where they will complete residency training.

Nearly three-fourths of the class of 2014 matched in primary care or one of the underrepresented areas of medicine in South Carolina (emergency medicine, psychiatry or OB/GYN).

“There is a significant need for primary care physicians in South Carolina and throughout the country,” said Caughman Taylor, M.D., interim dean of the School of Medicine. “Today, an outstanding group of students took the next step in fulfilling that need. We are proud of all of our students and look forward to them being outstanding ambassadors for the USC School of Medicine throughout their careers.”

Match Day represents the transition from medical school to a lifetime of caring for patients as a doctor. Students spend months traveling the country interviewing with residency programs in search of their perfect match.

USC medical student Aubrey Sowell matched in psychiatry at USC/Palmetto Health Richland — her first choice.

“I’m excited because I’m entering a good residency program with outstanding faculty,” Sowell said.

As the mother of four children, Sowell and her husband were relieved to know that they will be calling Columbia home for another four years.

Meanwhile, Terrel Sanders has his sights set on the west coast. He was one of five students from the class of 2014 to pre-match with the military. His residency training will begin with the U.S. Navy in San Diego this summer.

“Dr. Hester has made incredible contributions to the health care community in the Pee Dee region during his more than three decades of service at McLeod Regional Medical Center,” said Caughman Taylor, M.D., interim dean of the USC School of Medicine. “During his tenure, nearly 200 graduates have benefitted from his mentorship and leadership in the family medicine residency program. He is an outstanding physician, teacher, and administrator, and we are pleased to welcome him to the faculty and have him lead the School of Medicine’s effort to establish educational training sites in Florence.”

As assistant dean for medical student education – Florence, Hester will play a critical role in the establishment of the School of Medicine’s Florence campus. Beginning in summer 2014, USC medical students will spend part of their clerkship rotations in Florence.

“I’m excited to see the new clinical campus develop and grow,” Hester said. “I want USC students to see the incredible health care opportunities that await them in Florence and remember fondly their education here.”

The School of Medicine is partnering with Francis Marion University, Carolinas Hospital System and McLeod Regional Medical Center to establish the Florence campus.

To view the residency appointments for the class of 2014, visit: http://www.med.sc.edu/Match.Results3.pdf
THE NUMBERS

1,246 LOCAL STUDENT ATHLETES benefited from free pre-participation exams provided by the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine in partnership with the Departments of Family and Preventive Medicine and Pediatrics. The 13th-annual S.M.A.R.T. (Sports Medicine for Athletes and Recreational Teams) event was held April 26 at Williams-Brice Stadium.

$52,000 THE AMOUNT RAISED during the 13th-annual Black Tie/White Coat Gala. Students from the event’s planning committee presented checks to The Free Medical Clinic and the Alumni Scholarship Fund during Senior Banquet on May 2.

67 COMMUNITY MEMBERS benefitted from free health screenings provided by medical student volunteers at the ninth-annual Student National Medical Association (SNMA) community health fair. The March 20 event was held at the Drew Wellness Center and allowed students to provide much needed health care to an underserved area of their community.

14 DIFFERENT RESIDENCY PROGRAMS from South Carolina attended the School of Medicine’s residency fair on April 28. The fair provided the opportunity for third-year medical students at USC to learn more about potential residency matches and visit with representatives from the different residency programs.

STUDENTS RECEIVED DEGREES from the School of Medicine in spring 2014. These graduates were recognized at the School of Medicine’s commencement ceremony on May 9.
Theodore Faber, M.D., neurology, was elected president of the South Carolina Neurological Association.

Daping Fan, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy, was named one of the University of South Carolina’s Breakthrough Stars of 2014. The recognition is bestowed by USC’s Office of the Vice President of Research and recognizes young faculty members who enrich student experiences through their work.

William R. Fry, M.D., professor of clinical surgery (top), and R. Stephen Smith, M.D., professor of clinical surgery (bottom), were published in the October 2013 issue of the European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery. The pair conducted a literature review of various diagnoses and treatment options for patients with compartment syndrome, a condition where there is insufficient blood supply to muscles following a trauma injury. The research concluded that there are many differing opinions on treating compartment syndrome in trauma patients, and a consistent approach, based on contemporary evidence, should lead to less variability in care.

Imran Iflikhar, M.D., assistant professor of clinical internal medicine, was elected to Fellowship in the American College of Physicians.

Drs. Venkatesh Hegde, Xiaoming Yang, Udai Singh, Narendra Singh, Prakash Nagarkatti and Mitzi Nagarkatti, along with doctoral students Sunil Tomar, Austin Jackson and Roshni Rao from the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, published a scientific paper in the January issue of the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

Mitzi Nagarkatti described the research findings as follows: “Marijuana smoking can cause epigenetic changes leading to suppression of the individual’s immune response by triggering small molecules called microRNA. Epigenetics is a novel and exciting area of research that offers great potential in diagnosis of immune dysfunction and could lead to development of strategies for prevention or treatment by reversal of effects. While on one hand these results suggest that chronic marijuana smoking can suppress inflammation, on the other hand, these studies also indicate that marijuana may be effective against a large number of inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.”

Richard Hoppmann, M.D., director of the Ultrasound Institute and the Dorothy H. Krabs Endowed Chair of Ultrasound Education, was recognized with the inaugural Peter H. Arger, MD, Excellence in Medical Student Education Award. The award was given during the 2014 American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine Annual Convention in Las Vegas. It honors an individual whose outstanding contributions to the development of medical ultrasound education warrant special merit.

E.J. Mayeaux Jr., M.D., DABFP, FAAFP, professor and chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, presented at the Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology of Singapore’s annual meeting in March.

Meera Narasimhan, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, was honored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness as one of 23 national recipients of the Exemplary Psychiatrist Award. The award honors doctors who go “an extra mile” in their commitment to providing excellent mental health care.

Scott M. Strayer, M.D., MPH, vice-chairman of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, has been elected president-elect of the American Association for Primary Care Endoscopy (AAPCE), the nation’s only endoscopy advocacy and educational organization for primary care physicians. As the leader of AAPCE, Strayer will aim to expand the organization’s membership base, increase scholarly research on endoscopy performed by primary care physicians and further enhance continuing medical education opportunities for endoscopists.

Scott Strayer, M.D., MPH, professor of family and preventive medicine, Joshua Mann, M.D., MPH, associate professor of family and preventive medicine, and former preventive medicine resident Gowtham Rao, M.D., Ph.D., MPH, collaborated with a group of researchers from the University of South Carolina in studying the effects of the drugs Azithromycin and Levofloxacin on U.S. veterans.

The study, published in the Annals of Family Medicine, concluded that the two drugs presented an increased risk of cardiac arrhythmia and death compared to persons taking amoxicillin. The findings supported a recent recommendation from the Food and Drug Administration warning that Azithromycin use may increase the risk of potential fatal heart rhythms. The research was funded through a grant from Palmetto Health.
CLASS OF 1981
- Bob Mallin, M.D. (family medicine), was named dean of the American University of Antigua College of Medicine.

CLASS OF 1982
- James Morrow, M.D. (family medicine) — “I married a high school friend after reconnecting at our 40th high school reunion in September 2012. Peggie and I have known each other since the fourth grade. Soon after we started dating, we decided that we wanted to do something for the community, so we founded The Morrow Community Foundation to raise money to help those school-age children who were not able to take full advantage of the technological devices that were available to most students. We started the Forsyth BYOT Benefit (Bring Your Own Technology) and last year raised almost $30,000 and made home Internet available to some 80 families that did not have it previously. This year, we have already raised almost $25,000 and are on our way to raising a lot more in Forsyth County, Georgia. The website for the benefit is www.forsythbyotbenefit.org.”

- Robert Shor, M.D. (cardiology), is president of the Virginia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and chair-elect of the Board of Governors of the American College of Cardiology. He continues to practice at Virginia Heart, a 38-physician practice in northern Virginia.

CLASS OF 1984
- John DeWitt, M.D. (psychiatry), was elected to the USC School of Medicine Alumni Board at the full membership meeting November 15.

- Hugh Northcutt, M.D. (ob/gyn), and Ray Comer, (class of 2011), enjoyed a Gamecock football victory against Mississippi State on Nov. 2, 2013.

CLASS OF 1986
- Allen Meadows, M.D. (allergy/immunology), became president of the Joint Council of Allergy Asthma and Immunology in August.

- March Seabrook, M.D. (gastroenterology), and Hampton Collins, class of 2015, presented their research on the effects of various anti-thrombotic agents on blood transfusion requirements in gastrointestinal bleed patients at the American College of Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego. Their abstract was published in the October 2013 Supplement of the American Journal of Gastroenterology.

CLASS OF 1988
- Richard Frierson, M.D. (forensic science), has been elected vice president of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law and president of the Association of Directors of Forensic Psychiatry Fellowships. He continues to direct USC’s forensic psychiatry fellowship.

- Stephanie Woollen, M.D. (nephrology), was elected to the USC School of Medicine Alumni Board at the full membership meeting November 15.

CLASS OF 1989
- William Harley, M.D. (internal medicine/infectious diseases) joined Novant Infectious Disease-Charlotte in May.

CLASS OF 1990
- Amy Salerno, M.D. (family medicine) — “I would like share the good news of my engagement to Glenn DeGruchy, who works for the U.S. Federal Court of Appeals in New York City.”
CLASS NOTES: We want to hear from you! Send your updates to the Alumni Office. Debbie Truluck 803-216-3303, debbie.truluck@uscmed.sc.edu, or online at alumni.med.sc.edu

Having raised both my daughters from birth as a single parent, I am very excited to have found a special man to help complete our little family. I closed my medical practice in Mount Kisco, N.Y., and my daughters and I joined Glenn in New Jersey in June. Leaving the Hispanic community here in New York, whom I have served for so long, has been difficult. However, I will continue working as a family practitioner serving a rapidly growing Latin community in central New Jersey.”

CLASS OF 1992


CLASS OF 1993

- Capt. Timothy Halenkamp, M.D. (occupational and environmental medicine), moved from Colorado Springs to Newport News, Va., to become the senior medical officer for the aircraft carrier CVN-72 Abraham Lincoln.

CLASS OF 1995

- Shawna Cannon Lemon, Ph.D., J.D., was named as one of Business North Carolina magazine’s “Legal Elite” in intellectual property for 2014. In addition, she joined the Corporate Advisory Board of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Carolinas Raleigh Chapter), the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders Program and the Advisory Board for Triangle Biotech Tuesday.

CLASS OF 1996

- Donald Shenenberger, M.D. (dermatology), retired in January after 25 years of service in the Navy. He joined Virginia Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center and serves as an assistant professor of dermatology at Eastern Virginia Medical School. He is an editorial board member of the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, and is co-authoring a book on dermatology in pediatrics with Dr. Joel Spitz and Dr. Alexandra McCollum-Sherman.

CLASS OF 1998

- David Amrol, M.D. (internal medicine), and Christopher Ewart, M.D. (plastic surgery), climbed Mount Rainier in Washington last fall.

- James Frederick Huiet III, M.D. (internal medicine) — “Our baby, James Frederick Huiet IV, was born February 8. We are loving parenthood!”

CLASS OF 1999

- Lisa Durette, M.D. (psychiatry) — “Our practice, Healthy Minds, attended the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry meeting in Orlando, where we presented on the comparison of pre- and post-treatment data in the use of evidenced-based treatments of foster children in an urban community. In addition, I have been appointed program director of the University of Nevada School of Medicine Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship in Las Vegas, which launched in July 2014. It is an exciting time for the practice of child and adolescent psychiatry here and our team of psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychotherapists looks forward to bringing an improved standard of practice to our local community.”

CLASS OF 2000

- Angela Harper, M.D. (psychiatry), was elected to the USC School of Medicine Alumni Board at the full membership meeting November 15.
CLASS OF 2001

- Tim Austin, M.D. (ophthalmology) — “Catherine and I have been to China twice in the last three years (2011 and 2013) to adopt and to Kenya once (2012) on a mission trip with my brother (also class of 2001).”

CLASS OF 2002

- LaShondra Washington, M.D. (psychiatry), married Winfield Gadson on April 20, 2013, in her hometown of Georgetown, S.C. Serving as one of her bridesmaids was Antoinette Williams Rutherford (class of 2001). LaShondra and Winfield live in Atlanta, where LaShondra continues to practice child, adolescent and adult psychiatry.

CLASS OF 2003

- Kimberly Bush, M.D. (psychiatry), and Mr. Colin Richardson were united in holy matrimony on April 27, 2013, at the Hilton Center City Hotel in Charlotte. Kimberly is a child psychiatrist in the Charlotte metro area. Colin is an area field sales specialist for IBM. The couple honeymooned in Paris, Florence and Rome.

- William Sharp, M.D., Ph.D. (emergency medicine), is an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago Section of Emergency Medicine. He works clinically in the emergency department, in addition to performing research in the field of cardiac arrest and resuscitation science. An NIH K08 grant funds his work. In May, he received the 2014 Young Investigator Award by the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine. He and his wife, Elaine, have two children, Zach (age 11) and Elizabeth Grace (age 7), and they reside in Chicago.

- Kimiko Thoma (psychiatry) and Matthew Thoma (gastroenterology) welcomed their second child on Nov. 14, 2012. Matthew joined Consultants in Gastroenterology in October 2013 and was also named director of endoscopic ultrasonography at Lexington Medical Center.

CLASS OF 2005

- Melanie D. Blackburn, M.D. (pediatrics), joined USC's Department of Pediatrics as an assistant professor. She lives in Blythewood, S.C. with her husband, Brad, and four children.

- Neesha Desai Patel, M.D. (emergency medicine), is now assistant medical director of the emergency department at Macneal Hospital in Berwyn, Ill. She married Kavan Patel, an attorney from Chicago on Nov. 9, 2013.

CLASS OF 2008

- Amelia Bogart Roth, M.D. (pediatrics) — “I married a wonderful man I met during my residency in Oregon, John Roth, in 2011. He is a PA-C also working in pediatrics, and we have been working together at a progressive pediatric clinic in Salem, Ore., since the time we married. We welcomed a baby girl, Greta Fern Roth, on June 11, 2013, and it has been a pretty eye opening experience. She is sweet, but quite the handful. We are moving this summer to work at another practice in Eugene, Ore., where we can be closer to my husband’s family, and we couldn't be happier.”
CLASS OF 2009

- **Michael Davis, M.D.** (diagnostic radiology) — “I am a radiology resident at MUSC in Charleston. I have ‘a mancave’ I made in my garage and recently entered into a Facebook contest. I wanted to thank everyone for their support and votes.”

- **Lauren Holliday, M.D.** (cardiology), started her third year of cardiology fellowship at Georgia Regents Medical Center, where she is chief fellow. She plans to move back to Columbia when she finishes her fellowship in June 2015.

- **Ann Marie Patterson, M.D.** (pediatrics), was elected to the USC School of Medicine Alumni Board at the full membership meeting November 15.

CLASS OF 2010

- **Holly Glover, M.D.** (dermatology) and **Andrew Glover, M.D.** (internal medicine) — “We welcomed Addison Blair Glover with love on January 10, 2014, at 3:41 p.m. She weighed eight pounds, eight ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. She was born at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta where we were completing our residencies. In July, we moved to Myrtle Beach where Andrew is a hospitalist at Grand Strand Medical Center, and I joined Grand Strand Dermatology.”

- **Virginia Williams Earnest, M.D.** (pediatrics), married Ryan Earnest in May 2013. She completed residency in pediatrics at Palmetto Health Richland/USC and is working for Grand Strand Pediatrics in Myrtle Beach.

- **William Palmer, M.D.** (internal medicine), is a first-year gastroenterology fellow at Mayo Clinic Florida and has been selected to serve a two-year term on the American College of Physician’s Council of Resident/Fellow Members starting in April 2014. He completed an internal medicine residency at Mayo Clinic Florida in 2013. He is a trainee representative on the Mayo Clinic Graduate Education Committee and serves on the internal review board for the Nephrology Fellowship Program at Mayo Clinic Florida. He also serves as a resident council member for the Duval County Medical Society in Jacksonville and is chairman of the Trainee Council. He plans to specialize in hepatology.

CLASS OF 2011

- **Ray Comer, M.D.** (ob/gyn), and his wife celebrated their first anniversary on October 13, 2013.

- **Elizabeth-Clare Porter, M.D.** (psychiatry) — “Jason and I had our beautiful baby son, Noah, this year which has been such a blessing. Jason is working as a senior motion designer in an advertising firm in Los Angeles. I am serving as chief of administration at UCLA San Fernando Valley in my last year of residency, and then I’m looking to come back to Columbia! Go Cocks!”

- **Tim Brooks, M.D.** (emergency medicine) and **Courtney Brooks, M.D.** (ob/gyn, class of 2008), with son, Tucker (3) and daughter, Lily Parker, (11 months).

CLASS OF 2012

- **John H. Mooney, M.D.** (internal medicine), and his wife, Leigh, welcomed their daughter, Garner Lillian Mooney, on January 17.

- **Brittany Sauerborn, M.D.** (psychiatry), is in the psychiatry residency program at the University of Rochester in New York. She and her husband, Adam, hope to return to South Carolina when she finishes her residency in 2016.
DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIAN ALUMNI AWARD

Steven W. Corso, M.D., class of 1988, is a board-certified medical oncologist-hematologist at the Gibbs Cancer Center and Research Institute in Spartanburg, S.C. In addition to his practice, he has served on multiple committees and helped develop the national accredited breast health program at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center’s Bearden Josey Breast Center, where he currently serves as chairman. He is a senior clinical investigator for the National Surgical Breast and Bowel Project/Upstate Carolina Community Clinical Oncology Program. He has volunteered as medical director during the past 15 years at two Upstate hospices and helped develop the palliative care program at Spartanburg Regional. His experience with an 18-year-old patient who died from cancer led to the development of Hannah’s Hope Ministries, a Christian ministry serving those in crises, where he currently serves as a board member.

HUMANITARIAN ALUMNI AWARD

Timothy Fitzgibbon, M.D., class of 1987, is a practicing partner at Dillon Family Medicine in Dillon, S.C. In addition to his full time practice, he is the local medical director for Hospice Care of South Carolina in Dillon. He also volunteers as the assistant scout master in the local Boy Scout Troop 761 and at the Free Medical Clinic in Dillon. His primary humanitarian pursuit has been with the mission organization Shattering Darkness (www.shatteringdarkness.org). He has participated in mission trips to Burkina Faso, West Africa, where Shattering Darkness is involved in treating malaria and malnourished children in the area. In addition to those efforts, the organization has been improving sanitation and decreasing water borne illness by drilling clean water wells and providing hot meals for local orphans. The organization is currently working on opening an elementary school.

DISTINGUISHED YOUNG PHYSICIAN ALUMNI AWARD

J. Blake Long, M.D., FACP, class of 2005, is an assistant professor of general internal medicine at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. His responsibilities include providing care at a satellite clinic, supervision of residents and medical students and periodic in-hospital practice. For the past four years, he has served as the volunteer medical director of the DEAC (Delivering Equal Access Care) Clinic, a free clinic started by Wake Forest medical students. In 2013, he earned the North Carolina Chapter American College of Physicians Volunteerism and Community Service Award for his work with DEAC. The same year he also received The Charles B. Clark Award for Outstanding Service to the Wake Forest University medical class. In January, he accepted an appointment as a hospitalist at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. He is also pursuing a physician executive master’s degree in business administration at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

DISTINGUISHED DOCTORATE ALUMNI AWARD

Brian Gowen, Ph.D., class of 2000, is a faculty member at Utah State University’s School of Veterinary Medicine and an adjunct professor at Washington State University in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology. He specializes in pre-clinical development of antiviral therapies for severe viral hemorrhagic diseases. He has 42 peer-reviewed publications and serves on the editorial boards for the journals Antiviral Research and Antiviral Chemistry and Chemotherapy. In 2011, he was the recipient of the prestigious William Prusoff Young Investigator Lecture Award from the International Society for Antiviral Research. Following his graduation from USC, he completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and joined the faculty at Utah State in 2004.
Katie Berrier, MGC, class of 2009, is a certified genetic counselor at Duke University Medical Center. In her role, she serves as a clinical research coordinator on several investigator-initiated studies, writes grants and organizes the annual Pompe disease patient meetings. In 2008, she participated in the Down Syndrome Consensus Group meeting. She authored the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) practice guidelines for communicating a diagnosis of Down syndrome and has been invited to present research on several national platforms. In 2012, she designed and co-investigated pilot studies in preparation for the Down syndrome prenatal diagnosis study, for which she received the Jane Engelberg Memorial Fellowship from NSGC in 2013. Prior to joining Duke, she worked for the North Carolina Department of Public Health Newborn Screening program. She received her undergraduate degree in statistics and chemistry with a minor in genetics from North Carolina State University.

Heather Houston Eidson, CRNA, MSN, MNA, class of 2006, is a research assistant professor and program faculty of nurse anesthesia at the USC School of Medicine. In addition, she serves as clinical director of nurse anesthesia at the School of Medicine’s Greenville campus and is a practicing certified registered nurse anesthetist at Greenville Health System. She is responsible for the clinical training of the health system’s inaugural master’s program for nurse anesthesia. A co-owner of G.A.S. Anesthesia LLC, which provides anesthesia services for upstate North and South Carolina physicians and hospitals, she is also a doctoral student in the Doctorate of Anesthesia Practice Program at the University of Michigan-Flint. As a capstone project, she is designing curriculum for the doctoral education of nurse anesthetists.

James R. Augustine, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience at the USC School of Medicine. He joined the school in 1976 and, with the exception of a few transfer students, has taught every M1 student to come through the medical school. In 2006, he took on an additional duty as the first university ombudsman. He has been a Pearls of Wisdom Lecturer at the School of Medicine five times and the M1 Teacher of the Year seven times. He has also been honored by his high school (2005), his undergraduate institution (Millikin University Alumni Merit Award, 2006), and USC (Educational Foundation Outstanding Service Award, 2009). In 2012, he was named the Elizabeth Crosby Visiting Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Michigan. He is the single author of a textbook entitled Human Neuroanatomy published by Academic Press in 2008. A revision of this work will be published by Wiley in 2014.
The School of Medicine welcomed alumni from across the country to Columbia to celebrate their class reunions on Saturday, March 8. Graduates from the classes of 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009 reminisced with old and new friends alike while enjoying a dinner and program. The graduating classes raised almost $28,000 to support the School of Medicine’s Alumni Scholarship Fund.

1. Class of 1984 (left to right) — (Front Row) Kenneth Cook and Hugh Northcutt (Back Row) Jackie Epperson, Malcolm Edwards, J.R. Walters, David Holladay, John Hutto, Ernie Connor, John DeWitt and Frank Smith
2. Class of 1989 (left to right) — (Front Row) Fred McLean, John Eberly and Norma Basinger (Back Row) Tom McFadden, Ed Mintz, Paul DeMarco, Laura James and Will Harley. Attended but not shown: Judy Burgis
3. Class of 1994 (left to right) — (Front Row) Jana Gosset Williams, Greg Eaves, Marilyn Ciesla, Mechelle Floyd, Donna Ray and Nancy Netter (Back Row) Kristin Strange, Martha Heeter, Bill Shipley and Laura Hamilton
4. Class of 1999 (left to right) — (Front Row) Jon DuBose, Theresa Mills-Floyd, Mary Beth Poston (Back Row) Emily Nabors, Brent Baroody, John Schenck, Will Floyd and Lloyd Kapp
5. Class of 2004 (left to right) — (Front Row) Laura Rosenzweig, Caroline Webber, Jennifer Hucks, Chad Sheldon, Caleb Wheeler, Karin Jenkins, Jack Sturfling, Rhya Sturfling and Scarlet Taylor (Back Row) Gene Saylors, Jennifer Hickman, Steven Cruea, Elizabeth Haile, Erin Harris and Yanis Bellili
6. Class of 2009 (left to right) — (Front Row) Bevin Hearn, Leigh Bragg, Ann Marie Patterson, Jack Neil, Jo Mason, Elizabeth Nimmich and Mitchell Nimmich (Back Row) Karyn Hanson, Chris Huffman, Kelly Dion, Kathryn Imgrund, Hailey Amick, Jaime Price, Lauren Holliday, Peter Richards and Britton Cigrler
More than 400 friends and supporters of the School of Medicine enjoyed an evening to remember at the 13th-annual Black Tie/White Coat Gala held March 7 at 701 Whaley.
The last thing young doctors need to worry about is debt.

To help reduce medical school costs, the James R. Stallworth, M.D. Endowment provides scholarships for fourth-year medical students. Established by the Department of Pediatrics at the USC School of Medicine, the endowment was set up in honor of Dr. Stallworth’s years of service to the school.

To ensure the fund’s continued success, Dr. Stallworth has designated a bequest in his own estate to the fund. “Paying it forward” is how he describes his investment in the next generation.

Planned gifts to the School of Medicine help secure our future while having minimal impact on your current income. Some gifts can even create an income stream for you or a loved one during life. And almost all of these gifts have either immediate or future tax benefits.

To learn more, visit us online at giving.sc.edu/medicine or call the Office of Gift Planning at 803-777-4196.