September 9, 2014

To the MUSC Family:

I am pleased to announce that two well-respected leaders within the College of Medicine (COM) will assume the administrative roles of dean and vice president of medical affairs.

Deborah Deas, MD, MPH, senior associate dean for medical education and professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences will serve as dean, and Bruce Elliott, MD, Division of Vascular Surgery chief and senior associate dean for clinical affairs, will assume the role of vice president of medical affairs. Both appointments are on an interim basis as a national search commences to find a new dean and vice president of medical affairs.

Drs. Deas and Elliott bring a significant amount of expertise and experience to the table and as a team will enable our institution to continue to move forward in a seamless manner. I am thankful to them for their dedication to MUSC, and would like to share a little bit about both of them with you.

Dr. Deas earned an undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston and received her Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree from the University of South Carolina. She earned her doctoral degree from MUSC in 1989 and completed a residency in psychiatry along with fellowship training in child/adolescent and addiction psychiatry. She has served in several administrative positions at MUSC, including founding director of the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program, COM associate dean for admissions, senior associate dean for diversity and currently as senior associate dean for medical education. She successfully led the COM Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation, has been involved at the ground level in the planning for new AnMed third year medical student rotations, and served on the MUSC-Physicians executive committee for several years. She also has received R01 research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other public and private sources for her work in adolescent substance abuse, anxiety disorders and depression. Her maturity as a leader, in-depth knowledge of educational programs and her role as an actively funded NIH investigator all point to her being able to move our institution forward.

Dr. Elliott earned his undergraduate degree at Nebraska Wesleyan University and his medical degree from the University of Nebraska, College of Medicine in 1977. He completed his residency at the Letterman Army Medical Center, along with a fellowship in vascular surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He was a member of the US Army Medical Corps from 1977 to 1986, was honorably discharged in the early 90’s and fully retired from the Army Reserves in 1996.
Currently serving as the division chief for vascular surgery, Dr. Elliott also works as the senior associate dean for clinical affairs in the COM. He was president of MUSC Physicians (formerly University Medical Associates) from 2001-2005. Since coming to MUSC in 1986, Dr. Elliott has participated on numerous executive-level committees both within the COM. He has received research funding from numerous sources, including as an American Heart Association Established Investigator, and as many of you know, is a highly respected surgical educator. Dr. Elliot has played a significant leadership role in the development of our clinical enterprise during the last decade, chairing multiple committees, and I am confident his insight and knowledge will help guide the ongoing mission of changing what is possible in health care.

On behalf of Drs. Deas and Elliott, I ask for your encouragement, support and continued dedication to our institution as we work as seamlessly as possible toward the appointment of a new dean and vice president of medical affairs.

Yours in Service,

David J. Cole, MD, FACS
MUSC President