Tina Doscher knew that surgery to save her life also would leave her temporarily paralyzed. She knew she might never fully regain the ability to use the left side of her body. And she knew she had to try it anyway.

"I like the fight," she said recently at her home in West Ashley.

Doscher swung her left leg from the time she was a child, a quirk no one ever considered a serious medical issue. Only in 2009, at age 50, did her leg begin to give out beneath her, and she no longer could hold weight in her left arm.

An MRI revealed a healthy brain but something in her neck -- a tangle of blood vessels called an arteriovenous malformation, or AVM, which restricted blood flow. The AVM, a condition likely developing since birth, had overtaken Doscher’s spinal cord.

Every day the possibility of stroke loomed. She continued her career in business development but became more and more powerless over her own body.

Doscher found a specialist in Arizona who would operate before she became immobilized. She and her husband traveled there in August of 2010, the same time they had planned to take an Alaskan cruise. They settled for ambling around the Grand Canyon, Doscher’s cane in hand, and exploring Sedona’s red rocks before checking in at the hospital.

Her first surgery clipped the tendrils of the AVM, and the second reached the nucleus, sending Doscher’s spinal cord into shock but returning the necessary blood flow to her body. When she woke up in the intensive care unit, able to move only her mouth, her brother told her the good news:

“They got it all.”

For six days, Doscher lay paralyzed. The hospital announcement chimes teased, as they reminded her of the cruise ship she should be on. But she lifted her head from her pillow on the third day, and within a week and a half, movement had returned to her right arm and leg. At three weeks her surgeon noted that she had lost the use of her left arm, but Doscher told him, “I’ll get it back.”

She stayed in Arizona for six weeks, her husband by her side more than 12 hours every day. She went home with a wheelchair. When she found that she couldn’t get through her narrow doorways into her kitchen, she pushed herself into using a walker instead.

“It’s a journey,” she said. “Nothing comes back right way.”

Doscher refused to pity herself and set rules for recovery. No television until 5 p.m. She would spend her work day working on getting better.

She went to MUSC’s outpatient physical therapy clinic and walked the treadmill, one slow and clunky step after the other. But with each visit, her muscles remembered. And her legs grew stronger.

A year and a half after her surgery, Doscher went back to Arizona for a follow-up appointment and walked across the room to greet her surgeon. She credits her therapy in Charleston for her improvement.

Doscher and her husband, Richard, recently made a significant contribution and also a planned gift through their estate to support the work of MUSC associate professor Aiko Thompson, Ph.D. Two years ago Doscher joined a study in Dr. Thompson’s lab that uses stimuli to train the nervous system.

“MUSC gave me hope,” she said.

Doscher visits Dr. Thompson three times a week, most recently focusing on using her wrist. With a paddle on her head that sends electrical messages to her brain, Doscher focuses on lifting her wrist like it’s her job.

“Of all people we’ve worked with, she’s definitely one of the special group of people who are highly motivated,” Dr. Thompson said. “She knows she has to work hard to get anything.”

Doscher’s gift helps to explore new treatment protocols, something Dr. Thompson knows would be impossible without private support.

“No one wants to spend money until you demonstrate success, but without funding we don’t get to try anything new,” Dr. Thompson said.

Doscher’s gift not only benefits other people with spinal cord injuries but also stroke patients who use similar treatment protocols -- people who need a combination of science and encouragement to regain their movement and independence.

“I’m not someone who says it can’t be done,” Doscher said. “Because it can.”

Tina Doscher standing outside the Neuro Rehabilitation Unit without her wheelchair.
CVP’s 19th Annual Update on Perfusion Devices Conference

CVP’s 19th Annual Update on Perfusion Conference was well attended with about 120 guests. James Beck, CCP, from New York Presbyterian Medical Center was the keynote speaker. Practicing perfusionists learned about emerging trends in healthcare initiatives and perfusion research. They also learned about new perfusion technology from leading device manufacturers and practiced emergency drills in our two state of the art simulation labs. Special thanks to our sponsors: Medtronic, LivaNova, Grifols, Getinge, Abbott, Spectrum Medical, Instrumentation Laboratory, Terumo, and CASMED.

**CVP IS PUMPED!**

**CVP Achieves National Distinction**

The American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion approved the MUSC Cardiovascular Perfusion Simulation Center to administer high fidelity perfusion simulation for case credits to a certified clinical perfusionist. Our center is one of five ABCP-recognized simulation centers in the nation. Congratulations to Drs. Joe Sistino and David Fitzgerald on this outstanding accomplishment!

**SHOWCASING SUCCESS - Take Two**

Whoops! Pardon our mistake from the summer issue. Please note corrections above and congratulations again to our scholarship recipients!
DEAN’S CORNER

You continue to raise the bar and lift us to new heights in health professions education. Your tremendous loyalty to the college and support throughout the 50th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign has been nothing short of amazing. Because of YOU we are nearing our goal of $3.5 million. Thank you for helping us celebrate the past and change the future. Best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season.

www.musc.edu/chn50/giving

Dr. James S Zoller, Interim Dean, MUSC College of Health Professions

ALUMNI UPDATES

You Make Us Proud!

★ Dr. Jim L. Decker, DHA ’12 and CEO of MEDIC Regional Blood Center was honored by the Greater Knoxville Business Journal as one of 2017’s Health Care Heros. Deck was recognized in the administrative excellence category for his work encouraging people to donate blood. MEDIC collects, processes and distributes an estimated 100,000 blood components to 28 hospitals across 23 counties in East Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky. Congratulations, Jim!

★ Megan Fulton, PA ’07 was named South Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (SCAPA) PA of the Year! Congratulations, Megan!

★ Rachel Perry, PA ’17 married Michael Stoner on August 5, 2017 in Saluda, SC. Congratulations, Rachel & Michael!

Submit your good news to brownlau@musc.edu and thank you!

AFN Alumnus Giving the Gift of Time

Benjamin “Eddie” Thomas MSNA, CRNA, Class of 2012, works for Sentry Anesthesia at several Georgia hospitals. He has extensive experience in chronic and acute pain management using peripheral nerve blockade. He works with our students in these operating rooms and procedural areas where students have the opportunity to provide these services to patients.

He uses his vacation time to travel to MUSC where he volunteers to teach our students these skills in a simulated environment. He has been doing this for four years. This experience allows students to be better prepared to take care of patients. His teaching not only provides students with technical expertise but also confidence. The outcome is better patient care.
“CHP Off the Old Block”

Want to share your new baby news?

New parents and grandparents, we want to celebrate your new addition - and A CHP Off the Old Block - with you!

Please send your news (name and mailing address) to BrownLau@musc.edu and receive a free baby shirt! (size 12 mos.)

All we ask is that you send a picture of your little one wearing the shirt to share with the MUSC College of Health Professions family.

Connecting PA Students and Alumni

The Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at CHP welcomed more than 20 PA alumni to a cocktail reception at Wild Dunes during the annual SCAPA Conference, Tuesday evening, October 10.

Graduates enjoyed networking and simply reconnecting with former classmates, other alumni and PA faculty. You make us proud!
The College of Health Professions Alumni Association Board is proud to announce three new alumni awards! Nominations are now being accepted and are due by March 1, 2018, for consideration for a spring 2018 award presentation. Nominations received after the closing date of March 1, 2018, will be considered for a 2019 award. Full criteria and nomination form are available online:

musc.edu/alumni/my-college/chp/awards

**College of Health Professions Distinguished Alumnus Award**
Established in 1986, the Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest honor bestowed by the College of Health Professions Alumni Association. The award is given annually to one or more graduates of the MUSC College of Health Professions in recognition of outstanding professional achievement, service to the individual’s profession, the community, the College, and/or the University, excellence in leadership, professional growth, and/or educational advancement or service.

**College of Health Professions Alumnus Service Award**
Established in the fall of 2016, the Alumnus Service Award is presented annually to one or more graduates of the MUSC College of Health Professions who have given selflessly through extraordinary actions that benefit the university, the college, their community/organizations, and/or their profession. Nominees must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to service and serve as a model of volunteerism for others. These actions should reflect a member’s contribution in terms of time and/or expertise. The actions should serve to benefit a deserving population and as an inspiration to others.

**College of Health Professions Emerging Leader Award**
Established in the fall of 2016, the Emerging Leader Award is given annually to one or more graduates of the MUSC College of Health Professions who have shown exemplary leadership and dedication towards the Medical University’s College of Health Professions and/or their organized profession as a whole. The nominee must be an alumnus of the College of Health Professions who has been in practice ten years or less. The nominee must have demonstrated leadership in practice, education, service, research and/or the community. Nominees must demonstrate an ongoing passion to participate in Alumni Association activities and/or in Alumni activities within the College of Health Professions.

**College of Health Professions Outstanding Achievements in Research Award**
Established in the fall of 2016, the Outstanding Achievements in Research Award is presented annually to one or more graduates of the MUSC College of Health Professions whose contributions to the field of research is helping to advance their profession. The nominee must be an alumnus of the College of Health Professions who makes meaningful contributions to scientific knowledge of their profession and has demonstrated excellence in the performance of research. Accomplishments may include one or more of the following:

- Development and/or advancement of technology
- Innovation or advancement of treatment efficacy and effectiveness for patient care
- Translation of research evidence into clinical practice
- Grant funding
- Scholarly publications
- Scientific presentations
- Management of a research lab/team
There is no “I” in Team

The 20th Annual MUSC Healthcare Leadership Conference held Friday, October 13, at Charles Towne Landing Historic State Park attracted students, faculty, alumni and healthcare administrators from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The Robert S. & Marilyn C. Curtis Keynote Address was presented by Thom Singer, CSP. In his address, Thom discussed "Cooperative Significance: Being an Influential Leader at Work (and Beyond)" and how important it is to find "uncommon commonalities" in meeting new people. It is in doing so that we make stronger, more meaningful connections that could potentially last a lifetime. He urged attendees to step away from their comfort zone, put down their devices/distractions and strike up deeper conversations. So often we are “so busy” that we do not take time to see or ask about the needs of others. Taking time outside of our normal routines to reach out to those around us is extremely important in leadership positions. Great leaders stay in tune to the needs of their workforce and find ways to try and accommodate those needs.

The conference included panel discussions “Mindful Leadership: Leading with Heart and Mind for Healthcare Leaders” and “Managing for Morale – Effective Management Techniques to Retain Your Staff.” A special thanks to all speakers, sponsors, and attendees who helped make the conference a true success.

Will you help Celebrate the Past and Change the Future?
Join us by making your gift today!

FINISH

Roll Us...

...Through The Finish Line

The end of our 50th Anniversary Campaign is in sight, and you can roll us through the finish line! If you are at least 70 ½ and must take a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, consider supporting the College of Health Professions. The transfer must be made directly from your IRA to MUSC. As we run full speed ahead, contact Linda Cox at 843-792-5252 or Leslie Brady at 843-792-8547 for more information or visit: MUSCGiving.org
The Legacy Society
At The College of Health Professions

The College of Health Professions Legacy Society honors and recognizes those individuals and families who have made a planned gift commitment to the college.

Ms. Helen B. Baker*
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Brady
Ms. Anne Spitz Brown
Mr. R. Chris Brumfield
Mrs. Mary G. Carpenter*
Mr. Robert V. Chisholm, III
Mrs. Karen L. DeMarco
Mr. George G. DeVane*
Mr. Rodny A. Chisholm
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Doscher
Ms. Bettye S. Gum
Mr.* and Mrs. William M. Hagood, III
Dr. Anne Osborne Kilpatrick
Colonel (Ret.) Michael G. La Belle
Ms. Mary Eileen Leonard*
Mr. and Mrs. David Mathews

Ms. Cami L. Meyer
Dr. Maralynne D. Mitcham*
Ms. Lisa Pennington Montgomery
Steven J. Mund, CRNA, DNAP and Angela R. Mund, CRNA, DNAP
Mr. Barry T. Munday
Dr. and Mrs. Vincent T. Peng
Mr. Rodny A. Chisholm
Dr. and Mrs. Brian R. Poplin
Mr. and Mrs. Capers H. Poulnot
Mr. Ganga S. Rao and Mrs. Vijay L. Rao
Dr. Michael E. Saladin and Dr. Lisa K. Saladin
Mr. Matthew Seif and Dr. Gretchen A. Seif
Mrs. Bryan Smith and Dr. Cristina Smith
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Hagood, III
Dr. and Mrs. Brian R. Poplin
Mr. Roderick Worley
Dr. James S Zoller

Legacy Society Members Honored at Inaugural September Reception:

Reception hosts:
Chris Niceley and Karen DeMarco
Chris Brumfield and Leslie Brady
Linda and Boyd Gainey
Rob Chisholm and Cami Meyer
Bryan and Cristina Smith
Jessica Munday and Jim Zoller
Linda and Boyd Gainey
Bryan and Cristina Smith
Mrs. Cindy Tucker-Hipps
Mr. Roderick Worley
Dr. James S Zoller