Everyone focuses on numerical ranks and ratings. It seems to be part of American culture, whether it is sports teams, TV shows or brands of yogurt. But there are two types of numbers – absolute and comparative.

Absolute numbers are important because they are standard bearers or benchmarks, like NCLEX scores or certification pass rates. We are appropriately very focused on these numbers and track them each year with care.

But comparative numbers are different – they pit one group against others to see how one ranks comparatively. So this year the MUSC College of Nursing has some really important comparative numbers to celebrate. Drum roll please…..

- In 2012 we ranked 21st in the country in NIH funding. This is up from 30th in 2011 and 48th in 2010.
- We also ranked 20th in the country in online graduate programs of nursing from US News and World Report. This ranking of the best online graduate nursing degree programs is based on factors such as graduation rates, academic and career support services offered to students, and admissions selectivity.

Hooray for us…these are truly incredible rankings and they reflect the hard work of our faculty, staff and students. It’s great to start a new year with tangible indicators of our success and it helps us set the bar just a little bit higher for the year ahead….Gail
Phone Calls from Nurses Reduce Readmissions

A new study of a transitional care model that relies on nurses talking weekly with recently discharged hospital patients finds that the program reduces readmission rates and saves money.

The study by a team of Wisconsin-based researchers examined the Coordinated Transitional Care program, in place at a Veterans Administration hospital in Madison, WI. The authors write, “Under the program, patients work with nurse case managers on care and health issues, including medication reconciliation, before and after hospital discharge, with all contacts made by phone once the patient is at home. Patients [in the program] experienced one-third fewer re-hospitalizations than those in a baseline comparison group, producing an estimated savings of $1,225 per patient net of programmatic costs.”

“The nurse engages the patient in an open-ended discussion,” beginning within 72 hours of discharge from the hospital, said lead investigator Amy Kind, MD, PhD. “They spend a lot of time talking about medications, follow-up and the appropriate response to any signs and symptoms that the patient’s medical symptoms could be worsening…. Many patients, within two days of discharge, were not taking their medications properly,” she continues. “They may not have understood what they should have been doing, or became confused about their medications when they arrived home.”

The authors conclude that the program requires a “relatively small amount of resources to operate,” and suggest that it might be particularly useful for providers in rural areas or in care settings facing resource constraints. The study was published in the December issue of Health Affairs. www.rwjf.org
Read an abstract of the Health Affairs article. | Read a Nurse.com story on the study.

International Perspective on U.S. Health

The United States is among the wealthiest nations in the world, but it is far from the healthiest. Although Americans’ life expectancy and health have improved over the past century, these gains have lagged behind those in other high-income countries. This health disadvantage prevails even though the United States spends far more per person on health care than any other nation. To gain a better understanding of this problem, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) asked the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine to convene a panel of experts to investigate potential reasons for the U.S. health disadvantage and to assess its larger implications. The panel’s findings are detailed in its report, U.S. Health in International Perspective: Shorter Lives, Poorer Health. Click here to read more.

Cubicle Etiquette

Over the next two years, working in a cube will present certain challenges. Here a some simple ground rules that will help you remain productive and neighborly.

- Knock lightly before entering.
- If the person you need to speak with is on the phone, come back later – do not loiter near his/her space.
- Never answer a question you overhear from your cube to someone else’s.
- Avoid talking over the top of the cubicles.
- Resist reading a coworker’s computer screen when visiting his/her cubicle.
- Avoid making distracting sounds such as tapping.
- Keep personal calls to a minimum and be discrete.
- Speak quietly and respect that others around you are working.
- Turn your cell phone on silent or vibrate while in the office.
- Avoid using the speakerphone; if you have to use it, keep the volume low.
- If you need to hold a meeting, do so in a separate meeting or office room, not in a cubicle.
- Unless given permission, don’t touch anything on a coworker’s desk.
- Avoid wearing perfume and aftershave and eating strong smelling foods in your cubicle.
- Manage your image; keep your space organized and work-oriented.

Reminder - MUSC is Tobacco-free

On Jan. 8, Charleston City Council approved an outdoor smoking ban for a large area around MUSC and Roper St. Francis Hospital. People are now banned from smoking on sidewalks, streets and in parked cars. Hospital security are in charge of enforcing the smoking ban and can issue fines up to $25 to violaters.

Last year, MUSC became a totally tobacco-free campus. MUSC joins over 1,130 institutions of higher education in the United States that has adopted 100 percent smoke-free and tobacco-free campus policies that eliminate smoking in indoor and outdoor areas across the entire campus.
FEBRUARY

7-8  THURSDAY-FRIDAY  
MUSC Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting  

12  TUESDAY  
Fat Tuesday in the Horseshoe  
11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.  

12  TUESDAY  
MUSC Women Scholars Initiative Reception  
5:30 - 7 p.m.  
Drug Discovery Building Lobby  
RSVP to Miriam Hutto at huttomj@musc.edu  

18  MONDAY  
Presidents Day  
CON open  

20  WEDNESDAY  
Black History Month Lecture Series  
Featuring Tamika Felder  
Noon - 1 p.m.  
BSB 302  
Lunch available for first 50 attendees  
Questions? contact DaNine Fleming at flemi@musc.edu  
(See p. 4 for more details)  

22  FRIDAY  
Ernest E. Just Symposium  
Various speakers throughout the day in the James E. Clyburn Research Ctr. Auditorium  
For more information click here  

CON’s Addresses  
U.S. MAIL & CAMPUS MAIL:  
(remains the same)  
MUSC College of Nursing  
99 Jonathan Lucas St.  
MSC 160  
Charleston, SC  
29425  

SHIPPING/PHYSICAL ADDRESS:  
(UPS & Fed Ex use this)  
MUSC College of Nursing  
1002 Harbor View Office Tower  
19 Hagood Ave.  
Charleston, SC  
29425  

Click Here to Like Us on Facebook
MoodleBuzz

Copying into Forums (Discussion boards) or Wiki’s in Moodle

In the old version of Moodle, copying and pasting directly from Word couldn’t be done. But it can now...here’s how:

1. Place your cursor where you want the text to copy.
2. Click on the second Word icon and a new window will pop-up.
3. Paste using Control-V (PC) or Command-V (Mac).
   Click insert and what you have pasted will appear.

Core Clinical Research Training Course

The purpose of the Core Clinical Research Training is to prepare participants to coordinate clinical research which protects the rights and safety of human subjects, achieves recruitment and retention outcomes and contributes to the science of health care. Participants completing the training will be prepared to coordinate research studies in compliance with the Good Clinical Practice Guidelines and federal regulations concerning human subject research.

March 18 - March 29
Classes will meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for two weeks
8:30 a.m. - Noon
Gazes Auditorium
Click here to register.

Registration deadline is Friday, March 8.
For more information, contact Bridget Micka at 792-8446 or micka@musc.edu or visit https://sctr.musc.edu/index.php/education/core-clinical-research-training-ccrt.

CATTS - due June 15

This is an early reminder that faculty and staff can begin to work on their annual training and disclosure requirements for 2013. Most employees will have only five CATTS training modules to complete. Also, everyone will be asked to complete an annual conflict of interest disclosure statement. All compliance training and discloser statements must be completed by June 15, 2013.

LINKS
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE
CATTS MODULES

Celebrating Black History Month 2013

The Office of Student Diversity and the Multicultural Student Advisory Board presents
Black History Month lecture series
co-sponsored by the MUSC College of Nursing and the South Carolina College of Pharmacy

“At the Crossroads of Health, Freedom and Equality: Celebrating our Past and Shaping Our Future.”

All lectures will be held in the Basic Science Building (BSB) Room 302 from noon to 1 p.m.

FEBRUARY 6
Cynthia Warrick, PhD, PharmD
Interim President, S.C. State University
Title: The Value and Relevance of HBCUs to Health Professions for Today and Tomorrow

FEBRUARY 13
Kenosha Gleaton, MD
Harborside Obstetrics and Gynecology
Title: A Candid Dialogue on Health, Freedom and Medical Equality

FEBRUARY 20
Tamika L. Felder
- CEO/Founder Tamika & Friends, Inc.
  (National Cervical Cancer and HPV Education Awareness Organization)
- U.S. lead partner in the Pearl of Wisdom Campaign™
Title: Cervical Cancer: A Global Movement for Prevention and Awareness

FEBRUARY 27
Sabra C. Slaughter, PhD
Chief of Staff, SE View Principal Investigator
Title: SE VIEW: An Applied Research, Health Disparities Reduction and Prevention Collaborative at MUSC

Sabra C. Slaughter Health Equity & Wellness Endowment established by The James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation
Grant Submissions

Nancy Duffy, DNP, RN, CEN, CNE, submitted a competing continuation application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) titled “Promise for the Future.” The RWJF’s New Careers in Nursing is a scholarship program designed to help alleviate the nursing shortage, increase the diversity of nursing professionals, expand capacity in baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs, and to enhance the pipeline of potential nurse faculty. Through grants to schools of nursing, the program will provide scholarships to college graduates without nursing degrees who are enrolled in accelerated baccalaureate and master’s nursing programs.

Mat Gregoski, PhD, submitted a proposal titled “Development of a Real-time mHealth Energy Tracker for Weight Management” to the South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute (SCTR) KL2 Multidisciplinary Scholars Program in Clinical & Translational Science. This research will develop an easy to use mHealth energy tracker (MET) that provides users valid and reliable objective EE/EI (Energy Expenditure/Energy Intake) feedback for weight management. The MET system will consist of a Fitbit Zip (wireless non-invasive accelerometer), iPhone/iPad; and will utilize remote food photography (RFPM; participants send images of food selection and plate waste).

Robin L. Bissinger, PhD, APRN, NNPC, FAAN submitted a competing continuation application to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) funding opportunity announcement. This application is a request for financial loan support for students enrolled in a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program (both programs have post-BSN and post-MSN options) and students enrolled in a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program at the College of Nursing.

Publications


DeCristofaro, C. (December 2012). Irritable bowel syndrome: diagnosis and management. SCHOOLS - Upstate AHEC, Greenville, SC.

9th Annual Aging Research Day

The South Carolina Aging Research Network presents Maintaining Cognitive Health with Aging, Healthy Aging and Age-Related Disorders

Friday, March 8
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Founders Hall at Charles Towne Landing (1500 Old Towne Rd.)

Registration fees:
On or before February 1 - Students: $10 | Others: $25
After February 1 - Students: $15 | Others: $35

Poster abstracts are due by February 8.

Register at: www.scarn.org
Women of Abrazos Create Cookbook

The women at Abrazos are excited and motivated to complete the Recipe Book Project that was recently featured on SCETV in their Big Picture segment called Social Determinants of Healthcare (see box for video). **Anna Tecklenburg Patton**, Hispanic Health Initiative’s program coordinator, met with a group of Abrazos women on January 26. In addition, Maria Nestleroad, a registered dietician and volunteer, joined the meeting to review some of the recipes that Abrazos have developed. In the past, the Abrazos group have learned about nutrition and ways to alter recipes to make them healthier. Once the recipes have been chosen, the group will compile them into a book that will be sold and the profits will be used for a group project, such as creating a public garden in their community. For more information about this project, contact Anna at tecklenb@musc.edu.

Social Determinants of Health

Recently, SCETV’s Big Picture filmed a segment called Social Determinants of Healthcare. This piece features MUSC President Ray Greenberg discussing the role social determinants play in South Carolina, and the best way to recognize and address the significant health problems that affect the health of South Carolinians. The segment also features CON’s Anna Tecklenburg Patton talking about the Abrazos program and how teaching a group of Spanish-speaking mothers how to improve the health of their family through nutrition can lead to a healthier community.

Abrazos provides Spanish-speaking mothers and their 3-year-old children an interactive family literacy program. As the children are developing their school readiness skills (gross and fine motor skills, speech and language, and cognitive and social abilities), their mothers are focusing on learning English as a second language and participating in a weekly health promotion class.

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

— Henry Ford

Below: The Big Picture travelled to Charleston County’s Midland Park Primary School to talk about the Abrazos program with one of the mothers, Lusila Morales, about the benefits of this program.
Faces & Places

Tiffany Williams, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC has received the Southeastern Virtual Institute for Health Equity and Wellness Junior Faculty Development Award. The program is designed to accelerate and enhance the professional development of underrepresented minorities in the area of health disparities and health services research. Congratulations, Tiffany.

Catherine Durham, DNP, APRN, FNP-C has been appointed the lead faculty for the FNP/ANP program. Leadership experience will be a great asset to this role.

Mat Gregowski, PhD has accepted a faculty position at the College of Nursing. Effective February 1, he will become an assistant professor on the educator/researcher track. Welcome to the faculty, Mat.

SUMMER INSTITUTE 2013

Workshops In Quantitative Research Methodology
May and June 2013

The 2013 Summer Institute in the MUSC College of Medicine’s Department of Public Health Sciences offers several two-day workshops that introduce current quantitative methods in key areas of biomedical and clinical research and offer hands on experience with implementing these methods.

To see the full brochure visit www.musc.edu/dbe.

| May 6-7 | Introductory Bayesian Biostatistics (IBB) |
| May 9-10 | Advanced Bayesian Biostatistics (ABB) |
| May 9-10 | Phase 2 and 3 Clinical Trial Design |
| June 6-7 | Longitudinal & Multilevel Modeling of Continuous and Categorical Data |

Registration Deadline for May Courses: April 30, 2013
Registration Deadline for June Course: May 30, 2013

Conflict of Interest

Faculty needing to disclose information about potential conflicts (most will not be real conflicts, but will need to be disclosed anyway) can go to www.musc.edu/coi. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Bond at bondsm@musc.edu or Shannon Condon, MUSC conflict of interest officer, at 792-5907 or condonsf@musc.edu.

Apple Tree Society

MUSC’s Apple Tree Society presents “Foundations in teaching and learning: A series for educators,” a six part series for faculty new to teaching*, providing opportunities for learning, networking, and mentoring.

Dates/Topics

| February 14 | Getting Ready to Teach |
| March 6      | Instructional Design   |
| March 25     | Teaching Methods       |
| April 16     | Assessment, Part I     |
| May 6        | Assessment, Part II    |
| June 5       | Assembling Your Teaching Portfolio |

Participants will complete out of class assignments and engage in interactive sessions, mentoring, shadowing, and other experiences useful for building a teaching portfolio.

Click here to register. Registration deadline is January 31.

(*Participation from faculty with less than five years of experience is highly encouraged, and the series is open to any educator interested in improving their teaching skills.)