Sanofi US Supports MUSC Free Diabetes Screenings in Rural South Carolina

MUSC develops innovative telehealth component of community diabetes screenings

Charleston, S.C. (Mar 18, 2015) – The Medical University of South Carolina with a grant from Sanofi US, a global healthcare leader, is providing free diabetes screenings to rural areas of South Carolina. This program is led by Carolyn Jenkins, Co-Director of Community Engagement for the South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute (SCTR). The work will focus on areas with the highest rates of obesity and diabetes by collaborating with churches, schools, worksites, community centers and other locations.

Partnering organizations have included but are not limited to the Bamberg Diabetes Coalition, Vorhees College, Bamberg Office of the Mayor, and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. Dr. Carolyn Jenkins is an MUSC nurse scientist who has addressed diabetes and diabetes education in South Carolina for over 30 years. Through private-public partnerships, MUSC continues the development of technologies and methods, such as this telehealth diabetes screening capability, to overcome barriers, improve efficiency, and advance the diabetes management and health outcomes in rural South Carolina.

Because of Sanofi’s support, Dr. Jenkins and her team at MUSC are developing a novel telehealth addition to the typical diabetes screening diagnostics. This technology will specifically enhance A1C and cholesterol blood diagnostic machines with telehealth capacity. The automated data collection and communication method will 1) send screening results directly to patient’s healthcare providers from the community screening site, and 2) improve efficiency and data quality that can be used for future research purposes.

Especially in rural areas, this enhanced telehealth component is essential to translating diabetes screening results in the community into immediate actionable information for the healthcare provider. The 2014 screenings have been offered in Bamberg County, a predominantly rural area where nearly 15 percent of its residents have diabetes (a rate over 1.5 times the national average), and screenings will expand to Georgetown, SC and other areas in 2015. Screening activities are staffed and energized by a combination of trained community volunteers, MUSC nursing students, Sanofi staff, and MUSC SCTR staff, College of Nursing, and MUSC hospital nurses.

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About the SCTR Institute
The South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute (SCTR) of the Medical University of South Carolina is the catalyst for changing the culture of biomedical research, facilitating sharing of resources and expertise, and streamlining research-related processes to bring about large-scale change in the clinical and translational research efforts in South Carolina. The SCTR Institute was established in 2006 in response to the National Institute of Health’s Clinical and Translational Science Award Program, funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NIH/NCATS Grant UL1TR000062). For more information, visit sctr.musc.edu.

About MUSC
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, 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 $1.7 billion. MUSC operates a 750-bed medical center, which includes a nationally recognized Children's Hospital, the Ashley River Tower (cardiovascular, digestive disease, and surgical oncology), and a leading Institute of Psychiatry. For more information on academic information or clinical services, visit musc.edu.