Meet the School of Medicine’s brilliant new chair of surgery
On April 1, 2016, health care providers from two of South Carolina’s most respected organizations, the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and Palmetto Health, came together to form the largest multispecialty medical group in the Midlands of South Carolina. Made up of more than 500 providers and 2,200 team members, the newly formed Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group provides the broadest range of health care services in our region.

The creation of the Medical Group is first and foremost about building a comprehensive practice group that can deliver well-coordinated, high-quality care to those whom we serve. Guided by its vision statement, “To be known for clinical excellence and remembered for compassionate care,” the Medical Group seeks to transform the way health care is offered — by providing more comprehensive services and innovating care delivery to be truly patient-centered.

This partnership will benefit both the clinical and academic missions of the USC School of Medicine. Already we are seeing some providers increase their contributions as educators, and physicians seeking to build a career in academic medicine are drawn to our emerging academic medical center. New clinical trials have been opened, and new partnerships are being forged between clinical investigators and basic science researchers.

The goal to combine the clinical faculty from the USC School of Medicine and the employed physicians of Palmetto Health has been in discussion for almost two decades. The perseverance and hard work of leaders such as USC President Harris Pastides and Palmetto Health CEO Chuck Beaman have now helped to make this vision a reality. Although there is much work yet to be done, achieving this milestone helps to prepare us for the journey ahead. With USC and Palmetto Health now active in the Association of Academic Health Centers, we are well positioned to continue growing our clinical, educational and research missions.

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CEO, Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group
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BEYOND BORDERS
FROM HEALTH CARE CLINICS IN NICARAGUA AND UKRAINE TO A SYRIAN REFUGEE CAMP IN JORDAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ALUMNI AND FACULTY ARE USING THEIR SKILLS TO HELP Underserved patients get the care they need.

A lifelong calling

When Miriam Wheeler, M.D., was first approached about doing medical mission work in Ukraine, the country was still part of the Soviet Union — and she wasn’t sure why such a mission would be needed.

“I had always heard the Soviet medical system was wonderful,” says the 1985 School of Medicine graduate, a native of Georgia. But at a mission-work seminar in 1990 — a year after the fall of the Berlin Wall and a year before the collapse of the Soviet Union — other attendees told her that wasn’t the case. “Maybe in Moscow, but the further out you get, the worse it gets,” Wheeler recalls hearing.

She decided to see for herself. On her first trip to Ukraine in 1992, she found the situation was dire. “People were overwhelmed,” she says. “They had not gotten good care for so long.” She recalls a young girl who needed high-powered antibiotics that weren’t available locally. Luckily, Wheeler had what the patient needed. “That gave me a picture of what the system was like at that time,” she says.

What began as a two-week trip has become a lifelong calling. Working with the independent Baptist mission group ABWE, Wheeler moved to Ukraine in 1998 and established the first of many village clinics in 1999.

The work has been challenging — and the outbreak of war in 2014 has made it more so. Many war-zone refugees have come to the southern city of Odessa, while others have moved from rebel-held to Ukrainian-held territory in the east; ABWE is working in both areas. “It’s a huge load to add to an already full plate,” Wheeler says.

It’s also gratifying. “Helping people in need permeated my mission in life,” Wheeler says. “My goal in med school was to become a missionary.”

‘Living lives ours’

Prior to an April trip to a refugee camp in northern Jordan, Moeen Saleem, M.D., had never done international relief work. But the Canadian-born, Chicago-based cardiologist — a 1995 graduate of the School of Medicine — says his nine-day trip to the Zaatari refugee camp “is probably the most fulfilling thing I have ever done” as a physician.

Saleem was recruited by a pediatrician friend who was organizing the trip for the Syrian American Medical Society, or SAMS Foundation. “He just casually asked me if I was interested,” Saleem says. “The next thing I knew he was sending dates.”

The result was a 60-person team traveling to the camp — the largest such group that SAMS had put together, Saleem says.

“It’s a nonreligious, nonprofit organization,” Saleem says. “What I really liked about it was there were people from all over the world — Muslims and Christians and Jews and Hindus, an international coalition of people coming together to help in this humanitarian crisis.”

The experience is one that puts the typical Western lifestyle in perspective, Saleem says. “You leave first-world problems, and you arrive to a community of people who, until they were displaced, were living lives like ours: They were engineers, teachers,” he reflects. “They have lost their homes and family members and are now in survival mode living from day to day on the absolute bare minimum.”

Having seen the depth of the need, Saleem is ready to go back when he can — and he hopes others will hear the call and respond, too.

“It’s not about me personally — it’s a reminder that as health care providers, we can go anywhere and help anybody,” he says. “Whether you go work in a free clinic or overseas, your skill set is universal. You have the skills to help locally or to go globally and help out in a humanitarian crisis.”

Cultural context

Working in the medical field overseas can be challenging. It can also be highly rewarding — and offer insights back home, too.

Mark Humphrey’s first exposure to overseas medical outreach came in high school when he visited Haiti with his parents. The experience reinforced positive feelings about medicine that Humphrey had already gained from his hometown doctor in rural Ohio.

“I saw him as a community leader as well as a doctor,” Humphrey, M.D., says. “So, that is what I aspired to be.”

Humphrey went on not only to become a doctor practicing family medicine, but also to develop specialties in preventive medicine and public health. At each step of his career, he has sought out opportunities to serve patients overseas. While working on his residency at the University of Louisville, he traveled to Belize. During a stint in the U.S. Navy, he helped organize a humanitarian mission in the South Pacific. Later, he sought out an academic position that would also have a global health component — which led him to the School of Medicine in Columbia.

Humphrey, assistant professor of clinical family and preventive medicine, has been at the university for just under three years. In that time, he has already made two trips to Nicaragua as part of a program started by Jeff Hall, M.D., associate professor of clinical family and preventive medicine.

Humphrey has learned a lot in his travels, including the importance of listening to your patients.

“If you can gain cultural context and make sure you are treating within that cultural context, you are more likely to have better outcomes for the patient,” he says, “and a better understanding of another culture.”
NEW SURGEON, NEW TECHNIQUES

NEW CHAIR OF SURGERY BRINGS EXPERTISE AND A PASSION FOR EDUCATION
After years of struggling, the dentist was at the end of his rope. He was suffering from chronic deep-venous obstructive disease, a painful condition that caused his left leg to swell and cramp after minimal time on his feet.

“This was a guy who could walk around his office but that was about it,” says Daniel Clair, M.D., new chair of the surgery department at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and the Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group.

Clair used a technique that involved placing stents inside the compressed vein to improve blood flow. A year later the dentist was able not only to walk without pain but to run a 10k race. “So you can imagine how dramatically different his life was,” Clair says.

Clair joined the School of Medicine earlier this year from the Cleveland Clinic, where he had been chair of vascular surgery for a decade. He has contributed to the patenting and development of several surgical devices and was the clinic’s teacher of the year three times. Clair now brings his expertise in vascular surgery to S.C.

“We are very privileged to have a physician of Dr. Clair’s stature join us,” says Les Hall, M.D., executive dean of the School of Medicine and CEO of the Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group. “His proven leadership skills, surgical expertise and passion for education will greatly benefit clinical care and the educational community in the Midlands.”

Clair succeeds James Nottingham, M.D., who was interim department chair since June 2014 while concurrently serving as the surgery residency program director. Under Nottingham’s leadership, the residency program has been strengthened and additional surgeons recruited.

‘Star Trek’ treatment

The seventh of 16 children, Clair grew up in New Jersey just outside New York City. He played football and was on the track team at Hamilton College in Upstate New York before heading to the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

A military scholarship for medical school allowed Clair to complete his residency and pursue a subspecialty in vascular surgery before fulfilling his service obligation in the U.S. Air Force.

Clair completed an internship, residency and chief residency in surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, then pursued a fellowship in clinical oncology at the American Cancer Society, a fellowship in vascular surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and a research fellowship at VazoRx Inc., in Woburn, Mass.

During his military service, he was chief of vascular surgery at Andrews Air Force Base Hospital.

“It’s a great place to start a career because it’s not as busy as most practices outside the military,” Clair says. “I started doing minimally invasive procedures while I was in the military.”

Finding ways to maximize results while minimizing patient impact drives Clair’s work.

“We are starting the ‘Star Trek’ era of treatments that allow us to do things that, if you had asked a physician 50 years ago, they would have said there is no way that can happen,” he says.

Clair has worked on a patented device, still under development, to treat aneurysms and another one called the tumescence delivery device that sends fluid into the space surrounding a vein in preparation for a laser or radiofrequency vein procedure. The device enables shorter procedure times and increased patient comfort.

“I am able to say to some patients, ‘If you wait a year or two, we have a technology that is in trial that might be available for you.’”

Treating patients is just part of Clair’s new role at the School of Medicine. He also teaches surgical residents and students on surgical rotations and will advise students who are interested in surgery.

“We all as clinicians stand upon the shoulders of those we trained with,” he says. “They pointed out problems to avoid, and it is our responsibility to carry those messages and what we’ve learned forward to provide the public with physicians who are better at their start than I was at mine and who will ultimately be better doctors at the end of their training than I was at the end of mine.”

**WALK THE TALK**

Clair arrived in Columbia this past April and already has made quite an impact.

“Probably the first 15 to 20 percent of my patients were employees at the hospital here who had chronic venous occlusual problems that could not be treated otherwise,” Clair says. “Treatment used to be a big open surgery to reposition the vein. Now it is done with stents as an outpatient procedure, and people can resume normal activity pretty quickly.

“As physicians we need to be thinking of new ways to do things. Sometimes that’s hard because we have to let go of what we’re comfortable with.”

Moving to Columbia was just such a step outside of the comfort zone for Clair and his wife, who is a professional organizer. Patty Clair helps clients, especially those who are downsizing, through her business, Simply Put.

“She is really good at what she does,” Daniel Clair says. “I have a good two-foot square at home that I can leave disorganized.”

The couple met at Hamilton College, where Patty Clair majored in psychology and English. She worked in communications, then focused on raising the couple’s four children, one of whom is an orthopedic resident at New York University.

Part of the attraction of Columbia was that one of the couple’s daughters lives here, and a son (a Carolina graduate) lives in Charlotte, N.C.

When he isn’t in the operating room or the classroom, Clair enjoys reading, playing golf “miserably” and exercising to improve his health.

“I talk to patients about regular exercise, aerobic and resistance, which builds muscle,” Clair says. “About five years ago, I was telling patients to do that, but I was not doing it. I wanted to actually live my recommendations.”

He began with a 10-minute daily resistance training program that now is at 15-20 minutes a day. He says he has seen the benefits in improved good cholesterol levels and lower bad cholesterol.

“We are role models for our patients in many ways,” he says. “One is the life we lead and the image we project to them. I really believe we need to live what we are asking them to do, and if we can’t, maybe we need to look at what we’re recommending — maybe it’s not reasonable.”
THE PALMETTO HEALTH-USC MEDICAL GROUP’S FIBROSCAN IS A PAINLESS, INEXPENSIVE AND LESS RISKY ALTERNATIVE TO BIOPSY FOR STAGING LIVER DISEASE.

No patient enjoys an encounter at the doctor’s office with a needle, especially one that is thrust two to three inches into the midsection to extract tissue from the liver.

But thanks to the FibroScan device acquired last year by Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group, that particular needle — in fact, the liver biopsy altogether — is largely being retired as a tool to stage liver disease in Columbia. And if word spreads, liver biopsies should become a lot less common throughout South Carolina.

In a painless, noninvasive procedure similar to an ultrasound, the FibroScan’s probe is placed against a patient’s midsection above the liver. Inaudible ultrasound pulses sent through the probe are used to quantitatively measure the liver’s elasticity.

Elasticity is a reflection of the liver’s level of fibrosis — more fibrosis means less elasticity and a loss of liver function. A more fibrous liver has a higher level of cirrhosis, which at one time required a biopsy to determine.

And staging the level of fibrosis is crucial for properly treating a number of diseases, according to Divya Ahuja, M.D., an associate professor of clinical internal medicine in the Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group.

“It’s most used for hepatitis C, but the FibroScan can also be used for alcoholic liver disease, hepatitis B and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, which is becoming very common in the U.S.,” he says. “The commonest cause of liver transplant in the U.S. is hepatitis C, and a close second is nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, or NASH, for nonalcoholic steato-hepatitis.”

In addition to painlessness, the FibroScan has another advantage over its traditional counterpart, Ahuja adds. It assesses a considerably larger portion of the liver than a biopsy, which is restricted in scope to the small core that is actually removed. The extremely narrow focus of the biopsy can result in errors, he says.

And then there’s the cost.

“A liver biopsy, if you include the money paid to the pathologist and the radiologist and the procedure itself, you’re looking at $1,500 to $3,000,” Ahuja says. “The FibroScan is about $150 for the whole test.”

With so much in the FibroScan’s favor, the Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group team wants to get the word out about its availability in Columbia. When the device arrived last summer, it was one of only two in the state, the other being located in the Dorn VA Center.

“We get referrals, and we’d love to get more,” Ahuja says. “The risks in biopsy are very small, but they are not zero. You can have bleeding, infection, hemorrhage and so on. So I don’t think a patient would mind traveling for an hour or so to save money and avoid a liver biopsy — it’s a no-brainer.”
DECIPHERING THE COMPLEX AND SOMETIMES DEADLY BIOCHEMICAL PUZZLE OF ALLERGIES

Enduring or medicating itchy eyes and a runny nose is a seasonal rite of passage for many. But for severe allergy sufferers, those are merely trifling symptoms. “Allergies also include severe reactions to food and insect venom that can lead to anaphylaxis and death,” says Greg Gomez, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology. “There are more than 60 million Americans suffering from allergies and asthma, and in the past 15 to 20 years, the incidence has definitely increased, something close to doubling. You can see the evidence of the increase in food allergies, particularly peanuts, with most schools now including peanut-free zones or tables in cafeterias.”

But even if the number of people affected by allergies might have increased, so, too, has scientists’ understanding of allergic reactions.

Charting the routes
Biomedical scientists have been working to build a road map that defines precisely what happens in the body when an allergy-prone individual comes into contact with an allergen. Such a map has long had well-defined beginning and end points.

It starts with an allergen, which might be cat dander, ragweed pollen or insect venom, making contact with human tissue. It ends with a person suffering from one or more of a wide range of potential complaints, such as incessant sneezing, skin rash, watery eyes and wheezing.

Moving from that single point of contact, between an allergen and human tissue, to a wide range of outcomes that can potentially lead to death involves an intricate series of cellular and molecular reactions. And thanks to researchers like Gomez, that series of reactions is no longer a black box.

Scientists are figuring out how the body’s immune system responds to an allergen, including how hundreds of different biomolecules are created, interact and sometimes cause one type of cell, in particular, to get carried away.

Armories in the immune system
That cell is the mast cell, which is an immune cell that permeates just about all of the organs of the body. A body’s immune system places mast cells, which are a form of white blood cell, in stationary positions in tissues outside of the bloodstream to perform a number of functions, including fighting off pathogens.

Mast cells do that by acting as an armory of sorts. Each mast cell contains a grab bag of inflammation-causing chemicals that can be released if the immune system directs it to do so. One of those chemicals is histamine, which might sound like a dirty word to a hay fever sufferer, given that anti-histamines are a primary source of relief for the condition.

But in the immune system, histamine is just one of many essential chemicals that keeps the body running smoothly in the face of constant attempts of infiltration by pathogens. Histamine and its biochemical cousins in mast cells can cause problems, though, if they’re released in excessive amounts or for too long; that’s the fate of someone with allergies.

Early in his career in science, as a postdoc, Gomez helped contribute to building the map that charts allergic responses on the molecular and cellular level by working exclusively with rodents, which provide a close analog to humans.

That’s really the only way you can do some of these mechanistic studies, in mouse models,” Gomez says. “But I really wanted to learn the human mast cell system, and so over seven years ago I transitioned, and now in the lab we work exclusively with human mast cells.”

Challenges and rewards
Working with human tissue presents challenges, including less regular access to cells, which are typically derived from rummy tucks and biopsies by the NIH-affiliated center that supplies him. But Gomez prefers to be closer to the species of real interest, and the shift has paid some dividends.

Gomez’s lab was able to show, for example, that adenosine, a compound produced naturally by mast cells and also used to diagnose and treat certain heart conditions, is not doing what it was long thought to be doing to mast cells.

“If you go to your cardiologist to have a stress test, they will ask you if you’re asthmatic,” Gomez says. “That’s because in a stress test they inject you with adenosine, which can induce bronchoconstriction in human asthmatics. And because of that, for a long time people believed, and many still do, that adenosine causes bronchoconstriction because it enhances the release of mediators, like histamine, from mast cells.”

The story is more complicated, though. His team has shown that adenosine predominantly acts to inhibit, rather than enhance, the release of histamine and its biochemical cousins from human mast cells. They’re following up to try to fully define what’s going on in a crucial cellular interaction that regulates one of the last steps of the human allergic response.

Gomez adds that the insights they are gaining will likely have utility beyond the field of allergy research.

“When I started with mast cells, they were a bit of a novelty,” Gomez says. “But now mast cells have become quite popular, and a lot of people are working with them. I think it’s moving in the right direction in terms of our understanding of how they participate in not only asthma, but also in the pathogenesis of other diseases, including chronic inflammation, diabetes and also cancer.”
WHY I GIVE BACK ...
You’ve been contributing to USC for 26 years and have donated more than $56,000 to the School of Medicine. Why do you think supporting the school is so important?

**MS:** This school gave me and my fellow alumni so much in terms of preparing and enabling us to serve as physicians. We have been privileged to have this opportunity, and I think it’s important that we realize this. We should ensure that those who follow in our footsteps have access to the same opportunities.

A few years ago you established the Medical Student Professional Leadership Fund. What drives your work to instill leadership skills in our future physicians?

**MS:** Medical schools are very focused on recruiting top performing students from an academic standpoint. But I feel it is equally important to recruit and train students who are able to serve as leaders of their profession — not simply as good physicians. So much has changed in the health care environment, and physicians sometimes take a backseat when it comes to decision making. We need to stand up and serve as advocates for all physicians.

What is your best memory of medical school?

**MS:** I was accepted to medical school on Thursday before class started the following Monday. On the first day of class the anatomy professor, Billy Poteat, demanded that I stand up and then announced to everyone that I was the last in the class. It was a bit humbling but I was committed to not finishing that way!

What inspired you to become a physician, and to specialize in gastroenterology?

**MS:** My uncle and grandfather were both physicians, and clearly my uncle was my mentor. As for being a gastroenterologist, I guess I can blame that on my grandmother because she had a terrible time with swallowing.

You’re very involved with the school and the community. What has been most meaningful to you?

**MS:** Beyond serving as speaker of the house for the S.C. Medical Association, I also am involved with the American College of Gastroenterology and serve as a national delegate to the AMA. I’ve served as a deacon of my church, Eastminster Presbyterian, for a number of years and have done some mission trips. I’ve also been involved with the Boy Scouts over the years. I stay very involved with all of the organizations or causes that have had some impact on my life over the years.
Martha Parker-Hester was a star on her high school basketball team at Columbia’s Hammond Academy. But when she graduated and took her spot on the women’s team at the University of South Carolina, she found her talent being questioned.

“Like with many people coming out of a small private high school, the question was, ‘Can she compete at a Division I level?’” Parker-Hester recalls. But instead of letting the doubts get her down, she drew support from those who had invested their time and attention in her.

“It just kind of rolled off my back,” she says. “I never took it personally; I just knew that if I gave it my best, something good would happen.”

She was right. Under the direction of Coach Nancy Wilson, Parker-Hester joined the starting lineup as a freshman. She went on to help lead the team to three NCAA tournament appearances. In her four years at the university, she scored 1,728 points, sixth-highest in team history. Her jersey, No. 13, was retired in 1989; this past May, she was inducted into the S.C. Athletic Hall of Fame.

Today, the 1994 graduate of the School of Medicine is a family practitioner along with her husband, Brabham Hester, at South Hampton Family Practice in Columbia. It’s a long way from the basketball court, but she credits the lessons learned there with helping her make the transition.

In college, Parker-Hester took the pre-med route, majoring in biology — a serious commitment for any student, let alone one who was regularly traveling the country with a Division I basketball team. Just as she had faced doubts about playing college-level basketball, she also faced skepticism about her academic path.

“A lot of people said, ‘You can’t go to a Division I school, play that rigorous schedule, practice the hours you do and also be in pre-med and make the grades,’” she says. “I finally just shut off all that doubt and realized that you don’t really know until you try,” she says.

Basketball and medicine are very different endeavors, but Parker-Hester credits the sport and the community around it with helping to shape her outlook and work ethic.

“The joy has been having so many people that have mentored me — from the early years in middle school and high school up to college — and who devoted the time to teaching me discipline, hard work, team work and selflessness,” she says. “All that just sort of groomed me for the pressures of medicine and the demands in how to balance family life and your career.”

As she studied medicine, it didn’t take long for Parker-Hester to realize that family practice was her calling. “Once I started to do rotations, I realized that I loved everything — OB/GYN, pediatrics, hematology, oncology, geriatrics,” she says. “So when you love everything, you realize that you are kind of thrown into family practice — because that’s where you get the variety.”

As for where to practice medicine, Parker-Hester never considered anywhere other than South Carolina.

“It is a joy and a privilege to be able to take care of people that I have grown up with — and their parents and their grandparents and their children,” she says. She is also grateful, she says, “to be able to give back to the community that has given me so much.”
Columbia native Everett Dargan, M.D., knows firsthand what it’s like to struggle financially for education. Despite winning a scholarship to Morehouse College in Atlanta, he had to withdraw after his second year — the funds to pay for school and living expenses were just out of reach.

After a move to another state and help from family, Dargan was able to finish college and ultimately attend medical school at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He became a prominent thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon and was one of the School of Medicine’s first African-American faculty members.

In 2005, a scholarship endowment was established in his name to help support talented, underrepresented minority medical students. Dargan gave the seed money for the scholarship, and in 2010 the fund reached its endowment goal of $500,000. It now provides a portion of in-state tuition for two medical students each year.

As a role model physician and educator, Dargan inspired and mentored a generation of health care professionals,” says Carol McMahon, M.D., clinical associate professor of pathology and associate dean of diversity and inclusion.

“The School of Medicine hopes to continue his legacy through scholarships to our state’s best and brightest underrepresented minority students.”

Educating more minority physicians can help improve access to care and reduce health disparities in the state. Underrepresented graduates are more likely to choose to practice in low-income areas, and African-American patients are more likely to seek treatment when African-American physicians are available.

Third-year medical student Carla Foulks was excited to receive funds from the scholarship last year. She worked at a family medicine clinic in Greenville and found her calling.

“The patient interaction was what I enjoyed most,” says Foulks. “The experience reassured me that this was what I really wanted to do.”

She’s leaning toward neurology or emergency medicine for her specialty and hopes to practice in the Carolinas after completing her training.

Dargan scholarship recipient Araba Bruce-Mensah is entering her fourth year.

“As I continue my journey toward becoming a physician, I want to continue giving back to my community. This scholarship is another stepping stone toward achieving that dream.”

The School of Medicine Office of Development is announcing a five-year challenge to raise an additional $600,000 for the Dargan scholarship. The goal is to build the endowment to a capacity that will keep pace with current tuition costs and enable the school to train a greater number of underrepresented minority physicians.

How you can help:
• name the School of Medicine a beneficiary in your will
• make a gift through appreciated stocks
• give an asset you no longer need or want
• purchase a life insurance policy, naming the school as the beneficiary, and deduct premium payments as charitable contributions, or sign over an existing paid-up policy that provides coverage you no longer need.

For more information contact Kim Riggi, senior director of development, at 803-216-3314 or kim.riggi@uscmed.sc.edu.
Class Reunion


Class of 2011: Brook Hollins, Tim Brooks, Ray Comer, Keith Barron, Lauren Barron, Yolanda Mines, Stephanie Curry.
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GALA

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL BLACK TIE/WHITE COAT GALA WAS HELD MARCH 4 AT THE USC ALUMNI CENTER. THE EVENT DREW 600-PLUS ATTENDEES AND RAISED MORE THAN $50,000 FOR THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND $25,000 FOR THE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC IN COLUMBIA. THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IS GRATEFUL TO ALL THE STUDENT VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE MADE THIS EVENT PERENNIALLY SUCCESSFUL.
The inaugural Medical Scholarship Day of Focus offered USC School of Medicine medical and graduate students the opportunity to showcase their work alongside Palmetto Health residents, fellows and allied health professionals.

The event, which took place April 22 at the S.C. State Museum, featured two moderated poster sessions highlighting clinical and basic science research that addressed issues such as the mechanisms of disease, biotechnology, drug efficacy, quality outcomes and process improvement. In all, 25 different groups, departments and colleges across the health sciences were represented by 130 individual poster presentations.

First, second and third place winners were selected in each of the four categories — basic medical sciences, therapeutic effectiveness/efficacy, outcomes/quality and case reports.

"Every single presentation was a result of the outstanding efforts of students, residents and fellows," said Frank Spinale, M.D., Ph.D., School of Medicine associate dean for research and graduate education. "The day not only embodied our vision for a comprehensive medical research program but also demonstrated the synergy and excellence of our teaching, mentoring and training efforts."

Second-year medical student Elizabeth Baker presented a poster detailing work she did with clinical internal medicine professor Michael Wagner, M.D., concerning the diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis via a pocket-sized ultrasound device.

"I’m excited about the ability to bridge the gap between basic science and clinical research," said Baker. "Making that connection will help current and future physicians provide the most advanced and best possible care for South Carolina patients. I look forward to participating in our school’s expanding opportunities for research."

The day included a luncheon and keynote talk by School of Medicine Executive Dean Les Hall, M.D., who stressed the importance of interdisciplinary partnerships and inquiry designed to ultimately transform the way patient care is delivered.

"Constantly searching for better ways to practice medicine is not just a research goal, but an overarching goal of any high-caliber medical institution," said Hall. "Through the integration of basic medical science, translational research and state-of-the-art clinical trials, we will be able to provide a pathway by which innovative and novel concepts and ideas regarding health care delivery can be tested, developed and recognized.

"Today is a concrete example of progress toward the realization of this vision and purpose.”

Toward the end of his talk, Hall presented fourth-year medical student Sarah Battle with the 2016 Dean’s Integrated Research Award. Battle’s project, which included contributions from the School of Medicine Division of Infectious Diseases and the S.C. College of Pharmacy, focused on how different antibiotics can affect the length of hospital stay for patients with bloodstream infections. These common infections affect 100,000 individuals in the U.S. each year.

"The Dean’s Integrated Research Award emphasizes the importance of collaboration between the different areas of expertise in the medical field," said Battle. "We all have unique perspectives. Only through working together can we achieve the ultimate goal — improved patient outcomes.”

“To me, this award also signifies the importance that our school and administration place on research and clinical investigation, which is vital for the continued progress of all academic centers. I am very proud to have earned my M.D. from the USC School of Medicine.”

Battle is looking forward to continuing her training in Columbia as she begins a residency in internal medicine at Palmetto Health Richland later this year.

The 2016 Medical Scholarship Day of Focus was sponsored by the USC School of Medicine, Palmetto Health and the Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group.
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**VITAL SIGNS**

PALMETTO HEALTH AND USC SELECTED FOR NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Palmetto Health and USC have been chosen to take part in an innovative national learning collaborative with eight other institutions across the country.

The three-year initiative, Professionals Accelerating Clinical and Educational Redesign, will focus on bringing together faculty members from various disciplines to build relationships and learn from one another as they develop and implement team-based models of care. The program was created to help produce a well-trained primary care workforce as health care moves toward the formation of high-performing, patient-centered medical homes.

**Donna Ray**, M.D., director of faculty development in the Office of Continuous Professional Development and Strategic Affairs, will lead the PACER initiative at Palmetto Health-USC.

PACER is funded by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, with matching funding from the Boards of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND EMORY UNIVERSITY APPROVED FOR $5.8 MILLION PCORI RESEARCH AWARD

A project led by the University of South Carolina, Emory University and the S.C. Department of Mental Health has been approved for a $5.8 million research award by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

The project will study the effectiveness of case management provided by peer specialists for mentally ill patients treated in emergency departments.

**Meera Narasimhan**, M.D., chair of clinical neuropsychiatry and behavioral science at USC, and **Benjamin Druss**, M.D., M.P.H., director of Emory’s Center for Behavioral Health Policy Studies, will lead the project.

The award has been approved pending completion of a business and programmatic review by PCORI staff and issuance of a formal award contract.

STUDENT RECEIVES IDSA MEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM AWARD

School of Medicine student **Avery Nelson** has received the 2016 Infectious Diseases Society of America Medical Scholars Program Award.

The program provides medical students interested in infectious diseases with an opportunity to pursue independent clinical or research activities outside their institutional program. This was the second consecutive year a USC medical student received the prestigious national award.

Nelson’s project focused on determining how long patients who have bloodstream infections should be treated with antimicrobial therapy, an understudied but particularly salient topic in an era of increasing antibiotic resistance.

WHITE COATS MAKE AN IMPACT ON CAROLINA DAY

School of Medicine alumni, faculty and staff members and students wore their white coats or garnet and black clothing and convened at the State House Feb. 3 to meet with legislators and advocate for the school.

Because state funding for higher education has declined dramatically over the past several years, communicating with legislators about the value the school provides to S.C. residents is more important than ever. The turnout was impressive and the support greatly appreciated. Be sure to join the School of Medicine at this event in 2017.

MATCH DAY 2016 REVEALS THE FUTURE FOR SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SENIORS

Fourth-year medical students across the nation learned where they would live and work for their residencies on Match Day, March 18, 2016.

Nearly 600 students, family members and friends gathered at Williams-Brice Stadium to watch as 86 graduating seniors opened the white envelopes that revealed their futures.

As each student approached the stage, custom music they had chosen for the occasion boomed from the speakers — everything from the Star Wars theme to hip-hop — and PowerPoint slides displayed their favorite childhood photos.

When they were first-year students, S.C. natives **Sarah Cain** and **Sean Battle** had been introduced by a mutual friend, and the pair were soon gross anatomy lab table neighbors. Growing close as study partners and friends, they began dating. Battle proposed after their third year.

Cain and Battle both matched at Palmetto Health Richland Hospital in internal medicine and married on April 9, 2016. Among all of the School of Medicine students who matched for residency this year, 69 percent will practice primary care — family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics — or specialties that are facing shortages in South Carolina, including obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry and emergency medicine.
IN MEMORIUM
O’NEAL HUMPHRIES, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE DEAN EMERITUS, 1932-2016

J. O’Neal Humphries, M.D., dean emeritus and distinguished professor of medicine at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, died March 24, 2016. He was 84.

A dedicated educator, world-renowned cardiologist and researcher and strong community leader, Humphries’ medical career spanned more than six decades, including more than 30 years at the School of Medicine. He was dean from 1983 to 1994.

As dean, Humphries provided outstanding leadership that enabled the school to achieve national recognition for providing quality medical education and training physicians who specialize in primary care and choose to practice in rural communities. Humphries strengthened the primary care focus of the school’s mission by restructuring the curriculum to include a new course, Introduction to Clinical Practice, which emphasizes doctor-patient, doctor-family and doctor-community relationships.

Through the establishment of the Rural Primary Care Education Project, Humphries expanded the school’s provision of medical care to rural areas of South Carolina. He also oversaw the creation of a pilot program in 1992 that allowed students to complete their third and fourth years of medical education at the Greenville Hospital System. The program began with four students and grew to 30 students per year before evolving into a separate four-year campus.

Humphries worked tirelessly to foster a positive and productive relationship between the University of South Carolina and Palmetto Health Richland Hospital, formerly Richland Memorial Hospital. His efforts resulted in a beneficial teaching resources agreement and the acquisition of land and buildings near the hospital to house the medical school’s clinical practices.

In 1994, Humphries decided to step down from his position as dean and return to full-time teaching and research as a professor of medicine. In 1995, he was named distinguished professor of medicine and dean emeritus of the School of Medicine.

After retiring as dean, Humphries remained a very active and productive faculty member at the School of Medicine. He was a member of the Admissions Committee, participated in applicant interviews, served as the elective director of the cardiographics course and taught students how to read and interpret EKGs.

Twenty years after completing his deanship, Humphries continued to go above and beyond to make a difference in the quality of medical education and health care in South Carolina.

In January 2012, the Humphries Society, a group formed to honor Humphries’ contributions to medicine, renamed the school’s executive conference room in Building 3 in his honor as the J. O’Neal Humphries Board Room.

Memorials can be made to the Humphries Scholarship Fund or the Humphries Fitness Center Fund. Checks should be made payable to the USC Educational Foundation and mailed to University of South Carolina, Office of Gift Processing, 1027 Barnwell Street, Columbia, S.C. 29208.
Mitzi Nagarkatti, Ph.D., has been named a fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences. The title is bestowed for an exemplary record of professional accomplishments, evidence demonstrating recognition of competency by peers in the field of toxicology, specifically understanding the biological response from exposure to agents, evaluation of human health implications and development of health and environmental standards. The honor recognizes Nagarkatti’s contributions in the areas of education, scientific expertise, achievement, leadership and professional experience.

Gregorio Gomez, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, was selected for a Careers in Immunology Fellowship by the American Association of Immunologists. The fellowship, which provides a full-year stipend, will allow Gomez’s mentee, graduate student Cody McHale, to continue his current research in cell biology. Gomez and McHale study human mast cells and the mechanisms that cause allergic reactions.

Carol McMahon, M.D., clinical associate professor, Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, has been appointed associate dean of diversity and inclusion. In this capacity, she will work with the school’s leadership to promote an academically enriching and culturally supportive environment where all individuals can thrive.

Robert Rhinehart, Ph.D., registrar and director, enrollment services, has been appointed assistant dean of diversity and inclusion. He will work with the associate dean of diversity and inclusion, as well as faculty and staff members to develop partnerships with other agencies engaged in diversity activities and to enhance the school’s relationships with students and faculty members at schools and universities across South Carolina.

Paul Bornemann, M.D., assistant professor, Department of Clinical Family and Preventive Medicine, will chair an interest group focusing on point-of-care ultrasound for the American Academy of Family Physicians. As ultrasound machines become smaller, more affordable and more accessible, an increasing number of family practices are interested in using them for diagnostic guidance. Nearly 160 people joined the group on its first day of membership registration.

Rajeev Bais, M.D., assistant professor, Department of Internal Medicine, and director, Carolina Survivor Clinic, was the faculty recipient of the USC Environment and Sustainability Program 2016 Environmental Stewardship Award. The awards recognize a student and/or student group, staff member and faculty member who have demonstrated a high standard of stewardship of the USC environment. Bais was honored for his work to create a Refugee Garden, which helps survivors of conflict continue their past farming practices. Participants are able to increase their personal food security, connect to the community and share their experiences with students.

Morris J. Blachman, Ph.D., associate dean, Office of Continuous Professional Development and Strategic Affairs, has been named the 2016 recipient of the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education Distinguished Service in Continuing Medical Education Award. The award is given to an individual who has made exceptional contributions to continuing medical education over an extended period and has developed an outstanding innovation in continuing education.

Michy P. Kelly, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience with a joint appointment in the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, was the recipient of the 2016 University of South Carolina Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. The award recognizes excellence in mentoring undergraduate researchers. Current undergraduate and recent graduate students nominate faculty members who have made a significant positive impact on their research and scholarly experience.

Souvik Sen, M.D., M.P.H., was the lead author on a 25-year ongoing study that demonstrated that migraine patients who experience aura, or visual symptoms, might face more than double the risk of ischemic stroke. Sen emphasized the importance of stroke risk-factor screenings, including for younger patients, when he presented the results of the study at the 2016 International Stroke Conference in Los Angeles.

David Mott, Ph.D., served as chair of the second annual USC Neuroscience Community Retreat, which drew 140 attendees. The event featured 14 speakers and more than 40 posters presented by faculty members, postdoctoral researchers and graduate and undergraduate students.
2016 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AWARDS DINNER

ALUMNI AWARD

Each year, the School of Medicine presents a number of prestigious awards to its most dedicated and qualified alumni who have demonstrated outstanding achievement or service to the school.

From left: Libby Malphrus, M.S., C.G.C.; John Ropp, M.D.; Alumni Association President Eva Imperial, M.D.; Executive Dean Les Hall, M.D.; Michael Donovan, C.R.N.A.; Anna-Kathryn Rye Burch, M.D.; Sloka Iyengar, Ph.D.; Carol Smith

DEAN’S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate excellence in service, leadership, advocacy and professional accomplishment.

From left: Marlene Wilson, Ph.D.; James Augustine, Ph.D.; Gregg Talente, M.D.; Shawn Chillag, M.D.; Brody Hingst; Chuck Beaman; Executive Dean Les Hall, M.D.

ALUMNI AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Distinguished Physician Alumni Award
Anna-Kathryn Rye Burch, M.D.

Distinguished Young Physician Alumni Award
William C. Palmer, M.D.

Humanitarian Physician Alumni Award
John C. Ropp III, M.D.

Distinguished Doctorate Alumni Award
Sloka Iyengar, Ph.D.

Distinguished Master’s In Genetic Counseling Alumni Award
Libby Hull Malphrus, M.S., C.G.C.

Distinguished Master’s Alumni Award
W. Michael Donovan, C.R.N.A.

Honorary Lifetime Membership Award
Carol Smith

DEAN’S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Career Achievement Award
James R. Augustine, Ph.D.

Community Service Award
Beverly Yates Wilson, M.P.H.

Community Service Award
Brody Hingst, B.S.

Dean’s Leadership Award
Marlene A. Wilson, Ph.D.

Friend of the School of Medicine Award
Charles Beaman Jr.

Sustained School of Medicine Service Award
Shawn A. Chillag, M.D.

GILLESPIE AWARD RECIPIENT

Nan Barker, administrative director for the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, is the recipient of the 2016 William C. Gillespie Staff Recognition Award.

Named in honor of William Gillespie, a former staff member in the School of Medicine’s finance office, the award recognizes an outstanding staff member at the School of Medicine whose work performance stands out as an example for all to emulate.
FRIDAY, MARCH 3

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
Time: 3-4:30 p.m.
Location: Humphries Board Room, Building 3, 2nd Floor, VA Campus
All alumni and students are invited.

BLACK TIE/WHITE COAT GALA AND SILENT AUCTION
Time: 6:30-11:30 p.m.
Location: USC Alumni Center, Senate and Lincoln streets, Columbia, SC 29201
All proceeds will benefit the School of Medicine Alumni Scholarship Fund and The Free Medical Clinic in Columbia.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

SCHOOL TOUR (LED BY STUDENTS)
Time: 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Location: VA campus

HOT TOPIC AND LUNCH
Time: 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
Location: M-II classroom, VA campus
Featuring Francis Spinale, M.D., Ph.D., and Daniel Clair, M.D., on advances in the detection and treatment of aortic aneurysms

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

MATCH DAY
Time: Noon
Location: The Zone at Williams-Brice Stadium

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

ALUMNI AND DEAN’S AWARDS DINNER
Time: 6-9 p.m.
Location: Hilton Columbia

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.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

SENIOR BANQUET
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: TBA
Date subject to change
All alumni and students invited.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

COMMENCEMENT
Time: Noon
Location: Koger Center, 1051 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Greg Ogunnowo helps Jason Wray adjust his cap at commencement 2016.
ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 1981

CLASS OF 1985

Helen Stockinger, M.D. (internal medicine) “Our daughter Pamela Arden Doerner got married at the end of July. I’ve made my third career move and, hopefully, the last. I now work as a hospitalist for Spartanburg Regional.”

Stewart Young, M.D. (general practice), is now semi-retired, working part time at an independent family practice in his hometown of Blythewood, S.C., and caring for nine dogs, three horses and a cat.

CLASS OF 1990
Victoria Andes, M.D. (family medicine) “We have moved back to S.C. after 14 years overseas to help my mom, who is declining. It’s been a rough transition! I am not sure, at this point, what life will look like now.”

CLASS OF 1991
Rodney Rhinehart, M.D. (cardiology), joined Providence Heart, a new cardiology practice affiliated with Providence Health.

CLASS OF 1992
Jamie Parrott, M.D. (pediatric neurology) “My wife and I have moved back to Columbia to be closer to my mom with my father recently passing away. I am the medical director of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, neurology division. More importantly, I am now the grandfather of a spectacular 11-month-old boy, Dorian!”

CLASS OF 1993
Daniel P. Bouknight, M.D. (cardiology), joined Providence Heart, a new cardiology practice affiliated with Providence Health.

Robert Sullivan, M.D. (pediatrics) “It is with great excitement I announce that after nearly 20 years as a pediatrician, I will be retiring from my practice with F. Read Hopkins in Lynchburg, Va. I have accepted a fellowship position in allergy and immunology at the University of Virginia. I look forward to beginning my new career as an allergist in two years in my community. My wife, Stephanie, will remain as partner and president of our group practice.”

CLASS OF 1995
Sean Fuller, M.D. (family medicine) “My family and I would like to announce the birth of our daughter Shipley Sue Fuller, born Aug. 19, 2015.”


Brian Polsky, M.D. (orthopaedic surgery) “Our three boys are now 16, 14 and 11. All are involved in sports and doing well in school. We just returned from an incredible journey to Australia and New Zealand. My orthopaedic practice is great and continues to grow and prosper. As always, if anyone is in the Baltimore/Washington area, please look us up!”

CLASS OF 1998
Frederick Huiet, M.D. (internal medicine) “Nancy and I would like to announce the birth of our daughter, Mary Hansford Huiet, born October 2015. Her big brother, James, is now two and a half. I am an internist with the V.A. here in Charleston. As a flight surgeon with my Air Force Reserve squadron at Joint Base Charleston, I fly as an aircrew member on the C-17 and serve as the chief of the medical staff for the 315th Airlift Wing.”

CLASS OF 1999
Lanny Littlejohn, M.D. (Flight Surgeon) “I was recently awarded the best resident of the year by The Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors. I was formerly the chief of emergency medicine at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune. In August 2016 I moved on to the Navy War College.”
CLASS OF 2000

Melissa Hummel, M.D. (internal medicine/sleep medicine) — “I finally have a niece! First baby in the family and six months old.”

CLASS OF 2003

Ben McIntyre, M.D. (surgery) “Sherry and I have moved to Jackson, Miss., and I am now an associate professor of plastic surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. I’m spending a great deal of time doing breast reconstruction and have been doing outreach in underserved areas of Mississippi, promoting breast cancer treatment and awareness. I was on a call-in radio show for breast cancer treatment on Mississippi Public Broadcasting.”

Willard Sharp, M.D. (emergency medicine) “I just completed my NIH K08 award and was awarded a five-year NIH R01 grant studying the effects of hypothermia on patients following resuscitation from cardiac arrest.”

CLASS OF 2004

Edward Jackson, M.D. (orthopaedics) “My family and I have moved to Atlanta. I’m working at Emory in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery in the sports medicine section at Grady Health System. My wife and I continue to be highly involved with our church, helping people with their marriages and raising children.”

Cory Smith, M.D. (family medicine), is in practice at Medical Plaza Family Medicine, affiliated with McLeod Health. He also works at McLeod Urgent Care and serves on the SCAFP District XI Board of Directors. Smith is enjoying traveling, spending time with family and membership at Cornerstone Baptist Church.

CLASS OF 2005

Danielle Bernth, M.D. (emergency medicine) “Scott and I had twin boys on May 16 — Jack Davis (right) and Andrew Scott (left). They join big sister Maggie (middle), age 2.”

CLASS OF 2006

Justine DeCastro, M.D. (pediatrics), began working at a new clinic at Sewee Family Medicine this year in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. She and her husband, Alec, who is the Trident/MUSC family medicine residency program director, live in James Island, S.C., and have four children, Lexi, 7; Manny, 5; Lainey, 2; and Matty, five months.

Kristi Moore, M.D. (internal medicine) “This one is a little boy, Elijah, eight months. My older two are Allie, 5, and Isaiah, 3.”

CLASS OF 2007

Jacob Riis, M.D. (orthopaedics) “I am in my last year of orthopaedic residency at VCU. I will be returning to the Air Force in July 2017. We welcomed our fourth daughter into our family on July 18. She and the other girls are doing well.”

CLASS OF 2009

Edward Barnes, M.D. (gastroenterology), and his wife, Stephanie, proudly welcomed their first child, Jackson Edward Barnes, on March 31, 2016. This spring, Barnes completed his fellowship in gastroenterology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Mass., where he also received a master’s in public health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He is currently completing an advanced fellowship in inflammatory bowel diseases at the University of North Carolina.

Christopher Huffman, M.D. (cardiology), joined Providence Heart, a new cardiology practice affiliated with Providence Health.
Mark Jeffords, M.D. (family medicine) “I graduated in 2009 and started residency training in family medicine at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. In 2012 I moved on to Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, where I served as the brigade surgeon for the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team at home and deployed to Kuwait. I am now a major in the U.S. Army and just starting my new job as the chief medical officer of the SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers of Europe) Health Facility at the NATO Headquarters in Mons, Belgium. Since graduating, my wife, Cherie, and I have had three children: Oliver, 7; Jack, 5; and Rowan, 3.”

Christina Lynn, M.D. (psychiatry) “Currently, I am the medical director at Three Rivers Behavioral Health in Columbia and have a small private practice in Forest Acres. On May 8, 2016, my son Joshua was born. He joins his big brother, David.”

E. Jo Mason, M.D. (psychiatry) “I am an assistant professor of clinical psychiatry for the Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group in Columbia. I am also the director of the third medical student clinical psychiatry rotation. I work closely with the child and adolescent and general psychiatry department, teaching and supervising residents and fellows. My specialty is cognitive behavioral therapy, and I was able to attend training at the Beck Institute in Philadelphia, Pa. I work with the Department of Juvenile Justice and also do telemedicine consultations for a rural area in South Carolina. My husband, Wayne, and I have a daughter, Esther, who will be 4 in August. My son, Kenneth “Kenny,” was born March 25, 2015.”

CLASS OF 2010

Will Bynum, M.D. (family medicine) “Carson and I got married on a farm in Lewisburg, W.V. on June 25 and had the most amazing wedding surrounded by family and friends. There was a 1,000-year flood in the region the day before, but the community came together and we still able to give us our dream wedding, even in the midst of a lot of tragedy and heartache. It was a pretty surreal experience, and it really put the important things into focus: family, love and community.”

Holly and Andrew Glover, M.D.s, (dermatology and internal medicine), welcomed their second child, Ford Hollingsworth Glover, in February. His big sister, Addison, 2, is very proud. Holly practices at Grand Strand Dermatology, and Andrew is a hospitalist and internal medicine faculty member at Grand Strand Medical Center. They are loving life in Myrtle Beach.

Jonathan Hinshelwood, M.D. (radiology) “My family and I recently moved to Greenville, S.C. I took a job at Greenville Health System in the radiology department as an interventional radiologist. Looking forward to hopefully seeing you all at the alumni event this fall.”

Sloka Iyengar, Ph.D. (biomedical science) “I am teaching neuroscience to ninth graders at an organization called HEAF. My website www.slokaiyengar.com is finally up and running.”

William Cook Palmer, M.D. (gastroenterology) “Beaumont and I purchased our first home in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. I have started my faculty appointment at Mayo Clinic in the Division of Gastroenterology.”

Joshua Skaggs, M.D. (emergency medicine) “Like father, like son. His name is Silas, and he was born in March.”
**CLASS OF 2011**

**Ross Hilliard**, M.D. (internal medicine), married Mary-Milam Granberry on May 14, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn. Nick O’Dell (Class of 2011) was a groomsman. Hilliard was promoted this summer to associate program director for internal medicine residency at Brown University.

**Alexander Lemons**, M.D. (orthopaedic surgery) “I just graduated from ortho residency in Chattanooga, Tenn., and recently took step one boards. I am moving to Minneapolis with my fiancée, Hayes Taylor, and we will be getting married at Jekyll island on Labor Day weekend. I will be in Minnesota for one year at Twin Cities Spine Fellowship. Employment to be determined! The photo shows Hayes and I at Point Park on Lookout Mountain with the Tennessee River and the city of Chattanooga below us.”

**Brittany Knick Ragon**, M.D. (internal medicine) “My husband, Chris, and I welcomed our new (and first) baby boy, Harrison Allan Ragon, on May 23. As I am finishing up my third year of a hematology/oncology fellowship at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, we are looking forward to returning closer to home so that Harrison can be closer to his grandparents!”

**Khanjan Shah (Baxi)**, M.D. (internal medicine) “Samir and I welcomed our son, Keval Samir Shah, in March. He fills our days with so much joy! We are still in Boston; Samir is a vascular surgeon, and I am finishing up my cardiology training. Go Red Sox!”

**Lauren Crosby White**, M.D. (otolaryngology), completed an otolaryngology head and neck surgery residency in June and will be joining Augusta ENT in August.

**CLASS OF 2013**

**Katie Chambers**, M.D. (psychiatry), and her family — Cory, Briggs, 9, and Annabelle, 10 months — reside in Lexington. Chambers is a first-year child psychiatry fellow at Palmetto Health.

**Evan and Jodi Dingle**, M.D.s (emergency and pediatrics) “I just completed my pediatrics residency at Vanderbilt and will be staying as a chief resident for Vanderbilt Pediatrics this year, after which I plan to do a fellowship in pediatric rheumatology. Evan completed his residency in emergency medicine and will be a fellow in Emergency Medical Services at Vanderbilt this year.”

**CLASS NOTES**

Submit class notes for the spring 2017 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, communications and marketing manager, 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.
HOST OUR STUDENTS!

The USC School of Medicine's HOST program (Help Our Students Travel) gives alumni an opportunity to connect with medical students as they blaze the interview trail or experience away rotations.

Alumni who participate in HOST treat students to coffee or dinner; offer to host visiting students at their home; provide an insider's perspective on the medical profession; or give a tour of their local community.

It’s a win-win! Our students are deeply grateful for the hospitality, and as a host you have the opportunity to discuss the latest breakthroughs in medical education and health care with the next generation of physicians.

If you would like to participate in this program, contact Debbie Truluck, alumni relations director, at debbie.truluck@uscmed.sc.edu or 803-216-3303.