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Dear Friends:

Each May, we pause to thank all employees of the Medical University of South Carolina, the Hospital Authority and our affiliates for the outstanding work that they do. This year, in the midst of unprecedented budget uncertainties, there is even more reason than usual to express our heartfelt appreciation for all that you do. Many of you have had to take leave without pay, others have had your work hours reduced, and still others have been asked to take on more responsibilities without any additional pay. Individually and collectively, you have dealt with these circumstances and demonstrated your willingness to make personal sacrifices in these lean times. This happens every day, with very little fanfare or recognition, but it does not happen without notice or appreciation. On behalf of the entire Medical University family, please accept my thanks for all that you do.

I am pleased to report that your efforts are paying off. The hospital has improved its financial performance, with positive margins in five of the last six months. The demand for our clinical services remains strong and our share of the local market continues to grow steadily. Not surprisingly, our patient satisfaction rates have remained very strong and our clinical outcomes are among the best anywhere.

On the university side, *U. S. News and World Report* recently ranked four of our degree programs among the top 26 in their respective disciplines nationally, reflecting the high quality of our faculty and students. Our research programs also are garnering increasing recognition, with seven departments ranked among the top 20 in their disciplines in funding from the National Institutes of Health.

As we look to next year, despite the continuing uncertainties of our state appropriation, we anticipate that the University will continue its momentum through successful competition for federal stimulus funds in research and information technology. Most importantly, the future success of MUSC rests upon the shoulders of the dedicated faculty and staff who work here. It is in that spirit that I applaud your commitment to the University and the people that we serve. Thanks for a job well done!

Sincerely,


Raymond S. Greenberg, MD, PhD
President