MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

MOTTO

Auget Largiendo

Freely translated, the motto means “She (the college) enriches by giving generously.”

When the University adopted this design in the mid-1960s, it replaced the one that had been in use since 1832. The University seal bears the name of the Medical University of South Carolina in abbreviated Latin and the date of its opening in 1824. The seal pictures a kneeling figure who is kindling a torch from a flame on an altar, on which is inscribed Deo Salutifero, “to the health-bringing god.”

IN MEMORIAM

At this convocation, we remember our departed friends and colleagues and their commitment to excellence. We keep their legacy of teaching, research, and patient care in our hearts and minds.
Faculty Convocation

Faculty Convocation, a time-honored tradition, symbolically marks MUSC’s formal introduction to the new academic year. Convocation provides an opportunity for faculty across all colleges to come together as a single academic community. Today we recognize faculty members for their outstanding contributions in education, clinical practice, and research as reflected by the awards herein. These men and women represent MUSC’s finest. The MUSC community extends our congratulations to them.

Teaching Excellence Awards

In 1994, the Medical University of South Carolina established a program to recognize faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the University’s teaching mission. Faculty may be nominated by students, other faculty, or administrators and may be chosen to receive awards each year in the following categories: Educator-Mentor, for excellence in mentoring and serving as a role model for students in clinical or research activities; Educator-Lecturer, for excellence in classroom teaching; and Developing Teacher, for excellence in teaching by a junior faculty member.

Developing Scholar Awards

In 1985, the Medical University of South Carolina established an award to recognize junior faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the research mission of the University and to promote the continued development of these scholars. Recipients are those who have successfully demonstrated the capacity to compete for extramural funding while they are still in the formative stages of their careers and who demonstrate exceptional promise. Candidates are nominated by their peers, must be faculty members holding the rank of Assistant Professor, and must have been on the faculty for at least two, but no more than six academic years.

Peggy Schachte Research Mentor Awards

In 2012, The Medical University of South Carolina Board of Trustees established a program through the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Foundation, formerly the Health Sciences Foundation, to recognize individuals at MUSC who have excelled in mentoring faculty in obtaining research support from private and public organizations or government agencies. As stated in the policies governing this award, “This award was established by an endowment from the College of Medicine in honor of Margaret P. (Peggy) Schachte, MBA, who founded and served as Director of the MUSC Office of Research Development from 1995 to 2009. During her tenure, Peggy recognized the significance of research mentorship and played a major role in initiating and championing research mentorship activities at MUSC.”
Outstanding Clinician Awards

The Outstanding Clinician Award honors full-time faculty of any duration of service who have made outstanding contributions to patient care at the Medical University of South Carolina. Currently active clinicians who commit a significant proportion of their time caring for patients in ambulatory or inpatient settings are eligible for this award. Awardees have demonstrated a high level of professionalism, integrity, and devotion to patient care. They have gained recognition as dedicated, compassionate, and highly effective clinicians. Their clinical excellence and service commitment identify them as role models for residents, students, and their faculty colleagues.

Population Health Award

The Population Health Award honors a faculty member at the Medical University of South Carolina who has made an outstanding contribution that impacts the health of a population or community by means other than by direct interaction of one-on-one clinical care with patients. Examples could include the implementation of therapeutics, interventions, technology, systems or programs, informatics, protocols, or similar contributions to improve the health outcomes for a population or community. Criteria for award include the value of the contribution, count of population or community affected, strength of evidence of effectiveness of contribution, potential for expansion of contribution and novelty of the contribution. Eligible candidates are faculty of any duration of service and of any track at the six colleges at MUSC.

Commitment to Excellence in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Award

The Commitment to Excellence in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Award is given each year to a faculty member who promotes values of interprofessional education and collaborative practice, has a history of ongoing educational leadership and significant involvement in enhancing interprofessional educational programs at MUSC, and demonstrated significant collaboration with others to enhance interprofessional education.

Distinguished Faculty Service Awards

In 1997, the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Trustees established a program through the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Foundation, formerly the Health Sciences Foundation, to recognize faculty who, over a substantial portion of their careers, have provided exceptional and sustained service and who have made contributions in teaching, research, health care, and/or public service to the University and to the citizens of South Carolina. Faculty may be nominated by any member of the MUSC family.
ANNUAL FACULTY CONVOCATION PROGRAM

WELCOME
Adam J. Smolka, PhD
Professor
Department of Medicine
College of Medicine
President, Faculty Senate

OPENING REMARKS
Lisa K. Saladin, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FASAHP
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Medical University of South Carolina.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Teresa M. Stephens, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE
Associate Professor
College of Nursing
Medical University of South Carolina

PRESENTATION OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION AWARDS
Tom G. Smith, PhD
Professor and Chair
Academic Affairs Faculty
Associate Director
Center for Academic Excellence / Writing Center
Medical University of South Carolina

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Educator-Lecturer
Gretchen A. Seif, DPT
Associate Professor
Division of Physical Therapy,
Department of Health Professions
College of Health Professions
Academic Scholarship / Educator-Mentor
Patrick Woster, PhD
Professor and Chair
Department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences
College of Pharmacy

Clinical-Professional / Educator-Mentor
Cynthia Dodds, PhD
Assistant Professor
Division of Physical Therapy
Department of Health Professions
College of Health Professions

DEVELOPING TEACHER AWARD RECIPIENT
David W. Shirley, PharmD
Assistant Professor
Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences
College of Pharmacy

PEGGY SCHACHTE RESEARCH MENTOR AWARD RECIPIENT
Carol Feghali-Bostwick, PhD
Kitty Trask Holt Endowed Chair
Professor, Department of Medicine
Division of Rheumatology & Immunology
College of Medicine

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AWARD RECIPIENT
Donna Kern, MD
Associate Professor and Senior Associate Dean
for Medical Education
College of Medicine
DEVELOPING SCHOLAR APPLIED/CLINICAL SCIENCES AWARD
Shahryar M. Chowdhury, MD, MSCR
Assistant Professor
Division of Pediatric Cardiology
Department of Pediatrics
College of Medicine

POPULATION HEALTH AWARD RECIPIENT
David S. McSwain, MD
Associate Professor
Department of Pediatrics
College of Medicine

OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARD RECIPIENT
Minoo Kavarana, MD
Associate Professor
Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
College of Medicine

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS
Elizabeth S. Pilcher, DMD
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Assessments
Professor, Department of Oral Rehabilitation
College of Dental Medicine

Donald B. Wiest, PharmD
Associate Professor
Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Outcome Sciences
College of Pharmacy

CONCLUDING REMARKS

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
Hosted by the Office of the Provost
Medical University of South Carolina
To become a good teacher, it may help to be a good student. That's why Gretchen A. Seif, DPT, sat alongside her first-year Doctor of Physical Therapy students in a neuroanatomy class last fall, and integrated some of that material into her own musculoskeletal lab in order to connect the two fields. It should be noted that academic confusion is not limited to students. One of her charges noted that even Dr. Seif encountered difficulty understanding a particular concept, "which created a classroom environment of pure collaboration to generate a classwide understanding of complex topics." Such invigorating discussions are common in Dr. Seif's classes as she prepares her students not only to understand the complexities of the human body, but to excel in their ever-expanding body of knowledge. Such educational methods give her students opportunities to apply their clinical skills in real-world scenarios, which underscores her quote from renowned philosopher John Dewey, explaining her approach to teaching: "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."

Based on student comments from her course evaluations, Dr. Seif's teaching philosophy works. "Dr. Seif is one of the best educators I've had the privilege of having," states one. "She is ALWAYS available and treats us with the upmost respect – she would literally do anything to make sure we're confident in our skills. It is truly rare to experience such a well-rounded, approachable, and overall incredible educator. She is continuously searching for student feedback and is very receptive/mindful about how our class specifically prefers to learn."

Dr. Seif, an associate professor in the College of Health Professions, received her master's degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Regis University. She celebrated her 10th year as a member of the MUSC faculty last April. She has been heavily involved in professional organizations, primarily the South Carolina American Physical Therapy Association and American Physical Therapy Association, including a four-year term as president and several other leadership positions.

Her advocacy beyond the MUSC has not gone unnoticed by her students. “Her involvement has inspired me to step out of my comfort zone, and this year I have attended both PT advocacy day and APTA Student conclave, which is not something that I think I would have done if she had not encouraged us from first-hand experience that they were worth it,” states one student. “I enjoyed my experiences at those events so much so that I have become interested in getting further involved with the APTA or an inter-professional organization.”

She is one of two physical therapy faculty advisors for the student-run CARES Clinic, which allows students to evaluate and treat uninsured and underserved patients under faculty supervision. Students from the colleges of Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy work together in this award-winning endeavor.

Dr. Seif’s passion for her field and her rapport with students have earned her honors from several organizations and institutions, including MUSC. She was the recipient of the 2016 Emily Cate Service Award from the South Carolina Chapter of the APTA; the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education’s 2015 Service Learning Award; the MUSC College of Health Profession’s 2014 Service Award and this foundation’s 2011-12 Developing Teacher Award. Therefore, it is a pleasure to add to this impressive list with the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation’s Teaching Excellence Award in the Educator-Lecturer category, presented to Gretchen A. Seif, DPT, on this Twenty-first day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.
TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD
ACADEMIC-SCHOLARSHIP / EDUCATOR-MENTOR

Patrick M. Woster, PhD

Much of what students learn, especially in higher education, happens beyond the confines of a classroom. Patrick M. Woster, Ph.D., has accumulated an impressive academic reputation on this concept. “Traditional lecture does not provide a quality learning experience,” he states in his teaching philosophy, “so my on-line lecture notes are expanded beyond bullet points, freeing up time for students to actively participate in the learning process.”

It is a philosophy that has earned him accolades and honors for 30 years, dating back to 1988 when he won the first of 10 awards for teaching excellence at Wayne State University’s Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, in addition to the university’s President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1993. Dr. Woster received his bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1978 and his doctorate in medicinal chemistry from the University of Nebraska in 1986. Following postdoctoral work, he joined the Wayne State faculty in 1988, remaining there until 2011, when he joined the Medical University of South Carolina as the SmartState Endowed Chair in Drug Discovery. He also serves as Director of the MUSC Drug Discovery Core, and in 2015 he was appointed Chair of the Department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences.

He is responsible for more than 80 lectures in the PharmD and Ph.D. programs, according to a nomination letter submitted by four of his students, and currently mentors six full-time and two part-time trainees, each with their own project in different fields. He also hosts two summer students, one to two Ph.D. rotation students and one to two pharmacy students in his lab annually. “The amount of time he takes to mentor so many students performing research at once would be impressive alone,” they state, “but he is somehow able to give each of us individualized guidance and support through all the ups and downs of our training experience. At our weekly group lab meeting we discuss our progress and setbacks, and have the ability to practice presenting our data to the group. He provides constructive and useful feedback and ideas to help guide each individual student in their work.”

In addition to his academic obligations, Dr. Woster carries a substantial research load. Current efforts include the synthesis and evaluation of small molecule and peptidomimetic inhibitors of lysine-specific demethylase 1 (LSD1) as epigenetic modulators for the treatment of cancer, epigenetic modulators of sickle cell disease, synthesis and evaluation of oligoamine analogues as potential antitumor, antiparasitic or antibacterial agents, synthesis and evaluation of targeted histone deacetylase inhibitors as antineoplastic agents, and the discovery of mechanism-based enzyme inhibitors. He has authored 128 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 128 scientific abstracts and 18 patent applications outlining his research results. He has also given more than 120 invited and contributed presentations at national and international conferences, organized numerous scientific sessions and served as Chair of the 2009 Gordon Research Conference on Polyamines, and Chair and Organizer of the 2014 National Medicinal Chemistry Symposium.

In summation, Patrick M. Woster, Ph.D., is one of those rare individuals who excels in every task he undertakes, from teaching and mentoring, to research, publications, business ownership and departmental leadership. Those fortunate enough to learn from him will no doubt carry on his legacy, which, in turn, will benefit society well into the future. The Medical University of South Carolina Foundation proudly acknowledges his many contributions and is proud to award him this award in Teaching Excellence in the category of Educator-Mentor/Scholarship-Academic on this Twenty-first day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.
TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

CLINICAL-PROFESSIONAL / EDUCATOR-MENTOR

Cynthia B. Dodds, PhD

“I am not a vegetable
I, like you, want to explore the land just outside
Please, there is someone who is living here, inside.”
– I am not a Vegetable by Margaret McKinney

If one could select only a single representative of the Medical University of South Carolina’s core values – compassion, respect, innovation, collaboration and integrity – Cynthia B. Dodds, Ph.D., would be an excellent choice. An assistant professor in the Division of Physical Therapy in the College of Health Professions, Dr. Dodds has immersed herself in a myriad of projects, both locally and globally, with the dual goals of educating her students and at the same time improving the lives of her patients. She continues to achieve tremendous success in all endeavors.

Earning her master’s from MUSC and her doctorate in pediatric science from the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, Dr. Dodds began her professional career with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control as a physical therapy team leader. She eventually went into private practice and was a co-founder of the acclaimed Pattison’s Academy, a charter school in Charleston County for special needs children. She was an MUSC adjunct faculty member for 10 years before becoming an assistant professor of physical therapy in 2013.

“As a professor in the Physical Therapy program, I deliver pediatric content in a way that promotes engaging, active, and bidirectional learning,” she states in her teaching philosophy. Two members of the College of Health Professions’ Class of 2018 can attest to her innovative techniques. “Students are required to read a book written by an individual with disabilities and then develop a humanities project of their choosing to express newly found concepts or emotions,” say graduates Allison Blackburn and Cairlin Keller. “Student projects have included paintings, poetry, sculpture, and short stories.”

They have accompanied Dr. Dodds to Uganda, call the mission trips the “most positive, inspiring experience” during their time at MUSC. Her community involvement, however, is extensive as well. She works with Camp Hand-to...Hands, a summer camp for children with hemiplegia, a form of paralysis affecting one side of the body.

Her academic contributions have brought her well-deserved honors, including CHP’s Educator of the Year and nominations for other teaching awards.

Her work in the public and private sectors have helped to make Dr. Dodds the superb educator she is today. Her vision, commitment and enthusiasm are reflected in the achievements of her students. Therefore, the Board of Directors of the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation is proud to present this award for Teaching Excellence in the Educator-Mentor: Clinical-Professional category to Cynthia B. Dodds, Ph.D., on this Twenty-first day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.
TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

DEVELOPING TEACHER

David W. Shirley, PharmD

With a background in community pharmacy, David W. Shirley, PharmD, brings a practical perspective to his students, so much so that after only three years on the faculty, he has amassed many accolades from colleagues and students alike. His teaching philosophy is, in part, based on his past experience prior to joining the Medical University of South Carolina. “In the classroom,” he states, “I bring many personal examples of patient care and counseling experiences, as well as my struggles and triumphs to equip students. My students will one day be responsible for caring for people, perhaps even myself, or my family, so expectations must be high.”

Bringing pharmaceutical education down to such a personal level is core to his approach to the academic setting: One of his students may very well be among the cadre of caregivers for him or his family. Having earned his doctorate from MUSC’s College of Pharmacy, Dr. Shirley spent 13 years in the private sector. He transitioned from the private to the academic sector in 2015 as an Assistant Professor. Even as a community pharmacist, however, he participated in the education of MUSC pharmacy students, serving as a preceptor for many students on fourth-year experiential rotations. He also has served as a Palmetto Pharmacist Network Diabetes Coach for the past 12 years.

Whitney Simerlein, who graduated from the College of Pharmacy this year, praised Dr. Shirley’s mentorship as a preceptor, saying, he “went above and beyond general expectations for a community rotation; he imparted a great deal of applicable ‘real world’ knowledge and broadened my understanding of over-the-counter medications and compounded products.”

“We were very fortunate to recruit Dr. Shirley to our institution as an Assistant Professor in 2015,” states Kelly Ragucci, PharmD, Professor and Chair of Clinical Pharmacy and Outcomes Sciences in the College of Pharmacy, in her letter of nomination. “David currently coordinates our Calculations/Medical Terminology course and Compounding course in the first year of the program. In addition, he teaches a great deal in our introductory and advanced community laboratories as well as self-care and complimentary medicines. He will be taking on co-coordinating duties in our Law and Ethics course for third year students this coming fall.”

From the beginning, Dr. Shirley has earned praise for his academic contributions. He was selected Teacher of the Year by first-year students in 2016 and received the Interprofessional Day Outstanding Small Group Facilitator Award in 2017. For the past two years, he has been ranked the top lecturer in his department, which includes 25 faculty members.

“Dr. Shirley meets you where you are. He recognizes your potential and helps you through your weaknesses,” states a fourth-year student. “Dr. Shirley gave me that little bit of self-confidence that I needed to push through tough times. More than that, he reminded me that Pharmacy School is about more than the grades: It’s about taking your knowledge and relating it to a patient in a manner that will inspire lasting change.”

For years, David W. Shirley, PharmD, has dealt on a personal level of countless hundreds of patients with wisdom and compassion. Knowing that at any time he or a member of his family could be on the receiving end of that relationship, he would want the same wisdom and compassion and he imparts that same concept to his students. In doing so, he is making a positive impact that will influence pharmaceutical practice for decades to come. For his remarkable contributions in such a short period of time, the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation is proud to present him this award for Teaching Excellence in the category of Developing Teacher on this Twenty-first day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.
**PEGGY SCHACHTE RESEARCH MENTOR AWARD**

Carol Feghali-Bostwick, PhD

“Because she has invested so much in my career, I count it as an honor and duty to do the same for others, because Dr. Feghali-Bostwick lives by the motto ‘Pay it forward.’”

Integrity, passion, wisdom, collaboration, sincerity. These are just a few of the words students and peers use to describe the mentorship environment of Dr. Carol Feghali-Bostwick. Genuine, warm, dedicated, selfless, brilliant, exceptional and inspiring are terms they use to describe her.

Dr. Feghali-Bostwick obtained her undergraduate degree in Biology and Master’s degree in Microbiology at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. After completing her PhD in Microbiology and Immunology at Tulane University, she was selected for a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh in Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology with former chief of Rheumatology, Dr. Timothy Wright. It was there that she decided to dedicate her career to scleroderma research and joined the faculty, quickly rising through the ranks from Research Instructor to Associate Professor. Because she received stellar mentoring throughout her career, Dr. Feghali-Bostwick is passionate about mentoring the future generation of scientists and clinician-scientists. She has consistently mentored students and junior faculty her entire professional career.

Dr. Feghali-Bostwick is nationally recognized for her work, receiving a K24 NIH career-mentoring award, as well as the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine Mentorship Award at the University of Pittsburgh. When Dr. Feghali-Bostwick decided to continue her career at MUSC, all of her staff/mentees, including two technicians and two postdoctoral fellows, relocated with her, a testament to her stellar mentoring and her research vision.

Her mentees have flourished under her tutelage, evident by their continued career achievements, significant grant funding, and prolific publications. She shares her experience and knowledge, providing both emotional and moral support and encouragement through career-related counseling and coaching. As one mentee said, “Dr. Feghali-Bostwick has inspired me to be a professional research scientist in an academic practice setting, where I can direct ground-breaking research and contribute to the education mission. Someday if I were to be a mentor to someone, I would always give my best to promote my students’ professional growth.”

In addition to Dr. Feghali-Bostwick being an extraordinary mentor, she is an exceptional sponsor and a remarkable advocate. Her duties as director for the Center for Advancement, Recruitment, and Retention of Women in Science (ARROWS) and chair of the Women in Science Initiative, underscores her commitment to mentorship and sponsorship. Both positions are not only related to mentoring women students, faculty, and staff, but also to promoting the success of women through educating those in leadership positions about the specific challenges women may face that make promotion in academia more challenging. She sees her position as a prominent faculty member as an opportunity to help advance others.

Throughout their testimonials, her mentees have echoed this refrain: “I truly believe the success of her mentees has a direct correlation to Dr. Feghali-Bostwick’s unique ability to “mentor to the mentee,” tailoring the mentorship to the needs of the individual. Dr. Feghali-Bostwick makes it a point to know the goals of each individual mentee and strategizes their experience to maximize the ability to reach those goals. She is an amazing mentor and colleague.”

The Medical University of South Carolina concurs with these summations of Dr. Carol Feghali-Bostwick. She is an extraordinary and caring mentor, worthy of the highest recognition. Therefore, the Foundation is honored to present her with the Peggy Schachte Research Mentor Award on this Twenty-first day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.
Health care today focuses on placing patients and families at the center of care. That requires a team-based approach, working with a whole cadre of healthcare professionals across disciplines, from the classroom to the research laboratory to the clinic. Mutual respect among professions is critical, and health professionals must be trained to span boundaries and build relationships, interconnections, and interdependencies to manage complex health care problems.

With the Commitment to Excellence in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Award, Donna Kern, M.D., Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education in the College of Medicine, is recognized for the significant ways in which she has advanced interprofessional (IP) education and modeled these important values.

Dr. Kern has long been a significant supporter and contributor to IP education at MUSC. In addition to her leadership role, Dr. Kern holds key enterprise leadership positions to advance the IP mission, guiding a number of strategic projects that actively seek ways to involve all students in preparation for complex, team-based health care environments. She has helped develop critical innovative programs such as the Senior Mentors program, Simulated Interprofessional Rounding Experience (SIRe), technology-based virtual interprofessional learning, and simulated care experiences that give students practice in communication and teamwork. In addition, Dr. Kern has routinely published on aspects of IP education and collaborative practice.

Most significant is the way in which Dr. Kern models values of collaboration and respect. Jeff Borckardt, Assistant Provost for Interprofessional Initiatives, says of Dr. Kern’s leadership, “Dr. Kern is exemplary in her dedication and active commitment to ensuring students and faculty alike understand and appreciate the value, impact and merit of interprofessional collaboration and teamwork. Day to day, Dr. Kern is a role model of what it looks like to demonstrate compassion and respect for all backgrounds and professions and to work collaboratively towards a common goal.”

The Commitment to Excellence in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Award is given each year to a faculty member who promotes values of IP education and collaborative practice, has a history of ongoing educational leadership and significant involvement in enhancing these programs at MUSC, and demonstrated significant collaboration with others. We proudly honor Dr. Donna Kern with the Commitment to Excellence in Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Award on this Twenty-First Day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.
When an adult suffers from congenital heart disease, it is traumatic, harrowing, and difficult to manage. When a child suffers from congenital heart disease, it is soul crushing.

Dr. Shahryar “Yar” Chowdhury will not let that remain.

An assistant professor in the Division of Pediatric Cardiology since 2014, Dr. Chowdhury is changing the landscape of pediatric cardiac echocardiography through his research and his passion to advance clinical care of children with complex congenital heart defects. His primary research interest is in quantifying ventricular function, particularly in patients who have a single ventricle. Dr. Chowdhury is one of a handful of individuals with experience in using conductance-derived pressure-volume loop analysis in children. In 2017, he was awarded an NHLBI K23 award for his project titled ‘Heart failure in single right ventricle physiology: pathologic mechanisms and novel assessment’.

Dr. Chowdhury completed his medical training at the University of Florida in 2007 after participating in an accelerated 7-year B.S./M.D. program. In 2010, he completed a pediatric residency at the University of South Carolina. His academic potential was recognized early and he was highly recruited to MUSC where he completed his pediatric cardiology fellowship.

J. Philip Saul, M.D., Executive Vice President for Children’s Health at West Virginia University Medicine, has been awed by Chowdhury’s singular research achievements. “Dr. Chowdhury clearly ranks among the very top Pediatric Cardiology junior faculty I have worked with anywhere, in terms of career development.” His department chair, Dr. Andrew Atz, and division chief, Dr. Eric Graham, agree, “He is intellectually gifted, talented, dedicated and highly driven. Indeed, Dr. Chowdhury’s early career is the most academically productive we have witnessed.”

The contributions of Shahryar M. Chowdhury, M.D, MSCR, to biomedical science, to the Medical University, and to countless children hoping for a better future, are substantial, innovative, and impressive. Therefore, the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation is pleased to present him this award for Developing Scholar on this Twenty-first day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.
As the landscape of American healthcare changes, one of the most important frontiers for providing access to care for South Carolina’s rural and underserved populations is Telehealth services. One of those blazing this trail is Dr. David McSwain. Since arriving at MUSC in 2009, he has made significant contributions to the development of Telehealth services in clinical settings, in the classroom, and through his research.

Dr. McSwain received his B.S. from Duke University with a double-major in Biology and Psychology. He received his M.D. and M.P.H. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed a residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics there as well. In addition, he completed a Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at Duke University Medical Center.

Dr. Ragan Dubose-Morris, one of McSwain’s colleagues at the MUSC Center for Telehealth, describes why he is so deserving of the Population Health Award: “At heart, Dr. McSwain is an advocate for improving the lives of patients regardless of their geographic locations. By focusing on the development of Telehealth services, Dr. McSwain has succeeded in improving the access, quality and continuity of care for our state’s rural and underserved populations.”

An important aspect of Dr. McSwain’s success has been his work to build collaborative teams to develop infrastructure for Telehealth opportunities. For example, he is a co-founder of the Supporting Pediatric Research on Outcomes and Utilization of Telehealth (SPROUT) Collaborative. He has also serves as Chair for both the National Pediatric Telehealth Guidelines Workgroup and the American Telemedicine Association Pediatric SIG Best Practices Subgroup.

Dr. McSwain’s colleagues across the state and the region also testify to the positive results of his collaborative spirit. Dr. Steve North, Medical Director for the Center for Rural Health Innovation, noted, “As the number of patients seen via telehealth grows rapidly, well-structured operating procedures and research infrastructure will allow for more patients to be cared for using the best possible methods. Dr. McSwain’s work will contain to gain relevance as telehealth becomes a common delivery mechanism for care.” And Dr. Carley Draddy, Pediatric Vice Chair of Quality and Medical Staff Affairs at Greenville Health System highlights how Dr. McSwain brings together health professionals to serve the population: “Dr. McSwain has been a tireless advocate for children (through collaboration). The opportunities such collaboration will afford us will be critical to help move us toward more coordinated care for the most vulnerable children in our state’s population.”

It is not surprising that Dr. David McSwain has already received an important award this year: the 2018 American Telemedicine Association (ATA) Champions Award. The Medical University of South Carolina Foundation is proud to add another award to his impressive resume by presenting him the Population Health Award on this Twenty-First day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.
OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARD

Minoo Kavarana, MD

On a July night in 2011, the lives of Major Robert and Sarah Porter were changed forever. Their precious daughter Morgan was in the final stages of cardiac failure and her condition was rapidly deteriorating. Dr. Minoo Kavarana had just arrived at MUSC as an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery. He placed her on an Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) device that night and a week later on a Berlin Heart. Six months later, Dr. Kavarana performed a heart transplant for Morgan, giving her the chance for a full and healthy life.

But Dr. Kavarana’s care for Morgan did not end with her transplant. Nearly a decade later, her parents have given eloquent testimony of his commitment to their daughter’s health: “His investment with our daughter is evident and remains – still to this day. His willingness to go well above what is expected truly is a testament to MUSC. For us, Dr. Kavarana epitomizes what a competent, compassionate, devoted professional should be.”

Dr. Kavarana began his medical education at M.P. Shaw Medical College & Irwin General Hospital in Jamnagar, India. He finished his post graduate training at New York Medical College and spent a year at Columbia University (NY) as a Heart Transplant and Ventricular Assist Device Research Fellow. He eventually completed fellowships in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Louisville and Congenital Heart Surgery at the University of Michigan before joining MUSC. Since arriving at MUSC, Dr. Kavarana has taken on increased and increasingly complex responsibilities year by year, always leading by example.

Thus, it is not surprising that Dr. Kavarana’s colleagues praise him in terms that are every bit as emphatic as those offered by Morgan Porter’s parents. Dr. Mark Scheurer, Chief of Children and Women’s Health and Chief Medical Officer of MUSC Children’s Hospital, wrote of Dr. Kavarana, “I have personally witnessed the thoughtful, calm, and intensely collaborative care that he delivers with the team on a daily basis. Minoo’s clinical skills are exemplary and his outcomes outstanding, but his greatest impact is in his thoughtful open approach, and outstanding bedside behavior.” And Dr. Prabhakar Baliga, Chair of the Department of Surgery, has lauded Dr. Kavarana’s leadership and innovation: “Minoo is a future leader locally, nationally, and internationally. In 2016 he performed the smallest successful Heartware biventricular assist device (BIVAD) in the world and his close work with the Division of Pediatric Cardiology has led to outcomes that rival the best centers globally.”

Dr. Minoo Kavarana embodies an exemplary work ethic, a deep commitment to his patients, and a dogged loyalty to trainees and colleagues at MUSC. It is, therefore, with great pride that the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation presents him with this award for Outstanding Clinician on this Twenty-First Day of August in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen.
DISTINGUISHED FACULTY SERVICE AWARD

Elizabeth S. Pilcher, DMD

Dr. Elizabeth “Betsy” Pilcher has seen quite a lot in her 37 years of service to the Medical University of South Carolina. That is because she has been a leader and contributor to many of its strategic accomplishments and initiatives.

Dr. Pilcher’s entire academic career has been dedicated to MUSC, and it has been distinguished. She earned a MUSC dental degree in 1981, moved immediately into an academic appointment as clinical instructor, then started her regular faculty progression as an assistant professor, culminating in tenure and full professorship in 2007. This appointment at MUSC is certainly one of the longest of active faculty, and more importantly, it has served as a model for homegrown development and advancement for all faculty, but specifically women faculty.

Betsy, as she prefers, has been a stalwart of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. After joining the faculty in 1989, she assumed a full academic and dental practice load and yet, amazingly, still found time to advocate for special needs, gender equity, and faculty development. She was a leading voice for web-based education and distance learning, while leading the college’s effort in interprofessional and interdisciplinary activities. She mentored students in research, and started a student teaching assistants’ program to expose students to teaching and lead them to careers in academia. She also mentored faculty both at MUSC and nationally as a faculty advisor for the American Dental Education Association’s (ADEA) emerging leaders program.

Whereas others may only identify problems, Dr. Pilcher identifies opportunities to improve and provides solutions. She developed and personally monitored a patient satisfaction program for both the student clinics and faculty practice. She also established and oversaw a successful employee recognition program. To more efficiently evaluate and utilize resources she developed a work force model.

These efforts and her passionate commitment to excellence, led to her appointment by then president, Raymond Greenberg, as director of Strategic Planning for the university’s 2010-2015 roadmap. Dr. Pilcher worked tirelessly in implementing the strategic plan through the respective committees, engagement with the wide array of administrative structures, and incorporating the faculty governance bodies. Her optimism was contagious as she engaged faculty and staff from across the institution.

However, her leadership, vision, and service go beyond even the university campus. As an academic health center, MUSC’s mission and obligation are to service in teaching, clinical care, and research. Moreover, none other than Betsy would be sure that mission embraced the underserved. She is an unrelenting advocate for the underserved, and those with special needs. Since 1997, she has held leadership/membership roles in the South Carolina (SC) Council on Developmental Disabilities, the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs Coastal Center, and the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry. She was instrumental in starting an advanced Education Program in General Dentistry (AEGD) program, which she leveraged as a base to increase the treatment of special needs patients special needs training for pre and postdoctoral students. She also obtained a $600,000 Duke Endowment grant to develop a statewide infrastructure for special needs patients.

Therefore, with this abundance of exemplary activity noted, and, in keeping with the awards’ intention to recognize faculty “who, over a substantial portion of their careers, have provided exceptional and sustained service to MUSC and citizens of South Carolina,” the Medical University of South Carolina proudly celebrates the service of Dr. Elizabeth “Betsy” Pilcher, on this day, the Twenty-first of August, Two Thousand and Eighteen.
DISTINGUISHED FACULTY SERVICE AWARD

Donald B. Wiest, PharmD

Dr. Donald B. Wiest hails from a family of tremendous accomplishment and service to others. His parents were noted healthcare professionals and academics. His sister, Dianne Wiest, is an Academy and Emmy Award winning actor with a flair for the dramatic. Her acting roles have varied from playing a nurturing mother to a determined district attorney to a life-saving psychiatrist. Don Wiest’s roles have also been nurturing, determined, and life-saving. However, he isn’t acting.

Since 1986, Dr. Wiest has been a member of the MUSC faculty, nurturing students and residents, determining research protocol acceptability, and saving patient lives. The little lives. The ones in pediatric intensive care. He is a teacher, a mentor, a researcher, and a practicing clinical pharmacologist. He has won awards for all of that too. Lots of them.

His contributions are numerous and span across the enterprise, from the clinic and classroom, to the Institutional Review Board and Faculty Senate. For over 32 years at MUSC Dr. Wiest has performed exceptionally. His “Academy” is the academic health center where his clinical and research peers, his students, and his patients have given him rave reviews for his outstanding service.

It is quite common to hear his fans say of him, “His service to the College, the University, and to his profession have been outstanding.” “Dr. Wiest’s energy, effectiveness and extraordinary devotion to teaching are unparalleled.” “Students, residents and fellows note Dr. Wiest’s mentorship, encouragement and guidance have impacted them profoundly, positively affecting their careers, whether in clinical practice, academics or industry.” “...we are fortunate to have him educating our students and residents as well as taking care of patients in the pediatric ICU and on the general pediatric floor. Don is a dedicated practitioner and determined to improve the lives of patients.” “His leadership, like his clinical style, is soft-handed but clear-headed.” “I have the utmost respect for Dr. Wiest as a clinician, academic teacher, translational researcher and leader.

In everything he does Don tries to make life better for kids, and he recognizes the importance of doing it on every level for the greatest impact.” Finally, “The ability to perform cutting edge research, teach, contribute to the University’s mission, protect research subjects, and provide top notch clinical service in a multidisciplinary research team adds to the list of superlatives for Dr. Wiest.” Enough said.

Dr. Wiest does it all without fanfare, with humility and passion for those under his care. He is a singular star in the world of academic health care. Which is why the Medical University of South Carolina gratefully recognizes and honors the service of Dr. Donald B. Wiest, on this day, the Twenty-first of August, Two Thousand and Eighteen.