A School of Medicine pediatrician leads efforts to uncover child abuse in South Carolina.
One of the messages I always share with medical students is that “the greatest privilege is to be honored and entrusted to care for someone’s loved one.” In many ways, I felt the same honor and privilege when asked in the fall of 2013 to serve as interim dean of the School of Medicine, my alma mater. I was asked to provide leadership and guidance for our beloved institution — a school that has helped shape who we are as professionals and define us as caregivers. For me, it’s a place where I get to live my passions of taking care of kids and teaching students and residents about medicine.

Serving as interim dean gave me the opportunity, along with others, to build partnerships and strengthen our role as an academic leader throughout South Carolina. During the past 15 months, we opened a new clinical education training site in Florence, established a new seven-year medical degree program offered with the South Carolina Honors College and moved closer to fully integrating our clinical practices with Palmetto Health. We continue to pursue a physician assistant program and explore new collaborations with Grand Strand Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, Greenville Health System and the School of Nursing. These partnerships are enhancing our academic, research and clinical programs and ensuring our continued success in fulfilling our statewide mission.

I am happy to share that Dr. Les Hall will assume the role of executive dean of the School of Medicine on February 1, 2015. He is an outstanding leader who previously served as interim dean for the University of Missouri School of Medicine. His broad knowledge of academic medicine and experience in private practice will serve the school well as we embark on clinical integration. I encourage you to give a warm Carolina welcome to Dr. Hall when he arrives in Columbia.

Finally, I want to extend my appreciation to all the alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends who have offered their support during my tenure. One of the greatest joys I had in serving as interim dean was the opportunity to interact and develop closer relationships with many different people who make the School of Medicine a great academic institution. I have done my best to live up to the trust placed in me as interim dean. It has been a privilege to serve my alma mater in this role, and an honor I will cherish forever.

R. Caughman Taylor, M.D., ’83
Interim Dean, University of South Carolina School of Medicine
4 | Minimally invasive, maximally effective
Surgeon Fernando Navarro brings healing with less pain
to patients receiving minimally invasive surgery.

6 | No second chances
Pediatrician Olga Rosa is making it her mission to end child abuse in South Carolina.

8 | Evicting an inflammatory guest
A School of Medicine researcher aims to understand what sets inflammation into motion.

10 | Top doctors
School of Medicine graduates set their sights on leadership positions during residency.

12 | Dr. Les Hall
New executive dean named at School of Medicine

13 | Vital Signs, By the Numbers, Faculty Focus, Alumni News

www.med.sc.edu
SOUTH CAROLINA MEDICINE
Vol. 24. No. 1, 2015 A publication for alumni, associates, and friends of the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Published by the School of Medicine, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208

HARRIS PASTIDES | President
R. CAUGHMAN TAYLOR | INTERIM DEAN • MATT SPLETT | MANAGING EDITOR • CHRIS HORN | CONTRIBUTING EDITOR • CAROL SMITH | EDITOR EMERITA
PAGE IVEY AND STEVEN POWELL | CONTRIBUTING WRITERS • SHERRY SIMMONS | ART DIRECTOR, GRAPHIC DESIGNER
The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution.
Minimally Invasive, Maximally Effective

Fernando Navarro, M.D.
Ruben Galloway of Columbia dealt with high blood pressure for years, ultimately taking eight medications to try to lower the runaway readings.

But with three tiny incisions on Galloway’s back, a surgeon removed a benign tumor on the left adrenal gland, which had been causing Galloway’s uncontrollable blood pressure. With the tumor gone, so, too, were many of his medical problems.

“The doctor was excellent, and everything went smoothly,” said Galloway, a retired electronics technician for AT&T who had the surgery this past May. “I am down to three medications and my last blood pressure reading was 130 over 84 — normal.”

His doctor, Fernando Navarro, M.D., is a fellowship-trained minimally invasive surgeon in the School of Medicine’s Department of Surgery. A specialist in several types of robotic surgery, Navarro helps train surgery residents at Palmetto Health in advanced techniques of minimally invasive surgery.

As its name implies, this specialized approach to surgery reduces damage to healthy tissue, most notably by using smaller incisions and specialized instruments that allow surgeons to operate without creating a gaping cut. In comparison to traditional open surgery, patients who undergo minimally invasive surgery experience reduced blood loss, less post-operative pain, less need for narcotic pain relief, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery.

For example, routine cholecystectomies (gall bladder removal) used to require a long abdominal incision and a weeklong hospital recovery. Laparoscopic surgery, which became mainstream in the 1990s, removes a gall bladder with three or four half-inch incisions that accommodate surgical instruments and a miniature video camera.

In the past dozen years or so, robotic surgery has brought further improvements that allow surgeons to use a console to manipulate surgical instruments that are more articulated and agile than a surgeon’s own wrist and hands. Navarro can now use robotic surgical equipment to remove a gall bladder through one small incision at the belly button.

“Robotic surgery gives you a 3D-view so it can be safer, and the arms of the robot allow you to work in a small space, such as the pelvic cavity and the esophageal hiatus,” Navarro said.

Navarro has used robotic surgery to remove cancerous adrenal glands and colon tumors and treat diverticulitis, hiatal hernia, kidney and spleen irregularities, and heartburn and reflux conditions. The surgical technique is also widely used in gynecologic, bariatric, orthopaedic and neurologic applications.

“Some say robotic surgery is not much different — in terms of health outcomes — than regular laparoscopic surgery, but it is here to stay,” Navarro said. “And in more and more types of surgery, going robotic can be advantageous because the equipment allows you to visualize and manipulate the patient’s target organ in ways never seen before.”

Many surgery residents want to do robotics, and many of the minimally invasive fellowships like the one Navarro completed include robotic surgery components. The bottleneck lies in learning how to do each procedure.

“The learning curve with robotic surgery depends on the type of operation,” Navarro said. “With some surgeries, you might need to do quite a few under supervision before you become proficient.”

What’s next? Identifying more types of surgery that could be carried out with single-incision, robotic procedures is on the horizon. But far bolder is the concept of remote, computer-assisted robotic surgery in which the surgeon could be miles from the patient and the operating room, manipulating the instruments via high-speed communications connections. An actual example of that was successfully conducted in France several years ago.

The U.S. military, under the Defense Advanced Research Agency, is especially interested in the possibility of treating wounded soldiers in the field with medical personnel located in safe zones.

All of that might be fascinating, but Navarro is focusing his interests closer to home.

“We get three new residents every year, and I like working with them. We sharpen each other,” he said. “It is a win-win situation.”
A SCHOOL OF MEDICINE PEDIATRICIAN LEADS EFFORTS TO UNCOVER CHILD ABUSE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.
Of all the threats afflicting children in South Carolina, one is more prevalent than diabetes, autism, sickle cell and even pediatric cancer.

It is child abuse and neglect, and Olga Rosa, M.D., has made it her mission to better identify and treat the thousands of little ones in South Carolina who become victims every year.

“When you can say one in 80 kids in South Carolina will be victims of abuse or neglect, you have a problem,” said Rosa, an associate professor and director of forensic pediatrics at the School of Medicine.

A bill passed in the S.C. legislature last year requires that cases of suspected abuse and neglect in the state be referred for medical examination to the S.C. Children’s Advocacy Medical Response System, which Rosa directs. The system includes a network of pediatricians, ER physicians and pediatric nurse practitioners who are trained to determine whether there is medical evidence of abuse or neglect.

“If we cannot identify them, we cannot treat them,” Rosa said, “and they’ll continue to grow up with all of the long-term consequences of untreated child abuse.”

Four thousand children were referred to the Children’s Advocacy Medical Response System last year, and slightly more than half showed medical evidence of abuse and neglect. But the state Department of Social Services fielded far more reports — about 12,000 children — and more instances of abuse and neglect might have been uncovered if trained personnel had been able to conduct medical examinations, Rosa said.

“A non-medical caseworker might see an infant sucking on a bottle and think everything is OK,” Rosa said. “But I have seen cases of infants who appeared fine, but then a medical exam revealed multiple occult injuries.”

“One of the things I want to see happen is for DSS to share the responsibility with us on whether a child needs a medical exam,” she said. “I would like to see DSS communicate with us more on questionable cases.”

Rosa is one of only seven board-certified child abuse pediatricians in South Carolina, trained not only in the medical aspects of assessment but also in how to properly present medical evidence of child abuse to law enforcement and in the court system.

“Infants cannot tell you what happened or who is responsible. In some cases, we can only confirm that a child has been abused but cannot determine who did it,” Rosa said.

Rosa became involved in forensic pediatrics in the early 1990s when she was practicing medicine in Florida at a community health center and became responsible for handling suspected cases of child abuse. “I immersed myself in the diagnosis and assessment of child abuse, started reading journal articles and making contacts,” she said. “My child abuse practice was growing as fast as my regular pediatric practice.”

A fellowship at Brown University followed, and she was recruited to the pediatrics department at USC’s School of Medicine in 2004. She was instrumental in developing the Children’s Advocacy Medical Response System and worked steadily to build a statewide network of medical professionals trained in child abuse assessment.

“This bill that the legislature passed gives a second chance to many of these kids,” Rosa said. “This is a public health issue.”

Olga Rosa, M.D.
Evicting an inflammatory guest

AN IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH TEAM IS TEASING OUT THE COMPLEXITIES OF HUMAN INFLAMMATION IN HOPES OF FINDING A WAY TO PREVENT ITS PERSISTENCE.

Visitors overstaying their welcome are an annoyance, but in the human body an invited “guest” that just won’t leave can prove to be fatal.

Carole Oskeritzian, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, knows that firsthand. As a child growing up in Paris, France, she nearly died from asthma attacks. Inflammation in her lungs from allergic asthma imperiled her life.

The inflammation itself, she said, is a welcome guest at the site of injury — at least for a while.

“Inflammation is a set of events designed to protect us,” Oskeritzian said. “It is featured in allergic reactions, but also in infections, burns, wound repair and cancer. Any sort of disturbance usually triggers some inflammation at the site of trauma to defend the body against its propagation — trying to confine the problem, if you will.”

If the inflammation response is too strong or lasts too long, though, it becomes a problem that might be life threatening or lead to chronic disease. When she experienced it herself as a schoolgirl with allergic asthma, Oskeritzian became curious. Why was she affected, but not her friends?

Doctors tried to help control her allergies with allergy shots to desensitize her immune system to allergens. The vials containing the allergen extracts bore a portrait of Louis Pasteur on the label because they were manufactured at the Pasteur Institute. As a child, Oskeritzian resolved to someday work there.

That mission has been accomplished. She earned master’s and doctoral degrees and tenure at the Pasteur Institute in the Immuno-Allergy Unit, and later moved to America to expand her scientific repertoire. Her career has come along so well that her research group at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine is beginning to develop a new approach to preventing chronic inflammation, and it involves a particular kind of cell she began studying in Paris.

During her graduate work at the Pasteur Institute, Oskeritzian met what she describes as one of the loves of her life: mast cells.

“Mast cells are present in every organ,” said Oskeritzian. “They are not in the circulation, but in the tissues, strategically located close to the blood vessels, waiting. They are a lot like sentinels, sensors of what’s happening locally.”

In response to many stimuli, mast cells can release a cocktail of proteases, cytokines, histamine and other chemicals, which, depending on their combinations, can either aggravate or resolve inflammation. Oskeritzian thinks that by modulating mast cell responsiveness, her team might be close to finding a way to shut down, or at least dampen, the inflammatory response.

Over the course of her career, Oskeritzian has studied mast cells from many perspectives. There is a common molecule in every case that is now a central focus of her research: sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P), a lipid that is produced and acts as a signal when mast cells are activated during allergies.

Prior to joining USC, Oskeritzian, together with Sarah Spiegel’s team at Virginia Commonwealth University, showed how S1P produced within the cell can be transported outside of it, thus affecting neighboring cells as well as the mast cell from which it originated. By establishing that S1P binds to receptors on the surface of mast cells and studying the consequences of such an interaction, Oskeritzian said her group now has important new insight into the early events that cause inflammation.

And with a clear understanding of what sets inflammation into motion, she thinks a solution to the problem could soon be at hand.

“We are not claiming that we are going to cure asthma or eczema, but I think that we may be able to prevent their occurrence,” she said. “Chronic inflammation always starts with acute inflammatory events, and we might be able to avoid it by understanding what happens early on.”
Being a chief resident can add another year to an already long and arduous education process for a doctor, but the benefits can be invaluable.

Just ask the USC School of Medicine graduates who have been named chief residents at Palmetto Health Richland in Columbia, Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and any number of residency hospitals around the nation.

Those who have held the position say their experience at the School of Medicine uniquely prepared them for it, and their careers have benefited from the leadership experience.

“For me, personally, it’s such an extreme honor to even be considered to be a chief resident and a step above to be selected,” said Kim Lui, M.D., Class of 2010, and the 2013-14 chief resident for internal medicine at Georgetown University Hospital. Lui said she added a year to her residency so she could be chief.

“You are essentially considered an equal among the faculty, you go to all the meetings and get an input into the curriculum,” Lui said. “Some programs also let you attend on the wards, which means you are the attending physician for a resident team that includes first-, second- and third-year residents as well as third- and fourth-year med students.

“You are the head of the team and help with work flow, taking care of the patients, overseeing the care and balancing the different educational needs for the various members of your team.”

That experience can be invaluable as the doctors go out in the world of health care.

“I think in terms of leadership development, it is really important because more and more in the world of medicine, physicians are involved in much more than the clinical aspects of medicine,” said Kathy Stephens, Ph.D., who oversees residency programs at Palmetto Health in Columbia. “More and more involvement is not only desired, but needed by physicians in the day-to-day operations.”

Stephens said many School of Medicine students end up being chief in their specialties in their final year of residency at Palmetto Health.

“They are familiar with the institution here and the faculty — many of whom teach at the School of Medicine and who help identify the people who might make good chief residents.”

At Palmetto Health, School of Medicine graduates make up a larger percentage of chief residents than they do of total residents. The graduates’ success in being named chief is due in part to their familiarity with the faculty who choose the chief and the systems,
but it is also attributable to leadership programs offered during medical school.

“I was involved with the student leadership at the School of Medicine, which was very helpful in developing the leadership skills to be chief resident,” said Nikki Campbell, M.D., Class of 2000 and chief resident during the final year of her psychiatry residency at Palmetto Health Richland. “I was class officer for several years. That definitely was helpful for me.”

Campbell is now medical director for psychiatric emergency services in the Palmetto Health system.

“I think being chief resident helped prepare me as a physician for leading a team,” Campbell said. “In a hospital setting, often you have to be the head of many different specialties within the treatment team — working with other physicians, nurses, social workers and technicians. Being the chief resident develops needed skills such as being a liaison and organizing call schedules.

“It makes you a better physician when you enter practice and you are having to organize your own treatment team and liaison with other health care professionals.”

Being chief resident has led Ernie Connor, M.D., to a lifetime of leadership positions both in medicine and out.

“It led me to strive to be in a position where I could work to improve where I was, whether it was in medicine or the community itself — I am in Kiwanis International and a deacon in my church.”

The Sumter, S.C., native ran the gamut of Carolina offerings, starting his college career at USC Sumter, then getting his bachelor’s in Columbia before becoming part of the fourth class of medical students at the School of Medicine, where he graduated in the Class of 1984.

Connor did his residency in family medicine at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Gadsden, Ala., returning to private practice in Orangeburg, S.C., for 10 years, then McLeod Medical Center in Florence, S.C., where he is the associate director of family medicine and head of procedures lab.

He is in his second year as the vice chief of staff at the hospital and will continue on to be chief of staff for two years, then will sit on the board of trustees at McLeod for another two years.

“I think it is important for physicians to be involved because we are our patients’ advocate,” he said, “and the decisions that are made are not only going to affect us, they are certainly going to affect our patients and our ability to take care of them in the best way.”
Dr. Les Hall to lead University of South Carolina School of Medicine and Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group

Palmetto Health and the University of South Carolina announced the appointment of Les Hall, M.D., as executive dean of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and chief executive officer of the Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group effective February 1, 2015.

Hall previously served as interim dean of the University of Missouri School of Medicine.

As executive dean, Hall will lead the education, research and clinical missions at the School of Medicine. He will oversee all academic and research programs, and support the growth of undergraduate medical education at the Columbia campus. He will be the sixth permanent dean to lead the School of Medicine since the school opened in 1977.

As CEO, Hall will oversee and advance the clinical integration of Palmetto Health’s physician practices and the School of Medicine’s clinical departments to create the Midlands’ largest multispecialty medical group. This new 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization will include more than 1,300 health care professionals, including nearly 400 physicians, and offer patients the broadest range of health care services in the Midlands. The new medical group is expected to begin operations in 2015.

“Dr. Hall’s broad knowledge of academic medicine and his experience leading a medical school through the ever-changing health care environment will serve the faculty and students well at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine,” said Harris Pastides, president of the University of South Carolina. “We welcome him to the Carolina family and share his enthusiasm for providing a high-quality medical education to our students and supporting new medical breakthroughs through our research endeavors.”

Hall received his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis and completed an internal medicine residency at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. A member of the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) faculty since 1999, Dr. Hall has held several leadership positions within the University of Missouri Health System (MU Health Care). He was appointed interim dean in 2012, and previously served four years as chief medical officer of MU Health Care and senior associate dean for Clinical Affairs at MU School of Medicine. As a hospitalist, he has continued seeing patients while also educating medical students throughout his tenure of leadership.

Dr. Wayne Carver named chair of the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy

Wayne E. Carver, Ph.D., has been appointed professor and chair of the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

A South Carolina native, Carver obtained his bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of South Carolina Aiken and a master’s and doctorate degree from the Columbia campus. He joined the School of Medicine in 1988 as a postdoctoral fellow and was appointed a research assistant professor in 1990.

During his tenure at USC, Carver has published more than 75 manuscripts and has a strong record of grant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Heart Association. His main research interests are cellular and molecular mechanisms regulating ventricular remodeling during heart development and disease. He has served on grant review panels for the NIH Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the American Heart Association, in addition to several editorial boards for academic journals.

“Dr. Carver is a well-respected teacher, researcher and leader,” said Caughman Taylor, M.D., interim dean of the School of Medicine. “He has called South Carolina home his entire life and committed his research to improving the health of his home state through new discoveries in treating cardiovascular disease. His tenure at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine spans more than 25 years, and he has overwhelming support from faculty in his department. His commitment to academic medicine and his vision to grow the department in coming years will serve the School of Medicine well in the future.”

Carver has directed and taught courses at the undergraduate, graduate and medical student levels, including serving as course director for the medical embryology and gross anatomy course. He has trained numerous students in his research lab, graduated seven doctoral students and mentored a number of junior faculty as part of his role as director of the USC component of the South Carolina IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). As director of the Biomedical Sciences Graduate program, he has helped the program become nationally competitive.

Prior to his appointment as professor and chair, Carver served the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy as interim chair.
USC plans expansion of Preventive Medicine Residency Program

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine Preventive Medicine Residency Program — the only preventive medicine residency program in the state — announced plans to train additional doctors in population-based preventive health care.

A nearly $1.5 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will support the training of seven additional resident physicians during the next five years.

“The School of Medicine’s Preventive Medicine Residency Program is a great example of how we fulfill our mission to train physicians to address the health care challenges facing our state,” said Caughman Taylor, M.D., interim dean of the School of Medicine. “We are thrilled that this HRSA grant will allow us to expand our program and make a greater footprint in our efforts to improve the health of South Carolinians through the knowledge and skills these residents learn at USC.”

The need for more preventive medicine physicians in South Carolina is evidenced by the high prevalence of preventable conditions such as diabetes, stroke and cardiovascular disease. Preventive medicine residents work collaboratively with primary care providers and public health professionals to improve the health of underserved populations burdened by these and other chronic diseases.

“The lack of optimal preventive care is a significant barrier to improving the health of South Carolinians,” said Joshua Mann, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor and program director of the Preventive Medicine Residency Program. “By training additional doctors in preventive medicine, we are expanding the number of physicians available in South Carolina to provide preventive health services to at-risk individuals and populations in our state.”

USC will use the HRSA grant to enhance its residency curriculum. An expanded program in health literacy and cultural competency will teach residents how to effectively promote the health of diverse populations. Residents will gain additional training through expanded clinical rotation opportunities. Preventive medicine residents will also work with Healthy Columbia, a not-for-profit organization, on community-based efforts to improve the health of people in Columbia.

USC’s Preventive Residency Program is a part of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the School of Medicine. The program is home to three preventive medicine physicians among its diverse faculty, which also includes experts in family medicine, sports medicine, behavioral health, health education, health administration, pharmacy and research. The two-year Preventive Medicine Residency Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Preventive medicine training includes coursework leading to a master of public health degree from USC’s Arnold School of Public Health, in addition to clinical rotations and other learning experiences.

USC and partners celebrate opening of medical education office in Florence

With the ceremonial cutting of a ribbon, members of the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership celebrated the opening of the School of Medicine’s new Office of Medical Education-Florence on July 29.

The downtown office space serves as an administrative and training site for USC medical students completing clinical rotations in the region.

The gathering attracted representatives from the partnership including the University of South Carolina, Francis Marion University, Carolinas Hospital System and McLeod Health, along with city, state and regional leaders who worked collaboratively to establish a clinical training site in the Pee Dee.

Speakers at the event echoed similar sentiments — that bringing medical students to the Pee Dee could have long-lasting benefits. Doctors in the region are eager to share their knowledge with students, and health care institutions want to show off their facilities and city, with the hope of attracting students to the region for residency training or a later career in medicine.

Many USC medical students are completing one week of their clinical rotations in Florence this year, with a plan for about a dozen medical students relocating to Florence to complete all their clinical rotations in the 2015-16 academic year.
School of Medicine partners with South Carolina Honors College to offer seven-year accelerated medical degree program

Select incoming freshman with an interest in attending medical school have a new option to consider at the University of South Carolina — an accelerated seven-year medical degree program. Beginning in fall 2015, the School of Medicine and South Carolina Honors College will offer six to eight students a year the opportunity to enroll in the dual-degree program.

Students accepted into the program will receive a bachelor of science degree from the Honors College. In year four, they will transition to the School of Medicine and complete the traditional four-year curriculum for a medical degree. The preliminary acceptance into medical school is contingent upon a student meeting high academic standards during his or her undergraduate years.

“This is a unique opportunity for the School of Medicine to attract some of the best and brightest students from the South Carolina Honors College, a program that is consistently ranked among the best public university honors colleges in the country,” said J.T. Thornhill, M.D., associate dean for medical education and academic affairs at the School of Medicine.

In addition to saving a year of tuition and not having to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), the pre-med students will benefit from the relationships they will build with School of Medicine faculty during their undergraduate years. Faculty will meet monthly with students to provide mentoring and advanced preparation for medical school. During the summer months, students will have opportunities to pursue additional research and clinical training at the School of Medicine.

The School of Medicine joins 70 other medical schools in the country who offer students an accelerated medical degree. USC’s program is the first of its kind in South Carolina.

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery opens new clinic location at Baptist Parkridge

Patients seeking orthopaedic care have a new option in northwest Columbia. The University of South Carolina’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery opened a new state-of-the-art orthopaedic and sports medicine clinic at Baptist Parkridge Hospital on August 19.

The 7,835-square-foot facility features an open, inviting environment complete with 12 exam rooms, a three-bed casting room, hand and foot procedure room and concussion testing room.

In addition, the clinic will offer patients diagnostic services using a U-arm DR X-ray system that provides high-quality digital imaging with optimal positioning for the patient. The U-arm enables patients to be X-rayed when sitting or standing, which is helpful for older or immobilized patients who will no longer need to be moved on and off a table.

“The opening of Parkridge Baptist Hospital provided us a unique opportunity to expand our footprint with a new clinic location more convenient for our patients living in northwest Columbia and the Irmo area,” said John Walsh, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. “Patients will enjoy the modern conveniences of orthopaedic care from the same team of USC physicians they have grown to know and trust.”

USC Orthopaedics will offer the complete range of orthopaedic services at its new location from physiatry to sports medicine and general orthopaedic care. A team of 12 orthopaedic surgeons and physicians sees patients at the Baptist Parkridge location as well as the department’s location at Two Medical Park near Palmetto Health Richland Hospital.

To make an appointment with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at either of its locations, call 803-434-6812.
A distinguished lineup of genetic medicine experts highlighted the University of South Carolina Genetic Counseling Fall Symposium on November 14 at Palmetto Health Richland Auditorium.

The second-annual event attracted nearly 150 attendees and included eight speakers from three different countries sharing their breadth of knowledge and experience in genetic counseling.

“We had eight remarkable speakers who possessed the highest level of expertise in genomic medicine and its clinical impact,” said Janice G. Edwards, MS, CGC, clinical professor and director of USC’s Genetic Counseling Program. “Our topics were carefully selected to touch the very edge of new technology applied to clinical care. This is the integration of genomic medicine so often popularized in the media.”

The symposium attracted genetic counselors, geneticists, university faculty, graduate students, residents, fellows and health care professionals who have a special interest in genetic medicine. As one of the most established genetic counseling education programs in the country, USC Genetic Counseling hosted the event to provide an opportunity for the next generation of genetic counselors to learn about the latest advancements in their field and network with world-renowned experts.

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine and Palmetto Health Stroke Center join the National Institutes of Health Stroke Trials Network (NIH StrokeNet)

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine and Palmetto Health have joined the National Institutes of Health Stroke Trials Network (NIH StrokeNet), a network of 25 nationally recognized stroke centers addressing prevention, treatment and recovery from stroke through clinical research.

NIH StrokeNet intends to streamline stroke research and improve the efficiency of clinical trials. A national coordinating center at the University of Cincinnati will assemble a data-sharing system and centralize the approval and review of clinical trials, lessening the time and costs involved. The most promising therapies can then quickly advance to the clinical setting to benefit patients.

“This is an exciting new development for stroke patients in South Carolina,” said Souvik Sen, M.D., M.S., M.P.H, FAHA, professor and chair of the Department of Neurology at the School of Medicine. “NIH StrokeNet makes available new avenues of treatment, medication and prevention strategies. If it has been tried and effective at other NIH-sponsored research centers, our patients in the Midlands will now have access to it.”

James Raymond, M.D., Palmetto Health Chief Medical Academic Officer, added, “We are very excited about our Stroke Center joining with the NIH in its StrokeNet program. Collaborating with this select network of nationally recognized stroke centers will enable us to be in the forefront of clinical research directed at the prevention and treatment of stroke. Dr. Sen has been a tremendous advocate and driving force in our efforts to develop sophisticated, multidisciplinary stroke care in South Carolina and this is a superb example of that collaboration. We are pleased to be able to use this collaboration to benefit our patients in every way possible.”

The School of Medicine’s and Palmetto Health’s entry into the Stroke Trials Network includes a collaborative approach with the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and with the Greenville Health System to form the South Carolina Collaborative Alliance for Stroke Trials. Together, the three organizations are recognized as one of NIH’s regional stroke centers.

“In the future, NIH is expected to fund many of its clinical trials through StrokeNet,” Sen said. “Having South Carolina’s three comprehensive stroke centers working together to share resources and design research studies will benefit all patients seeking stroke care in our state.”

NIH chose centers that had experience in stroke research, an ability to recruit stroke patients into clinical trials and access to multiple specialties involved in stroke care.

Palmetto Health and the School of Medicine have established an advanced multidisciplinary stroke program that cares for patients throughout the Midlands of South Carolina. The stroke center at Palmetto Health Richland is the only Joint Commission-accredited Primary Stroke Center in the Midlands and the first Midlands hospital to receive the Gold Plus Achievement Award for stroke and heart failure and achieve the Target: Stroke Honor Roll by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.
Moss Blachman, Ph.D., associate dean of continuous professional development and strategic affairs, received the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education's (SACME) President's Meritorious Service Award and Service Recognition Award. The President's Meritorious Service Award honored his substantial contributions to the society, as well as his support of the president and board of directors. A 16-year SACME member, he played an instrumental role in drafting SACME's strategic plan and advised SACME leadership. The Service Recognition Award recognized his leadership as chair of SACME’s Research Endowment Council.

Donald DiPette, M.D., FACP, FAHA, health sciences distinguished professor, served on the program committee of the 29th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Society of Hypertension in New York and co-chaired a national scientific session addressing the global treatment of hypertension.

Richard Frierson, M.D., professor of clinical psychiatry and vice chair for education in the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, was presented with the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law’s (AAPL) Outstanding Service Award during the academy’s annual meeting in Chicago. The award recognized his numerous contributions to AAPL. He has served the organization as a council member, secretary and vice president, as well as a participant on many of AAPL’s committees.

Alexa Gandy, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Medicine’s Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, has received a three-year postdoctoral fellowship award from the National Institutes of Health. The $180,000 fellowship will support her research in finding a treatment for multiple sclerosis (MS). She is studying the effects of resveratrol, an ingredient found in grape skins and seeds, on T-cells that are the immune cells responsible for neuronal destruction in MS.

Venkatesh L. Hegde, Ph.D., research assistant professor in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, was awarded a three-year, $450,000 Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health. The funding will allow him to receive mentorship and expand upon his research interest studying the effects of marijuana compounds on the immune system and the underlying mechanisms.

Kevin J. Herod, MS, ATC, SCAT, has been selected as one of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association’s 2014 Athletic Trainer Service Award recipients. He is the sports medicine manager in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the School of Medicine. The Athletic Trainer Service Award recognizes NATA members for their contributions to the athletic training profession as a volunteer at the local and state levels.

E.J. Mayeaux Jr., M.D., DABFP, FAAFP, professor and chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, was elected to the executive board of the International Federation for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy during the 15th World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy in London. At the event, he also represented the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology as a program moderator and presented on HPV primary screening in the United States.

Angela Murphy, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, received a National Institutes of Health Career Development Award. The five-year, $631,000 grant will support mentorship from senior faculty and research on complementary and alternative approaches for the prevention of obesity-enhanced cancer.

Meera Narasimhan, M.D., was named associate provost for health sciences at the University of South Carolina. In this position, she will maintain and improve the existing relationships between clinical partners, coordinate multidisciplinary operations between different colleges and represent USC in activities with external partners including health care systems and other universities. She continues to serve as professor and chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science and director for innovative health care technologies.
Lawrence Reagan, Ph.D., associate professor and vice chair of the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, presented at the SEC Symposium in Atlanta, an event that featured health researchers and scholars from all 14 Southeastern Conference institutions and addressed the prevention and treatment of obesity. His presentation featured recent research strategies to prevent the deleterious consequences of obesity upon the structure and function of the central nervous system, including the increased risk of comorbid depressive illness in obese subjects.

Ali Rizvi, M.D., professor of clinical internal medicine, chaired an oral presentation session on biomedical engineering and presented an abstract at the 3rd International Conference on Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology in Beijing, China. The conference provided nearly 120 researchers and practitioners an opportunity to present recent advancements in the biomedical engineering, technology and other fields.

R. Stephen Smith, M.D., professor of clinical surgery, was approved for membership in the Halsted Society, one of the oldest surgical organizations in the country. Membership in the society is limited to 75 surgeons and includes many of the elite surgeons in the country. The society, named for the famed surgeon, William Stewart Halsted, M.D., met for the first time in June 1924, and aims to further the scientific principles and ideals of Dr. Halsted.

Frank Spinale, M.D., Ph.D., professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, is one of eight recipients of the University of South Carolina Office for the Vice President of Research’s Breakthrough Leadership in Research Award. He received the honor for his tremendous impact on research efforts at USC and the community beyond. He has demonstrated exemplary leadership through interdisciplinary collaborations, mentoring junior faculty and reaching out to communities and diverse populations.

Craig Stanley, J.D., was appointed attorney for the Office of Legal Affairs for the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Educational Trust and assistant professor of clinical neuropsychiatry and behavioral sciences at the School of Medicine. A graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law, he has been assisting the Office of Legal Affairs since 2011. In his new role, he will provide legal assistance for a myriad of legal and business issues related to health care operations at University Specialty Clinics and the School of Medicine.

Scott Strayer, M.D., M.P.H., professor of family and preventive medicine, assumed the rank of colonel in the United States Air Force. Regarded as one of the Air Force's highest honors, the rank of colonel recognizes Strayer's contributions to medical education as a reservist faculty member at Uniformed Services University and his years of service in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve. Strayer joined the Air Force in 1997 and the Air Force Reserve in 2001.

Christine Turley, M.D., chief medical officer for Health Sciences South Carolina and professor of clinical pediatrics at the School of Medicine, was named one of Columbia Regional Business Report’s Most Influential Woman in Business for 2014. She was selected based upon her demonstrated professional excellence and leadership in her career and her community service efforts.

W. Randal Westerkam, M.D., assistant professor of clinical orthopaedic surgery, was recognized as one of the first physicians in South Carolina to receive the new Registered in Musculoskeletal sonography (RMSK) credential by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The credential recognized Westerkam for completing rigorous qualifications for certification and acknowledged his mastery of musculoskeletal sonography (ultrasound) imaging techniques.

Patricia Wilson Witherspoon, M.D., associate professor of family and preventive medicine, has been named president of the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians (SCAFP). With approximately 1,400 members, SCAFP is the largest primary care medical specialty society in South Carolina. Her leadership will assist SCAFP in promoting and maintaining the highest quality standards for family doctors.
I have spent several years serving on the School of Medicine Alumni Board since graduating in 2004. Each year, I continue to learn more about the exciting programs being developed at the School of Medicine as well as the challenges those in medical education face. The administration works hard to address issues such as the rising cost of medical education and establishing quality sites for medical training while maintaining the special atmosphere that welcomed so many of us through its doors, whether it was over 30 years ago or four years ago.

It is an exciting time at the School of Medicine as we start a new chapter with a new dean and an expanded footprint into the Pee Dee of South Carolina. We are able to train more physicians while providing improved access to medical care. The training sites developed in partnership with McLeod Regional Medical Center and Carolinas Hospital System will allow students to experience the personalized medical education that is lacking at so many other schools. This is one innovative example of how our school continues to thrive in a time when the future of medicine is changing and often is uncertain. The various educational, clinical and research departments continue to accomplish great things and have increased our community and economic impact on South Carolina.

As medical practitioners, we have a duty to serve our patients and the communities in which we practice. As alumni, we have a duty to serve the School of Medicine in any capacity that we can, whether it be through monetary donations that help fund scholarships and endowments, giving time and talent to educational programs, networking to increase our visibility, or simply showing your support for our school at a tailgate, reunion, or Black Tie/White Coat Gala.

I am honored to be a graduate of the USC School of Medicine and feel privileged to serve as your Alumni Association president during the next year. I implore you to make an effort to get involved with the Alumni Association and be a part of the School of Medicine’s legacy.

Elizabeth S. Haile, M.D.
Will Bynum

Will Bynum, M.D., earned a U.S. Air Force scholarship that covered the cost of his medical education and training at the School of Medicine. When Bynum graduated in 2010, the Air Force got a tremendous return on its investment: a physician who knows how to excel in and learn from leadership positions.

At the School of Medicine, Bynum was selected as a student representative on the national Board of Directors of the medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha. Since then, he has continued as a leader in working with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), serving as a family medicine specialist and chair of the AAMC’s Organization of Resident Representatives.

“Our voice is incredibly important because a lot of the issues facing academic medicine today revolve around graduate medical education, or GME, which really deals with residency training,” Bynum said.

“It’s a very adverse environment right now, politically, for GME, and our group has really emerged as thought leaders on the issue. The AAMC empowers its students and residents to help solve some of the big problems facing academic medicine today — it’s really exciting because we can see our ideas actually operationalized in a way that can help make a difference for the whole community.”

Bynum’s military scholarship opened the door to a residency at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in northern Virginia upon graduation. As an active duty officer on the faculty of the National Capital Consortium, he has had the opportunity to serve as medical support on congressional diplomatic delegations, traveling to meet foreign dignitaries in places like Ethiopia, France, Israel and Lithuania. The experiences gave him new perspective.

“I did not appreciate just how much other countries rely on and appreciate our support, whether financial, military or just diplomatic,” Bynum said. “I came to realize what it means to be an American and just how much we mean to the world, and I have the military to thank for that.”

And his gratitude extends back to Columbia, as well.

“I have gotten to do some pretty amazing things early in my career, and USC is really the core of that,” Bynum said. “My education there was absolutely world class. Not only the clinical education, which set me up well for succeeding in residency, but the opportunity to develop as a leader there, the relationships, the emotional support, the encouragement.

“I think the USC School of Medicine is producing some of the best doctors in the world, and not just doctors who are going to go on to do amazing things, but doctors who are good people and who do the very best for their patients.”
CLASS OF 1981

- Thomas Goldschmidt, M.D. (neurology, psychiatry, and addiction medicine) — “My daughter, Laura Goldschmidt, (pictured right) was married to Dr. Andrew Styperek on August 14, 2014. The couple is living in Houston where Andrew is completing a Mohs fellowship. Hopefully they will be returning to South Florida in June 2015.”

- Bob Mallin, M.D. (family medicine), right, enjoyed moral support from classmate Tom Goldschmidt, M.D., left, in his quest to finish the New York City Marathon. Bob completed the 26.2 miles with his wife, Kimberly, in the 37 degree, windy, cold weather.

- Claiborne Lake Moseley, M.D. (orthopaedics) — “I am now an orthopaedic hospitalist, covering call and doing trauma and inpatient consults, and no longer doing elective work. I am working two, six-day stints a month and covering two weekends. It is still 288 hours a month but way better than private practice.”
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

CLASS OF 1982
- Jefferson Conway Jones, M.D. (family practice and addiction medicine), continues to practice family medicine full time and addictive medicine part time. He is chief of staff at Midtown Medical Center in Columbus, Georgia. He and his wife, Lynn, are celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary in August. The couple has six grandchildren, three boys and three girls, and they hope the number will increase in the near future.

CLASS OF 1984
- David C. Holladay, M.D. (ob/gyn) — “My son, Justin, is a second-year medical student at USC. He is pictured here during our Alaska vacation this summer.”

CLASS OF 1986
- Elizabeth Harvey Baker, M.D. (child and adolescent psychiatry), is living in Cleveland, Ohio while attending one of only two post-pediatric portal child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship programs in the country. Her program is with University Hospitals Case Medical Center and Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. She is in her third year of the fellowship and will complete the program in June.

CLASS OF 1987
- James Hendrix, M.D. (orthopaedic surgery), and Kimberly Hendrix, M.D. (diagnostic radiology), are enjoying life as empty nesters attending USC and Carolina Panthers football games. Their twin children, Matthew and Sarah, started college this fall with Matthew attending High Point University and Sarah at Duke University. James works at OrthoCarolina and Kim at Charlotte Radiology.

CLASS OF 1989
- J.W. Randolph Bolton, M.D., Ph.D. (cardiothoracic surgery), accepted a position as chief of surgical services at Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia. He and his wife, Valerie, moved back to Columbia for the first time since finishing his surgical residency in 1989. In his new role, he will work closely with the School of Medicine and its residency programs to enhance the educational experience and further improve the medical care offered to our veterans.

CLASS OF 1993
- Joseph A. DeStefano Jr., M.D. (internal medicine), works in Kingsport, Tennessee, at Indian Path Medical Center, a part of the Mountain States Health Alliance. His son, Joey, was accepted to USC School of Medicine Greenville and will graduate in May from North Greenville University. His daughter, Gina, recently completed an internship at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

CLASS OF 1995
- Jacqueline D. Folks-Gibbs, M.D. (internal medicine), was elected chairperson of the Physician Leadership Council at CaroMont Health in Gastonia, North Carolina. She also serves as vice chair of the Medicare Shared Savings ACO Board.

- Timothy Mott, M.D. (family medicine), recently received the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians’ Family Physician of the Year award. He was elected president of the Family Physicians Inquiries Network and named the “Specialty Leader” for Navy Family Medicine.

- M. Brian Polsky, M.D. (orthopaedic surgery) — “The Polsky family has been very busy with our three boys, Daniel (14), Evan (12), and David (9). They are all involved in baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis and flag football. We also love traveling together, and we recently went to Israel for an amazing two-week trip. We love skiing in Utah every winter, and the boys have been going to overnight camp during the summer as well as spending time at the beach. My orthopaedic surgery practice has grown, and I continue to enjoy mentoring young residents as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. I have been asked to be the chief medical officer and board member for a new medical supply company, Beatmed. I am also a board member for Everseat Inc. and Scopeya Inc.”

- Shelley Rinker, M.D. (pediatrics), is enjoying her new role as grandmother, as her son, Christopher, recently welcomed a newborn son. She continues working as the lead physician at Harborside Pediatrics, an affiliate of Novant Health, in Mooresville, North Carolina.
CLASS OF 1997

Kimberly Holloway, M.D. (ob/gyn), and her husband, Ben, welcomed a baby girl, Kathleen “Kate” Parks McDow on July 26. Grey (4) and Kate (6 days old) are pictured here.

David Stone, M.D. (phlebology), was instated as president of the Southeastern Society of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology in September.

CLASS OF 2000

Melissa Hummel, M.D. (internal medicine/sleep medicine) — “I have been splitting my practice between internal medicine, sleep medicine and aesthetic medicine for the last nine years. In November, I began focusing on sleep medicine and aesthetics in order to devote more time to these specialties, my family and enjoying life. I will be dividing time between my sleep medicine practice at SleepMed in West Columbia and Rejuvenations Medical Spa in Irmo. I’m really excited about these changes. I returned from Nicaragua in September, as one of two doctors who went on a medical mission trip. This was my third year on the trip, and it is impossible to put my experiences into words, but I can say this trip changes my life each year, and I get so much more than I am able to give there. We saw 800-900 people during the five days we were there. I would love to bring some friends next year.”

William Owens, M.D. (critical care medicine), is an associate professor and was recently promoted to division chief for pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine at USC School of Medicine.

CLASS OF 2001

Elizabeth Hull Malphrus, MGC (genetic counseling), created the non-profit organization Help the Hoo-Hahs to provide community education and financial support for local women battling cervical, ovarian and other gynecologic cancers. The group held its fourth annual 5K in Savannah, Georgia, in September and the more than 400 participants raised over $34,500. Pictured below is Elizabeth, her husband and daughter at the race. You can see more pictures and learn more information about the organization by visiting www.helpthehoohahs.org.

CLASS OF 2002

Matthew Wallace, M.D. (cardiac anesthesiology) — “After seven years of service in the U.S. Air Force with tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan, I have separated from the military and moved on to civilian life. My final duty station was a small Air Force outpost at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center (UCMC) teaching long-distance critical care air transport. I worked part time teaching military physicians and nurses critical care air transport and part time as an attending physician in UCMC’s operating rooms. Now a civilian, I work full time clinically as an associate professor of anesthesiology at the University of Cincinnati. My wife and I have very much enjoyed Cincinnati so far and look forward to it being our home for the foreseeable future.”

CLASS OF 2003

Eric L. Cole, M.D. (family medicine), is employed by Mary Black Hospital in Spartanburg, South Carolina, a position he has held since completing residency in 2006. He is in a group of five providers offering care in both an inpatient and outpatient setting at the hospital. He serves as the college and team physician for Wofford College and volunteers at St. Luke’s, a free medical clinic. As a faculty member at Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, he trains third-year medical students on their family medicine rotation.

CLASS OF 2005

Danielle Davis Bernth, M.D. (emergency medicine), and her husband, Scott, welcomed their first child, a baby girl, Margaret (Maggie) Elizabeth, on July 31.
Alumni rally indoors during annual football tailgate

A hearty group of more than 100 School of Medicine alumni and friends braved a frigid day in Columbia to enjoy the School of Medicine’s annual tailgate party prior to the football game versus Tennessee. The warmth of the indoors at ETV, combined with delicious barbeque and socializing with friends, helped make for a successful event. Cocky and the USC cheerleaders even made an appearance to take pictures and rally fans before the game.

CLASS OF 2007

- John K. Baker, M.D. (neurology), is a general neurologist at Colonial Neurology, a part of Colonial Healthcare, in Camden, South Carolina. Since 2013, he has served as the neurology clinic director at the Midlands Center for the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. In addition, he is the North and South Carolina state medical director for Monarch Medical Diagnostics.

CLASS OF 2008


CLASS OF 2009

- Lauren S. Holliday, M.D. (internal medicine/cardiology), started her third year of cardiology fellowship at Georgia Regents Medical Center. She plans to return to Columbia to practice cardiology after finishing her fellowship in June 2015.

CLASS OF 2010

- Brent Wilkerson, M.D. (otolaryngology) — “My wife, Calah, and I have three boys Shane (5), Cullen (3), and Owen (1). I will be graduating from my otolaryngology-head and neck surgery residency in 2015 from University of California, Davis. I matched at my first choice for neurotology/lateral skull base fellowship at Michigan Ear Institute in Farmington Hills, Michigan. I will start there in July 2015, and it is a two-year fellowship. Finally, I accepted a job at Wilford Hall Medical Center/Lackland Air Force Base/Brook Army Medical Center as one of their neurotology/lateral skull base faculty under the Division of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and will start there in 2017.”

CLASS OF 2011

- Bethany J. God, M.D. (pediatrics), spent the past two years as the sole physician (medical officer) on a U.S. Navy warship, the USS Denver (LPD-9), based out of Sasebo, Japan. The ship spent almost 11 months at sea in the Pacific Ocean, and her responsibilities included caring for the entire crew, advising the commanding officer on all matters of health and maintaining crew medical readiness.

CLASS OF 2007

- Margaret “Peggy” Walker, MGC (genetic counseling) — “I have moved into the ‘empty chair’ for cancer genetic counseling at USC when Karen Brooks retired in March 2014. It is a great honor to try and take Karen’s place, and we remain colleagues and friends. I love the explosion of genomic information about hereditary cancers and the challenges of today’s cancer genetics specialty. These little ones light up my life outside of USC. Kira and Ryan celebrated their first birthday in July and are seen here during their dad’s ‘Take Your Twins to Work Day.’”

CLASS OF 2008


CLASS OF 2009

- Lauren S. Holliday, M.D. (internal medicine/cardiology), started her third year of cardiology fellowship at Georgia Regents Medical Center. She plans to return to Columbia to practice cardiology after finishing her fellowship in June 2015.

CLASS OF 2010

- Brent Wilkerson, M.D. (otolaryngology) — “My wife, Calah, and I have three boys Shane (5), Cullen (3), and Owen (1). I will be graduating from my otolaryngology-head and neck surgery residency in 2015 from University of California, Davis. I matched at my first choice for neurotology/lateral skull base fellowship at Michigan Ear Institute in Farmington Hills, Michigan. I will start there in July 2015, and it is a two-year fellowship. Finally, I accepted a job at Wilford Hall Medical Center/Lackland Air Force Base/Brook Army Medical Center as one of their neurotology/lateral skull base faculty under the Division of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and will start there in 2017.”

CLASS OF 2011

- Bethany J. God, M.D. (pediatrics), spent the past two years as the sole physician (medical officer) on a U.S. Navy warship, the USS Denver (LPD-9), based out of Sasebo, Japan. The ship spent almost 11 months at sea in the Pacific Ocean, and her responsibilities included caring for the entire crew, advising the commanding officer on all matters of health and maintaining crew medical readiness.
Order Your School of Medicine License Plate Today!

Support the Drive for Scholarships
Show your pride in the School of Medicine by ordering a customized license plate today. A portion of each sale ($40) will directly support medical student scholarships at the School of Medicine.

Cost: $70
Order forms available at: alumni.med.sc.edu/license-plate.asp