

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Watkins

843-792-3906 | watkinsj@musc.edu

Hankins joins MUSC Foundation for Research Development

Brings much experience to director of licensing position



Mark Hankins

Mark Hankins has joined MUSC Foundation for Research Development (FRD) as its director of licensing. In this role, he will assist MUSC faculty in commercializing their inventions and protecting their intellectual property (IP). Hankins will also market MUSC technologies to prospective licensees, and negotiate licenses or other IP agreements to facilitate the commercialization of MUSC inventions.

“The MUSC community is looking forward to Mark’s contribution,” said Michael Rusnak, FRD executive director. “His broad experience in both industry and academia will definitely be an asset to our organization and we are thrilled to have him on board.”

Hankins has more than 25 years of experience in the health care industry, including positions with startup companies, large pharmaceutical companies, emerging pharmaceutical companies, and government organizations. Most recently, Hankins has been serving as an executive consultant to early stage and start-up companies focused primarily on therapeutic products and medical devices. Prior to his consulting work, he was CEO of Codevax, a vaccine start-up in Rochester, NY and held vice president of business development positions for CIMA Labs and Cardinal Health. Hankins has held senior business development and licensing positions with Sanofi Pasteur in both the U.S. and Canada. Hankins began his health care career as a technology licensing specialist at the National Institutes of Health.

Hankins is a patent attorney, member of the Georgia State Bar, and a Certified Licensing Professional. He holds a Juris Doctor from University of Georgia School of Law, a Master of Science in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics from Emory University.

About MUSC Foundation for Research Development

FRD has served as MUSC’s technology transfer office since 1998. During that period, FRD has filed patent applications on more than 400 technologies, resulting in over 150 U.S. issued patents. Additionally, FRD has executed more than 150 licenses and spun out more than 50 startup companies.

MUSC startups have had products approved by the FDA and acquired by publicly traded corporations while attracting substantial investment dollars into South Carolina. Innovations from MUSC, including medical devices, therapies and software, are positively impacting health care worldwide. Please visit frd.musc.edu

Founded in 1824 in Charleston, The Medical University of South Carolina is the oldest medical school in the South. Today, MUSC continues the tradition of excellence in education, research, and patient care. MUSC educates and trains more than 3,000 students and residents in six colleges (Dental Medicine, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy), and has nearly 13,000 employees, including approximately 1,500 faculty members. As the largest non-federal employer in Charleston, the university and its affiliates have collective annual budgets in excess of \$2.3 billion, with an annual economic impact of more than \$3.8 billion and annual research funding in excess of \$250 million. MUSC operates a 700-bed medical center, which includes a nationally recognized children's hospital. The Ashley River Tower (cardiovascular, digestive disease, and surgical oncology), Hollings Cancer Center (a National Cancer Institute-designated center), Level I trauma center, Institute of Psychiatry, and the state's only transplant center. In 2016, U.S. News & World Report named MUSC Health the number one hospital in South Carolina. For more information on academic programs or clinical services, visit MUSC.edu. For more information on hospital patient services, visit MUSCHealth.org.

###