SC MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE / Florence campus opens its doors
A MESSAGE FROM LES HALL, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

STUDENTS FLOURISHING AT FLORENCE REGIONAL CAMPUS

In this issue of South Carolina Medicine, we highlight the development of the School of Medicine clinical regional campus in Florence, S.C. Created over the past two years in partnership with Carolinas Health System, McLeod Regional Medical Center and Francis Marion University, the campus is hosting eight full-time M-III students this year, with additional students participating in selected third-year rotations and fourth-year electives. The students have already found the learning environment to be stimulating and nurturing, combining many opportunities for hands-on care with oversight by experienced physicians who are eager to share their knowledge.

This partnership resonates deeply with the USC School of Medicine’s mission — preparing physicians to provide compassionate care that meets the needs of our communities and the citizens of South Carolina. As the population of students at the Florence regional campus grows in the years to come, we believe a high percentage of these students will choose to give back to S.C. communities through their medical service throughout their careers.

We are grateful to the many individuals who have enabled the clinical regional campus in Florence to achieve such a successful start. Many community civic leaders, educators in Florence and Columbia, hospital administrators, clerkship directors, faculty physicians, support staff and student “pioneers” have made the collective vision of an excellent training campus a reality. We look forward to even greater success in the years ahead.

Les W. Hall, M.D.
Executive Dean, University of South Carolina School of Medicine
CEO, Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group
A Healthy New Start 4
Carolina Survivors Clinic provides familiar food in garden for refugees and helps sustain their recovery.

Side by Side 6
The M-III students in the first cohort at the Florence regional campus are getting plenty of one-on-one time with their clinical instructors.

Good Smile, Healthy Brain and Heart? 8
A nice smile, it turns out, might mean as much in medicine as it does in dentistry.

The X Factor 10
For 30 years, the Genetic Counseling Program has been helping clients navigate difficult circumstances while educating more than 200 genetic counselors.

Ballad of Joe McGowan 14
Joe McGowan loves being a surgeon and healing patients, but he could not be himself without also playing music.

Vital Signs, Faculty Focus, Alumni News 16
A HEALTHY NEW START
The School of Medicine recently recruited an international health expert from Queens, N.Y., Dr. Rajeev Bais, who says that one path to expanding the school’s global mission leads right back to Columbia.

“You really don’t need to go abroad to start a global health initiative,” Bais says. “We have global health right here in our backyard. All of the problems of the world, both politically and health-wise, are manifested in these patients.”

The patients he’s talking about are refugees who have been settled in S.C. Columbia itself has about a thousand international refugees or asylum seekers, he says. And they’ve been through a lot.

“Refugees are probably the most vulnerable people in the world,” Bais says. “There’s nobody who has gone through more trauma and witnessed the worst that humanity has to offer than a refugee.”

Many have endured suffering that most Americans can hardly imagine.

“There is one girl whose father was murdered, whose mom was raped. Her sisters were raped and she was raped, and this was not just once, but multiple times,” Bais says. “All of her sisters got pregnant from rapes. She got pregnant and had a kid, and then she found out she was HIV-positive. And this is a 17-year-old girl. Can you imagine?”

Since arriving in Columbia in September, Bais has opened the Carolina Survivors Clinic, an outreach program originally focused on victims of torture and human rights abuse. But seeing the dearth of medical and psychological services dedicated to refugees in the area, the team decided to expand their services to all comers among refugees.

Physicians are skilled at treating the body, but often there are injuries that they can’t see, Bais says. The refugees come from war-torn areas, where witnessing horrific events is common and torture is prevalent.

“When refugees arrive here, they get a screening exam, and they look for medical problems like tuberculosis, syphilis, intestinal parasites and that sort of thing,” Bais says. “But what they don’t screen for, and they should, is torture. So we decided to do the health screenings also and look for [evidence of] torture and other things in a more comprehensive way.”

Beyond the physical and psychological prescriptions that modern medicine can offer, the Carolina Survivors Clinic is building an outreach program that brings refugees in touch with a surrounding community that Bais has found can be eager to find out about their lives. The team has worked with the Green Quad, a living/learning community for undergraduates on USC’s Columbia campus, to develop a garden where refugees can grow foods unavailable in supermarkets that remind them of their far-away homes. It helps draw out older refugees who can get isolated, Bais says, and the students in the residence hall are often touched by their stories and eager to learn about their lives and culture.

The team is currently trying to develop a scholastic soccer program for kids. It involves after-school tutoring followed by soccer instruction, with the hope that down the road there might be academic or athletic scholarships for children of refugees.

They’re also working with the public library system to provide English conversation classes. The model is a program Bais became familiar with while he was completing a fellowship in Lexington, Ky., and involves bringing people from the community into conversations with refugees. Friendships often develop, with learning both ways, he says. Many Americans are struck by the positive outlook of folks who have been through so much.

“That’s the amazing thing: the resilience,” Bais says. “Obviously it’s a spectrum, and some people have a very hard time, especially if they’ve lost children. But most people, they look to start a new life, to work to become part of the community. They have a lot of hope for the future.”
SIDE BY SIDE
It’s probably not a record, but third-year medical student Dustin Rawlinson still marvels at how much experience he got in his recent obstetrics rotation — delivering 20 babies in two weeks.

Fellow M-III student Derek Voss has his own experiential learning story. When an attending physician didn’t make it back to the delivery room in time, Voss, with the assistance of the obstetrical team, delivered the baby himself, cut the cord and handed the newborn to the mom just as the obstetrician came in. “He checked everything out and told me, ‘Good job!’” Voss said.

Rawlinson and Voss are among the inaugural cohort of M-III students at the School of Medicine’s Florence regional campus, and they and the other M-IIIIs are getting a full dose of hands-on learning.

“One of the things we tell first- and second-year medical students from the Columbia campus is that if they come here for their third and fourth years, they can look forward to plenty of opportunities to learn side-by-side with attending physicians here,” said Bill Hester, M.D., the School of Medicine’s assistant dean for medical student education at the Florence regional campus.

“Students at some of the really big medical schools might find themselves standing in line behind a bunch of residents and fellows to get those kinds of experiences.”

Florence is home to one residency program — a family medicine program that Hester directed for 33 years at McLeod Regional Medical Center hospital — so School of Medicine students who rotate through the Florence campus spend the bulk of their clinical time with seasoned attending physicians, Hester said.

“We have a lot of physicians here who really like to teach, so this is a great partnership with the School of Medicine,” Hester said.

Eight full-time M-III students from the School of Medicine’s Columbia campus moved to Florence in 2015 and are completing all of their clinical rotations at McLeod Regional Medical Center hospital, Carolinas Health System hospital, community physicians’ offices and Hope Health, a federally qualified health center. They regularly video-conference with Columbia campus medicine faculty for classroom instruction. In addition, different groups of four M-III students come to the Florence site for various two-week clinical rotations.

This summer, a new cohort of up to 12 M-IIIIs will move to Florence, and the campus’ current M-IIIIs will continue there for their final year of medical school.

Scott Allen, M.D., a Florence neuroradiologist, serves in a student affairs role for the fledgling campus, assisting students with housing and health issues and whatever else might come up. He also directs a leadership seminar series for the students that focuses on how physicians become community leaders. All of the students have honorary memberships in the Florence Chamber of Commerce, which has thrown out the welcome mat for the new students.

“I’ve been here in Florence for 20 years and have seen this area grow and change dramatically,” Allen said. “We have a lot to offer School of Medicine students who decide to come here for their third and fourth years. At many medical schools the concern is that residents become the de facto teachers, but here the attending physicians are teaching, and that’s a draw.”

It’s one of the reasons M-III student Janina Gergorski chose to move to Florence for her last two years of medical school.

“I’m getting so much one-on-one attention. I would have also gotten that if I’d stayed in Columbia, but I just liked the smaller town feel of Florence,” she said. “It’s a very welcoming community.”
GOOD SMILE, HEALTHY BRAIN AND HEART?
Medical scientists have developed evidence of a strong connection between poor oral health and diseases that might seem unrelated, says Souvik Sen, M.D., chair of the neurology department in USC’s School of Medicine. Periodontal disease, commonly called gum disease, is associated with a wide variety of ailments.

“There are a lot of studies, not just in the U.S. but throughout the world, that point to a link between periodontal disease and stroke, heart attack and cardiovascular health,” says Sen, who was recruited to the School of Medicine in 2010 as the SmartState Endowed Chair in Clinical Stroke Research. “And there is also a very strong relationship between periodontal disease and diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity.”

That’s why Sen is leading a new study that aims to get patients at risk for stroke ahead of the curve. The NIH recently awarded a $3.43 million grant for a two-state clinical effort to help patients in the Carolinas with gum disease get in to see periodontists, the gum specialists, for high-quality preventive care.

The study, a collaboration between the USC’s School of Medicine and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Dentistry, will enroll patients from counties throughout both Carolinas. The goal is to see whether better periodontal care translates into a reduced risk for stroke and other cardiovascular events.

“Studies show that tooth loss is very common in S.C., and tooth loss is really the end result of gum disease, a dental infection,” Sen says. “South Carolina is also what is called the ‘buckle’ of the stroke belt, which means high stroke rate, heart attack rate and death from stroke and heart attack.

“This will be one of the first prospective randomized clinical trials that is actually looking at the event — stroke, heart attack or death — as an outcome. Because at the end of the day, what would matter the most is the information that this approach might prevent stroke, heart attack or death.”

Depending on the results, the study might provide the kind of “ounce of prevention/pound of cure” data pointing the way to a highly effective early intervention initiative. It might also address some of the differences in stroke risk that physicians have long observed among patients: prevalence is higher in rural populations and among African-Americans, for example.

“All patients will get enrolled, it’s not specific to any minority group, but this is funded by NIH’s National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, so a big focus is looking at groups in S.C. who are having stroke and transient ischemic attacks at higher rates,” Sen says. “We have referrals from counties all over the state and are able to catch a real mix of patients. It is a really big problem here in S.C., and we will try to figure out from this study if periodontal treatment could help treat a novel risk factor.”
FOR 30 YEARS, THE GENETIC COUNSELING PROGRAM HAS BEEN HELPING CLIENTS NAVIGATE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE EDUCATING MORE THAN 200 GENETIC COUNSELORS.

Courtney Truluck knew nothing of genetic counseling when she and her sisters were tested in the early 1990s for the gene mutation linked to ovarian and breast cancer. Her mother, then just 50, had been diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer and had the mutation.

Truluck was 22 years old when she discovered she had the same mutation and a better than 40 percent chance of contracting the same cancer that killed her mother at age 55.

“My grandmother died of cancer at 50, and my mother died of the same thing at 55,” says Truluck, a 42-year-old mother of three. “I figured at best I’d make it to 60 if I didn’t do anything.”

That is where the USC School of Medicine’s Genetic Counseling Center came in. When Truluck was originally tested, she says, she and her sisters were given aliases to protect their privacy. “It was so early in the process,” she says. “No one knew how the information might be used.”

Genetic counselors told Truluck to plan to live her life as she would have, which she mostly did. After her last child was born, she decided to have a complete hysterectomy. A few years later, she had her breasts removed and went through reconstructive surgery.

Aside from the early onset of menopause, Truluck says she has had few negative side effects from the procedures. Her husband has been supportive of her decisions and has adapted to “her new body.”

“We both have had to adapt,” she says. “But for me it was a no-brainer. My chances of getting cancer went from a certainty to the same as anyone else. I want to be here for my kids.”

In addition to providing the services Truluck and her family used to make very difficult life decisions, the Genetic Counseling Center also trains genetic counselors and has for 30 years. The field was in its infancy in 1981 when Janice Edwards joined the School of Medicine faculty. Four years later, she and professor emeritus Robert Young launched the USC genetic counseling master’s program, the first such program in the Southeast and only the 10th in the U.S.

“I just took a chance on it,” Edwards says of her decision to study genetic counseling. “I had a deep fascination with the science of genetics.”

Now with one of 31 such programs in the nation, the School of Medicine has more than 200 genetic counseling alumni leading the profession today. More than 130 students apply each year for the eight slots available for the master’s-level program. Many of them come from a traditional pre-med background; some have even been in other health care professions before choosing genetic counseling.

“For most people, either you get genetics or you don’t.” Edwards says. “You have to love the puzzle of it. What we understand about genetics and genomics is changing all the time.”

But that is just half of the job. The other half is helping people like Truluck put that understanding to use.

“We are talking to people at some of the most important times in their life,” Edwards says. “One of the real draws for us in this field is the privilege of being involved in our patients’ lives.”

For the Genetic Counseling Center, that adds up to about 2,000 patients a year. And while that seems like a lot, the counselors have the capacity to take more time with each patient than even a general practitioner or OB-GYN physician.

A real bond forms between patient and counselor that frequently outlasts the crisis event. Truluck, for example, has stayed in touch with her counselor and is on the program advisory board at the School of Medicine. She has even offered herself as a human test subject for counselors in training.
“They were so good at handling the information coming at us and the magnitude of the situation,” Truluck says of her original experience with genetic counselors. That is what made her want to help new counselors.

“It was hard the first time, but it is very interesting now to see how they work, looking at the family tree, the questions they ask,” she says. “They are educating some good genetic counselors. I was very impressed with all of them.”

The Genetic Counseling Center sees its patients on referral from doctors. Many, like Truluck, are learning about how their own genes may affect their personal health, but many are learning about the impact of genetics on their children — the ones who haven’t been born, or, in some cases, even conceived.

Padgett Mozingo was 42 years old, and she and her husband, Mark, wanted to have a child.

“I had had a couple of miscarriages,” says Mozingo, who also has a son from a previous marriage. When they discovered she was pregnant, they immediately began taking all the precautions associated with a high-risk pregnancy because of her age. Early testing revealed that her baby had a hole in her heart. That discovery led to genetic testing and an in-utero diagnosis of Down’s syndrome.

“We went in that morning for what we thought was a one-hour consultation after our testing and ended up staying all day,” Mozingo says. “I cannot say enough about the compassion and kindness Peggy Walker showed us that day and every day since.

“We had a thousand questions and she was incredibly informed, even though it was mostly a lot of unknowns.”

Mozingo says she always intended to have her child, no matter the challenges. But the early diagnosis gave her, her husband and their extended families and friends time to prepare. That time was invaluable as baby Lila came bouncing into the world needing more surgeries in the first six month of her delicate life than most people have in a lifetime.

“We knew about the heart problems and what we were going to need to do for that, but we didn’t know about the extensive intestinal operations she would need before we could even get to the heart,” Mozingo says. And there was that extra chromosome factor.

“We were able to get all our resources in order so that once Lila was physically healthy, we could take care of those needs as well,” Mozingo says.

Lila Mozingo is a happy, healthy four-and-a-half-year-old. She has hour-long sessions of occupational, physical and speech therapy every week, along with early intervention sessions. She also has become the face of Down’s syndrome in her community with the Mozingos sharing her story to encourage others going through the same thing.

“We call her limitless because we really think there is nothing she can’t do if we give her the resources she needs,” Mozingo says. “I know now, God gave me Lila because he knew I would share her.”

At a recent event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Genetic Counseling Program’s first graduates, Mozingo, Truluck and dozens of other former patients gathered with alumni and faculty members to share their experiences and to reinforce the bond that formed as counselors delivered what was often thought of as the worst news of someone’s life.

“We all get very connected to each other,” center director Edwards says. “It’s really a special bond, and we want to celebrate it.”

For the future, says Edwards, one of the biggest challenges of the field is figuring out how to graduate more counselors. The two-year program annually accepts eight new students and graduates eight. Across the country, fewer than 300 new counselors complete their studies each year. But the staffing deficit is twice that number.

“There has never been a better time than now to be a genetic counselor,” Edwards says. “We have always had our students graduate into jobs.”

Part of that ease in finding jobs comes from the School of Medicine’s reputation for quality graduates. In addition to rigorous training, students complete five clinical rotations in their senior year and complete research for an original thesis.

In addition to working with academic medical centers and physician practices, genetic counselors also work in commercial labs where the testing is done and provide key communication between the lab science and physicians.

“Physicians also need our expert advice,” Edwards says. “There are so many options,
and we stay up to date on the latest developments.”

The field also is spreading internationally, thanks in large measure to the work of Edwards, who is also the founding president of the Transnational Alliance for Genetic Counseling, created 10 years ago to bring together genetic counselors from around the world to help develop education and credentialing standards across borders. Her efforts were recognized by the National Society of Genetic Counselors with the 2010 International Leader Award, and she continues to lead with plans to meet other international leaders in Barcelona at TAGC 2016.

The global growth in genetic counseling also can be seen in international clinical rotations for Genetic Counseling Center students as well as students from around the world coming to Columbia to study.
Joe McGowan loves his career. A surgeon with Germain Dermatology in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., the School of Medicine graduate makes a good living, gets to live in the beautiful Lowcountry and enjoys the satisfaction that comes from healing people with skin cancer.

There’s a lot more to McGowan’s life than Mohs micrographic surgery, though. You see, McGowan, ’01 chemistry, ’05 M.D., is also a serious musician and songwriter — with not one but two albums coming out in 2016.

“I’ve been biting off as much as I can possibly chew just to get these songs down as perfectly as I can,” he says. “Right now, every day that I’m not at Germain Dermatology I’m at the studio or doing something with my music. I don’t take days off.”

The S.C. native started piano lessons at age six and eventually attended the Governors School for the Arts in Greenville. Not surprisingly, his favorite songwriters tended to be other pianists — Elton John, Bruce Hornsby, Ray Charles, Tori Amos. “I wasn’t athletically talented, so piano sort of became my sport,” he says with a laugh.

He sang in church and started composing instrumentals in late elementary school. Gradually, he also began to experiment with lyrics for his own compositions but says he didn’t find his true voice as a songwriter until much later.

“The biggest obstacle in my life has been coming to terms with who I really am,” he says. “I’m gay, but I kept that in the closet for many, many years — until after medical school, after my residency. But in the process of speaking my truth as a person, the lyrics just came so naturally and effortlessly. I feel like it’s something I was put on this earth to do.”

After taking voice lessons in New York a couple years ago, McGowan began work on his debut CD, “Dirt Road Revival,” with a producer in the city. He had so much music to get down, though, that he began recording a follow-up, this time in Charleston, before he’d even completed the final vocal dubs on the first.

“I love to write music, but going to medical school, and now being a surgeon, I haven’t had a lot of time to practice,” he says. “Performance is something I want to focus on next. But first I just had to get these songs out.”

And for McGowan, the process of getting them out has made the good life even better.

“Music has allowed me to become a better surgeon, a better partner, a better friend, a better brother, a better person,” he says. “I love being a surgeon, healing patients, but I could not be Joe McGowan without also doing my music.”
PUTTING ON A CLINIC

Music heals. Don’t believe it? Check out the Doctor’s Lounge.

The annual benefit for Columbia’s Free Medical Clinic raises tens of thousands of dollars and generates priceless publicity, but in the 11 years since clinic director Todd Crump, ‘92 M.Ed., ‘98 M.D., began organizing it, the November event has also showcased some of the most talented physicians in town — physicians who also like to kick out the jams.

Take Timothy Malone, ‘93 M.D. A psychiatrist at Palmetto Health and Three Rivers Behavioral Health and wellness director for the University of South Carolina athletic department, Malone has been strumming his six-string and blowing the alto sax since he was a teenager in Summerville, S.C.

Back then, it was Navy dances and TV jingles for local businesses, usually alongside his big brother. Nowadays, it’s jazz combos with local saxophonist Skip Pearson, the occasional solo gig and, of course, the Doctors Lounge, which he’s been a part of since day one.

“It’s sort of like back when I was playing for the sailors,” says Malone, who once flirted with a full-time career in music. “I treat a lot of patients in this town, and many of them have utilized the services of the free clinic over the years, so it’s a way of giving back. Don’t get me wrong, I’m a ham, I love to perform, but the cause just couldn’t be greater.”

And rocking out for a good cause has fringe benefits, according to musician-physicians like Brooks Mays. An endocrinologist at Pinehurst Medical Center in Pinehurst, N.C., Mays taught himself guitar listening to R.E.M. and Pink Floyd, but as his medical career took off, the Rickenbacher and Fender Strat fell slowly out of tune.

“If it weren’t for Doctors Lounge, I probably wouldn’t have picked up my guitar for years,” says Mays, ‘95 master’s, ‘02 M.D. “That really rekindled things. I hadn’t lost my love for music, but between grad school, medical school and everything else, I had lost the time.”

Now, despite the busy workweek, Mays finds time. He recently built a small “rock room” in his basement for his growing guitar collection and outfitted it with amps and recording equipment. Then, after teaching himself mandolin, a musician friend in Washington, D.C., invited him to play on an upcoming album.

“Medicine is fascinating, but it can also be incredibly stressful,” he says. “Music is an outlet. I can play for an hour or two and not even realize it because I’m in the zone. It’s like having a great workout. The endorphins are flowing. It takes you away.”
The USC School of Medicine has welcomed Amy M. Allen, M.H.S., Ed.S., PA-C, as the founding director of the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program. She also holds a clinical faculty appointment in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Allen has been a physician assistant for more than 11 years in rural areas with a background in family medicine, ENT and pediatrics. Prior to joining the School of Medicine, she held the position of assistant professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Physician Assistant Program, where she was clinical coordinator for the Memphis region and course director for general medicine courses and was responsible for program curricular mapping. She also was director of clinical education and academic coordinator in the Lincoln Memorial University Physician Assistant Program.

Allen has participated in curriculum development, faculty/staff mentoring and successful accreditation for two new physician assistant programs by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

“Amy Allen’s appointment marks an important milestone in the development of our new program. The skill and experience that she brings to this new leadership role in the School of Medicine will greatly benefit the program,” said executive dean Les Hall, M.D.

Allen earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Mars Hill College, a bachelor’s degree in physician assistant studies from East Carolina University, a master’s degree in health science from Duke University and an education specialist degree from Lincoln Memorial University. She is a member of the Physician Assistant Educators Association and currently serves on their curriculum council. She also has been an active member of the Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants, serving on their board, and is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the Physician Assistant Educators Association. She was also one of three House of Delegate representatives from Tennessee to the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

The USC School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program is planning to partner with alumni physicians who would like to lecture and/or provide clinical instruction to students in their areas of expertise. Contact Amy Allen at amy.allen@uscmed.sc.edu for more information.
VITAL SIGNS

RICHARD HOPPMANN HONORED AT PORTRAIT UNVEILING

Richard Hoppmann, M.D., director of the Ultrasound Institute and the Dorothea H. Krebs Endowed Chair of Ultrasound Education at the School of Medicine, was honored by the School of Medicine Executive Committee for his service as dean at the unveiling of his portrait this past December at the School of Medicine VA Campus.

Les Hall, M.D., executive dean of the School of Medicine, paid tribute to Hoppmann’s numerous accomplishments and dedication during his tenure as dean from 2009 to 2013.

“Dr. Hoppmann hired many outstanding leaders for the School of Medicine, advanced research funding and established the USC School of Medicine as an international leader in medical ultrasound training,” Hall said. “The School of Medicine continues to reap rewards from his contributions.”

Tarleton Blackwell, a nationally recognized portrait artist who has painted numerous portraits of School of Medicine leaders, is a native of Manning, S.C. He received an M.A. and M.F.A. from the University of South Carolina. Other distinguished guests included Hoppmann’s wife, Anne, and Charles Bryan, M.D.

KIM RIGGI APPOINTED SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Kim M. Riggi, M.S., has joined the School of Medicine staff as senior director of development. She serves as the lead gift officer, oversees development operations and coordinates fundraising to support the school’s education, patient care and research missions.

Riggi has nearly 18 years of fundraising experience in the higher education and nonprofit sectors. Her career spans more than 13 years in higher education, including a six-year stint at the University of South Carolina. Most recently, she was senior director of regional programs at USC, where she was responsible for representing the entire university and acting as an advocate for the now-completed $1 billion Carolina’s Promise campaign.

Prior to that role, Riggi was director of development for the USC College of Nursing, where she was the lead gift officer and secured approximately $2.5 million in gifts.

Before joining USC, Kim was associate vice president for campaigns and development at Queens University in Charlotte, where she managed operations of a $70 million capital campaign and a team of nine individuals. During her tenure at Queens, she built the major gift and campaign division and developed an effective system that led to one of the best fundraising years in that university’s 150-year history. One of her primary fundraising responsibilities was raising money to build a new Health Sciences Center to house the Presbyterian School of Nursing and Sciences.

“I’m very pleased that Ms. Riggi has agreed to serve as our senior director for development. The significant skill and experience that she brings to this role will greatly benefit the School of Medicine’s education, patient care and research missions,” said Les Hall, M.D., executive dean of the School of Medicine.
IN MEMORIUM

MARION BURTON, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND PEDIATRICS

Olin Marion Burton, M.D., FAAP, associate professor of pediatrics, division director for community pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics and director of community affairs for the School of Medicine, died on July 8, 2015.

Burton joined the faculty of the School of Medicine in 1991, creating a Community Pediatrics Division within the Department of Pediatrics. He also was the associate dean for clinical affairs, overseeing University Specialty Clinics.

Burton was passionate about solving the systemic health care issues that negatively affect children and families. He was an outstanding statewide and national advocate for children and the pediatrics/medical profession, serving as president of the S.C. Medical Association, president of the S.C. American Academy of Pediatrics and president of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Burton’s efforts on behalf of patients and providers earned him numerous awards and led to the creation of a foundation fund that will allow his work to continue.

Memorials can be mailed to the fund at: University of South Carolina, Office of Gift Processing, O. Marion Burton Community Pediatrics Endowment Fund (Account #: B11960), 1027 Barnwell St., Columbia, S.C. 29208.
Raymond Bynoe, M.D., associate professor of clinical surgery and state faculty for Advanced Trauma Life Support, was inducted into the Richland One school district Hall of Fame in February. Bynoe is a 1971 graduate of A.C. Flora High School. The Richland One Hall of Fame was created to recognize alumni of Richland One schools who have made significant contributions to their communities, their professions and society as a whole. Induction into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed upon individuals by the Richland One Board of School Commissioners.

Floyd “Tripp” Bell, M.D., Department of Radiology, Britt Wilson, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, and Richard Hoppmann, M.D., Ultrasound Institute, authored the journal article “Using ultrasound to teach medical students cardiac physiology,” which was published in the December 2015 issue of Advances in Physiology Education and featured on the cover.

Shilpa Srinivasan, M.D., associate professor of clinical psychiatry and associate training director of the Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship Program, has been selected to receive the 2016 Faculty Innovation in Education Award by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Srinivasan plans to develop and implement a leading edge online curriculum to train psychiatry residents in motivational interviewing, which helps promote behavior change in patients suffering from substance abuse disorders. The Faculty Innovation in Education Award (formerly the Faculty Fellowship Award) is intended to support the development of innovative education and/or evaluation projects that promote effective residency/fellowship training or lifelong learning for practicing psychiatrists and neurologists.

Scott M. Strayer, M.D., M.P.H., professor of clinical family and preventive medicine, was installed as the president of the American Association for Primary Care Endoscopy in November at the AAPCE annual meeting at Pawley’s Island, S.C. The AAPCE is a nonprofit organization formed in 2006 to help make gastrointestinal endoscopy more accessible to the American public, improve the overall health of patients, provide support and ongoing training for members and encourage endoscopy training in primary care residencies.

The Statewide Emergency Department Telepsychiatry Program received the Telehealth Program of Excellence Award at the 2015 S.C. Telehealth Summit. The project is a public-private academic partnership with the S.C. Department of Mental Health as the program lead and the University of South Carolina as the academic lead. Meera Narasimhan, M.D., associate provost for health sciences and chair of the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, is the principal investigator for the National Institutes of Health grant that evaluates the program’s clinical outcomes. Some 25,000 patients have benefited from the program, which sparks research opportunities and trains the future workforce to deliver innovative, high-quality and affordable care.

Marlene A. Wilson, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, has been elected a councillor in the Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology. The ACDP is composed of chairs and leaders of departments whose faculty members are involved in research and instruction of physiology in all its various forms. Wilson will serve a three-year term as councillor.
WHY GIVE TO THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE?

Two faculty members share their motivation

School of Medicine faculty members Judith Burgis, M.D., and James Stallworth, M.D., have been giving to the School of Medicine for 39 years, collectively. They recently talked with South Carolina Medicine about their commitment to the school and its mission.

JUDITH BURGIS, M.D., FACOG, CHAIR AND PROFESSOR

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

You've been a generous SOM donor for 14 years. What compels you to give?

“I got my education here, and I’m absolutely grateful for it. I love my job, and I really want to support the medical students. I’ve been involved with the alumni group and on the SOM Executive Committee for a number of years now, so I know the need for scholarship funds is great. That’s probably the driving force for me.”

Do you think the average alumnus knows about the lack of state funding for higher education?

“I think people have a general idea that state funding is not adequate to cover all the costs, but they aren’t aware that in reality the state pays for a very small percentage, and the needs are great. I don’t think that is a well-known fact. Also our medical school is young, so we haven’t had enough time to accumulate a large number of alumni or a large giving base.”

You are both an alumnus and a faculty member — how do those experiences shape how you feel about giving?

“It makes me feel a stronger connection to the medical school. It sounds corny, but I really am grateful. When I look back on my years of practice, I think I’m in the right profession. No one got to where they are by themselves. I had great mentors from the SOM faculty along the way. I hope that I’m providing the same opportunity to students. That’s what I love — the chance to help someone else.”

In your department, how do gifts help?

“They help us carry out our educational mission and help foster interest in our profession. For instance, we have a fourth-year medical student who’s interested in OB-GYN, and one of our faculty members mentored her in presenting a project that was submitted to a conference. I’m using donated funds to cover her expenses so she can attend. We want our young learners to be interested in OB-GYN as a career.”

What would you say to alumni who might consider becoming more involved?

“I would encourage our alumni to think about the future of health care for all South Carolinians. Helping to shape that through volunteering or donating money, it’s all good!”
JAMES STALLWORTH, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Vice-Chair for Education/Faculty Development

The James R. Stallworth, M.D., Endowment fund established in your honor awards scholarships to fourth-year medical students. Why fourth year students?

“The fund was set up in recognition of my years of service. It focuses on fourth-year students so I can be involved in the selection process. I need to become familiar with the students while I have them in their pediatrics clerkship during their third year. The award is a way to validate the excellence of the individual and to support them in a general, practical way — to compliment them on what they’ve done so far as a student and let them know what we expect them to do down the road in medicine.”

You chose to designate a portion of your estate to support the fund. What made you decide to do this?

“I think as people get older and look back on their life, they think about what is most important to them and what they want their legacy to be. Medical education really is my legacy, and I want that legacy to continue.”

Why do you personally think scholarships are so important and so critically needed in this day and age?

“I am so proud of the many graduates of this school who have gone on to do great things for their patients and our state. Any way we can help support and reward students who are academically successful, and recruit qualified and competitive students to come to USC, is paying it forward. Scholarships play a critical role in recruitment efforts.”

Would you encourage your colleagues to include the university in their estate plans?

“Everyone has to come to this decision on their own time and in their own way, but for me it was the right decision. As someone who has trained generations of medical students, I knew I wanted my legacy to continue, and the best way to ensure that was through this type of gift.”

In addition to a bequest in a will, other options for supporting the School of Medicine include cash, stocks, life insurance, real estate, beneficiary designations on retirement accounts and charitable remainder trusts.

Gifts can create new endowed funds named for you or a person you wish to honor, or they can add to an existing fund such as the James Stallworth Scholarship. For more information contact Kim Riggi, senior director of development, USC School of Medicine, at 803-216-3314 or kim.riggi@uscmed.sc.edu. For more information visit giving.sc.edu/supportanarea/collegesschools/schoolofmedicinecolumbia.aspx.

CONGRESS MAKES IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER BENEFIT PERMANENT

At the end of December, Congress voted to make the charitable IRA rollover provision permanent. This provision will allow those 70-and-one-half and older to donate as much as $100,000 of IRA account assets each year directly to one or more public charities.

The donations will count as part of the IRA owner’s required annual payout. There is no income tax charitable deduction for the donated assets, but they don’t count as income. To qualify, the donation of IRA assets must be made directly to a charity, not a donor-advised fund or grant-making foundation. The assets must be transferred directly to the charity from the IRA custodian, such as a bank or mutual fund. The law is retroactive to January.

Please check with your tax attorney, accountant, consultant or other tax professional for additional details. You can use your IRA to make a positive impact for the USC School of Medicine. To learn more contact Kim Riggi, senior director of development, at 803-216-3314 or kim.riggi@uscmed.sc.edu.
GREETINGS,
USC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI

The USC School of Medicine has seen much change in the past year, challenging our institution to become better than ever. Our new executive dean, Dr. Les Hall, is forging new relationships and alliances in the medical community. Our school’s associations with Tuomey Healthcare System of Sumter and Grand Strand Medical Center of Myrtle Beach, along with the new regional campus in Florence, are indicative of positive change and growth. These collaborative partnerships help secure our school’s role as a major medical player in the state.

Most physicians thrive when faced with challenges, and we’ve certainly had no shortage of those in our profession. When I see current medical students, they seem so young and optimistic. At a recent School of Medicine Alumni Association Board Meeting, an M-4 student stated that he hopes to continue his relationship with the Alumni Association so he can give back once he is debt free. Seasoned physicians in the room didn’t want to break his optimism, but the truth is, the cost of medical school education has more than tripled in recent years, and the amount of debt medical students are faced with upon graduating is daunting. The enthusiasm and passion of students like this young man highlights the need for us, as alumni, to step up and become more involved in a variety of ways so that we can continue to recruit, support and cultivate the next generation of physicians.

While financial support is important, there are other ways to become more engaged as an alumnus: contributing time, becoming a mentor for a medical student, being visible in your community or steering potential donors to our medical school. I challenge you to find ways to renew your involvement with our alma mater.

It has been an honor to be involved with our Alumni Association the past few years, and I hope to serve you all well in this coming year. May we all overcome challenges in our personal and professional lives and continue to become the best version of ourselves.

Eva Imperial, M.D.
USC SOM Class of 2000
ALUMNI NEWS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
MATCH DAY
Noon, The Zone at Williams Brice Stadium, George Rogers Blvd. at Bluff Road, Columbia

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
ALUMNI AND DEAN’S AWARDS DINNER
6-9 p.m., Hilton Columbia Center
924 Senate St., Columbia

FRIDAY, APRIL 29
SENIOR BANQUET
5:30 p.m., Seawell’s, 1125 Rosewood Dr., Columbia

APRIL 28 – MAY 1
SC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION 2016 ANNUAL MEETING
Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes, SC

FRIDAY, MAY 6
COMMENCEMENT
Noon, Koger Center, 1051 Greene St., Columbia

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
Time: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. (all alumni and students invited to attend)
Location: Humphries Board Room, Bldg. 3, 2nd Floor, VA Campus
All alumni and students invited

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH
ANNUAL TAILGATE
USC vs GA
Time: 3 hours prior to kickoff - BBQ and fixin’s/drinks!
Location: ETV on George Rogers Blvd.
Games for the kids

To register for all alumni events go to alumni.med.sc.edu, email debbie.truluck@uscmed.sc.edu or call the Alumni Office at 803-216-3303.

SOM ALUMNI NOMINATIONS
The Alumni Association Board is accepting nominations for the 2017 Alumni Awards and self-nominations from alumni who are interested in serving on the board. Contact debbie.truluck@uscmed.sc.edu or submit at alumni.med.sc.edu.
CLASS OF 1982
Jerome Davis, M.D. (anesthesiology) was elected to the USC School of Medicine Alumni Board at the full-membership meeting this past fall.

CLASS OF 1987
Katie Hanna, M.D. (hospice and palliative medicine) “I joined the Palliative Care Consult Team at Greenville Hospital System in March 2015. This was a great opportunity to become involved on the ground floor with a new team that is rapidly expanding and much needed. The team has nearly tripled in size since I started. We now have five Palliative Certified M.D.s, three N.P.s, two RN navigators, two chaplains, three social workers and two administrative assistants. We will likely add another RN navigator, chaplain and social worker before the end of the year. Having done home-based hospice exclusively for the past 10 years, the intensity of the care and discussions has been somewhat of a shock, but exciting. It’s an exciting time for palliative medicine everywhere, and I believe for patients and families as well as the medical teams working with those who are seriously ill. Helping everyone navigate the complex medical issues involved while staying patient-centered is our focus — the ideal medical model.”

Karl Kelley, M.D., (family medicine) received the degree of fellow in disaster medicine on June 26, 2015, and was named Physician of the Year in Disaster Medicine the same day. He has been on the board of the American Academy of Disaster Medicine since its inception.

CLASS OF 1988
Douglas Holtzman, M.D. (pediatric emergency medicine) “I’m glad to be finally back home. I am the medical director of pediatric emergency services for Trident Health. I opened the brand-new pediatric emergency department at Summerville Medical Center last November.”

James O. Williams, M.D. (family medicine) “I am happy to announce that as of Dec. 1, 2015, I will be joining the faculty of the USC Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. I was also elected to the USC School of Medicine Alumni Board at the full-membership meeting November 20.”

CLASS OF 1990
Amy Salerno DeGruchy, M.D. (family medicine) “I married Glenn Charles DeGruchy on May 9, 2015. This is the first time for both of us, and we feel blessed to have met and fallen in love in the “late summer of life.” Glenn is in the process of formally adopting my daughters, Francesca and Dorsey-Camila. This is exciting for us all, as the girls have a dad for the very first time. I closed my medical practice to move to N.J. and be with Glenn. I am now the site leader for Zufall Health Center (a federally qualified health center) in West Orange, N.J. As always, I continue to dedicate my medical career to the medically underserved/immigrant community — here in N.J. it is predominantly Spanish-speaking and Haitian. I am always so grateful for the fabulous foundation I received at the USCSOM and my subsequent training in psychiatry (internship) and family practice (residency) there. I feel I was eminently prepared to practice true primary care ‘old timey’ medicine — what I deem ’high touch, low tech’ care from birth to frail elderly — doing all kinds of office-based surgical procedures, including family planning and gynecology. With the unexpected blessing of marriage, I feel that my little family is finally complete. I have found that elusive work-life balance!”

CLASS OF 1995
J. William Phillips, M.D., (cardiology) was elected to the USC School of Medicine Alumni Board at the full-membership meeting this past November.

CLASS OF 1998
Frederick Huiet, M.D. (internal medicine) “Nancy and I have a new addition to announce! Mary Hansford Huiet was born Oct 28. ‘Mary Ford’ has a big brother, James, who is now 20 months. I continue to practice internal medicine with the VA. I am also a flight surgeon in the USAF Reserve, serving as the chief of the medical staff for our unit.”

Evan Lee, M.D. (anesthesiology) “My wife, Jennifer, and I will be adopting two little girls from India in the coming months. Ana and Nava are four and six years old and are biological sisters. Maya, our eight-year-old from Nepal, is thrilled to assume the role of big sis!”
George Phillips, M.D. (pediatrics) “I have taken a new position as division director of general academic pediatrics with Children’s Mercy Kansas City. I am also division director of general pediatrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center as we work toward the development of a single integrated pediatric program to serve the Kansas City Metro area. My wife, Robin (master’s in library and information sciences, ’98), and I, along with our three kids (Carter, 12; Kelsey, 10; and Allison, 6) relocated from Iowa City to Overland Park, Kansas, in August.”

Robert Underwood, M.D. (emergency medicine) “I started working as the chief medical officer of St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center in Pueblo, Colorado, in September 2015.”

CLASS OF 1999

Lloyd Kapp, M.D., (pediatrics) was named medical director for BlueChoice HealthPlan of South Carolina this past August.

Derek Moore, M.D. (orthopaedic surgery) “I am serving as chairman of OrthoTLC at The Longstreet Clinic in Gainesville, Ga. Carol and I are gradually sending our children to college. Joshua is a freshman at George Washington University in D.C. (seems like just yesterday he was born after first year!), Anna is a freshman at the University of North Georgia, Ally is a junior at Gainesville High School and Sarah is a sophomore at Lakeside High School. We took a trip to Europe this summer to celebrate the older two graduating from high school and are now back in the usual flow of school this fall and enjoying plenty of college football.”

CLASS OF 2000

Sunil Kini, M.D. (radiology) “I started my own teleradiology business, Modern Teleradiology LLC.”

CLASS OF 2001

Brian Keisler, M.D. (family medicine) “My wife, Miki, and I were thrilled with the arrival of our first child, Loralei Katherine, in early May. It’s amazing how much she’s grown over the past six months. We are truly blessed. I continue to enjoy my work in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at USC, where I’m involved in medical student and resident education as well as assisting with our primary care sports medicine fellowship when time allows.”

Elizabeth “Libby” Malphrus, M.S., CGC “My organization, Help the Hoo-Hahs, had its fifth annual 5K Walk/Run in Savannah, Ga., on September 26, 2015, and it was a big success. We had over 400 people at the event, and, since 2011, we have now raised over $126,000! All proceeds from our events benefit the gynecological cancer Hoo-Hahs fund of the Memorial Health Foundation at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, Ga. Our fund provides financial assistance for women in South Carolina and Georgia battling cervical, ovarian and other GYN cancers. The Hoo-Hahs fund has provided financial assistance to many families, and I have a particular focus on community education. One of the events my organization helped fund was the third annual oncology conference in Savannah on September 11, 2015, with a focus on HPV awareness and screening education for health care providers. I also received a Health Care Heroes Award last night from the Georgia Medical Society at their 15th annual banquet. The award was given because of my work in the community educating women about GYN cancers and the money we’ve raised to help local women.”

CLASS OF 2002

Mary Busowski, M.D. (internal medicine) “I have recently accepted a position as associate medical director for Vitas Healthcare and am practicing hospice and palliative medicine full time. I am the proud grandmother of Liliana, age 5, and Dustin, 17 months. They are the lights and loves of my life. I have given up all other pursuits and hobbies and spend as much time at our beach condo as possible with the kids! I am blessed beyond measure!”

Edina Swartz, M.D. (allergy and immunology) and Justin Swartz, M.D. (Class of 2001, pulmonary/critical care) “We love living in Charlotte — have been here since 2008 — and both working for Carolinas Healthcare System. We are very proud of our three kids, Reka, 7; Lara, 4; and Mihaly, 2. They keep us busy.”
Edward Jackson, M.D. (orthopedics) “My wife, Latasha, and I have been married for 11 years. We have a daughter, Kennedy, who is nine years old. We have a son, Grant, who is seven years old. My wife and I are now leading the singles/young marrieds ministry at church. I am also preaching at our church. My role there is more as an assistant lead evangelist for the church. I have been working at Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic for the last six years and have been taking care of Florida A&M University Athletics as well.”

CLASS OF 2005
Elizabeth Renwick, M.D. (emergency medicine) “Joe and I welcomed our new daughter, Autumn Elizabeth Renwick, who was born August 7, 2015, at 7 lbs. 1 oz. She has been such a pleasure. I’ve been working in the ED at Lexington Medical Center since I graduated residency at MCG in 2008, and my husband and I are co-owners of Midlands Biofuels, where we make biodiesel, a renewable fuel.”

CLASS OF 2008
Kristen Addis, M.D. (dermatology) “I was newly hired as the section chief of dermatology at the central Arkansas Veterans health care system.”
Brandon Drafts, M.D. (internal medicine) “Katie and I recently welcomed Connor to our family, joining his big sisters, Hannah, 7, and Leah, 4. I am completing my training in interventional cardiology this year at Wake Forest and will join Lexington Cardiology at Lexington Medical Center in July 2016. We are excited to be coming back home to Columbia.”
Dede Norungolo, MRC, CRC, LPCI, recently presented “Beyond the Courtroom.... Who am I in the face of this?” at the Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation continuing education conference sponsored by South Carolina BAR — Continuing Legal Education.

CLASS OF 2009
Edward Barnes, M.D., (gastroenterology) was elected to the USC School of Medicine Alumni Board at the full-membership meeting this past November.
Kristie Leigh Bragg, M.D. (pediatrics) “I welcomed the birth of my son, Xavier James Dingus, who was born July 19, 2015.”
Laruen Holliday, M.D. (cardiology) “I started practicing as a cardiologist at Columbia Heart Clinic in July 2015.”
Tim, M.D., and Kara Gallagher, M.D. welcomed their adopted daughter, Lily Jo, in May 2015 just in time for Mother’s Day. They thank God for this answer to many prayers and rejoice in how he is growing their family.

Elizabeth, M.D., and Mitchell Nimmich, M.D. (internal medicine) “We had a baby — Lydia Charlotte Nimmich, born Sept. 26, 2015. I am working as a hospitalist at Lexington Medical Center, and Liz will be starting there as well, working in infectious disease, in January.”

Ann Marie Patterson, M.D. (pediatrics) “I was appointed as the S.C. Academy of Pediatrics Young Physician Liaison. I went on my fifth medical mission trip to Guatemala in October 2015. I’m currently working as a pediatric hospitalist at AnMed Women’s and Children’s Hospital. I got married Aug. 28 to Dr. Senthuran Ravindran, a graduate of East Carolina and internal medicine/pediatric hospitalist at GHS!”

William Richards, M.D. (anesthesiology) “After graduating from residency at MCG in Augusta, Ga., in June 2013, I did locums work primarily at Tuomey Healthcare System in Sumter, S.C. In the meantime I studied for and passed my anesthesiology boards in October 2014. I am now practicing at Lexington Medical Center, where I started full time at the beginning of 2015.”
CLASS OF 2010


CLASS OF 2011

Tim Brooks, M.D. (emergency medicine) and Courtney Brooks, M.D. (OB/GYN, Class of 2008) “I’m working at Palmetto Health Baptist downtown and Baptist Parkridge in Irmo. I’m still employed by Carolina Care. Courtney is still with USC SOM OB-GYN. Tucker is 5 and Lilly Parker 2-½ in the picture. Baby girl brooks no. 2 is due in January 2016.”

Benhamin von Schweinitz, M.D. (emergency medicine) “Shaelyn and I were married in Maryville, Tenn., on June 15, 2013. I completed ER residency on June 30, 2013.”

CLASS OF 2012

Mary Kathryn Cone, M.D. (pediatrics) “My husband (Josh Cone) and I welcomed our first child, Ruth Ann Cone, in September. We are both working in pediatrics in Columbia.”

Nicole, M.D., and Kevin Wellbaum, M.D. (OB-GYN and pediatrics) “Kevin and I welcomed Miles Avery Wellbaum in February. Big sister Lily is very proud! Kevin is doing a chief resident year in pediatrics while I finish my OB-GYN residency. We can’t wait to see where our job search will land us next year!”

CLASS OF 2014

Elyse Huey, M.D. (psychiatry) “We welcomed our fourth child, Levi, on February 7th 2015!”

Lee Day, M.D. (internal medicine) “My wife, Stani (Class of 2012, biomedical science), and I are expecting our first child in April!”

CLASS NOTES

Submit class notes for the summer 2016 issue of South Carolina Medicine to debbie.truluck@uscmed.sc.edu.

SEND US YOUR SCHOOL OF MEDICINE PHOTOS

We want to preserve our history in photos, and your help is needed. Please send us your favorite photos from your time at the School of Medicine. We might display the images on campus or use them in future publications highlighting our history. Please email digital images to Rosemary Thompson, director of marketing and communications, at rosemary.thompson@uscmed.sc.edu. If you prefer to mail printed photos, contact Rosemary by email or phone 803-216-3302 to make arrangements for their return.
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