

# ANNUAL REPORT

2005-2006

MUSC

FAMILY MEDICINE

# VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

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## DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

### ***Vision Statement:***

The Department of Family Medicine strives to be recognized within the community, Medical University of South Carolina, and the nation as an innovative leader in clinical care, primary care education, and research.

### ***Mission Statement:***

The mission of the Department of Family Medicine is to provide excellent and comprehensive interdisciplinary health care to individuals, their families, and the community. This focus on excellence in care will be blended with the educational needs of residents, medical students, and health professions students and the search for new knowledge that will enhance the practice of family physicians.

### ***Department Objectives:***

The goals of the Department of Family Medicine are to:

- Manage a cost-effective clinical enterprise that values the patient-provider partnership in health care, provides access to underserved populations, and strives to maximize patient satisfaction and clinical outcomes.
- Provide residents and medical students skills necessary to deliver comprehensive health care based on the principles of evidence based medicine and the development of an empathic approach.
- Conduct investigations into common problems in primary care and the principles that form the foundation of primary care.
- Celebrate our successes both internally and externally while creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and enjoyment for students, employees, and faculty.

***<http://www.muschealth.com/familymedicine>***

# INTRODUCTION: NO PATIENT IS AN ISLAND

One of the central conceptual frameworks of family medicine is called Family Systems. In short, this principle asserts that illness never occurs in a vacuum. Illness itself is a complex process that starts with physiologic or psychological aberrations, but those derangements are only a small step in a complex process of steps, any of which can alter how the illness is experienced or expressed.

First of all, illness occurs in a person - a unique individual whose own physical and psychological composition determines how he or she will react to the disease and adjust to the illness. However, this is only a first step because the way an illness affects a person and how he or she copes with their illness goes beyond just their own personal make-up. But each individual exists within a family and a community. This personal, social, and physical environment in which the patient lives also plays a large role in how the patient deals with illness. For example, a person who is diagnosed with diabetes will be told to make a number of lifestyle changes. But implementing these changes may be extremely difficult if other family members are resistant to changes in their diet or if a patient's occupation does not allow him or her to get the recommended exercise. Likewise, a patient's ability to afford a more healthy diet or whether a person's medical insurance includes prescription drug coverage might be next-to-impossible for this patient to get the best care possible.

Simply put, no patient is an island; every person with an illness exists in a complicated web of social and financial factors that influence the patient's outcome. Any serious health problem can throw a person's delicately balanced system into disarray.



Dr. Bill Hueston

Sometimes health problems are small - like a sore throat or an ingrown toenail -- and cause barely a ripple in the patient's family system. Other problems - like a stroke or newly diagnosed diabetes -- are life-changing and throw the whole system out of balance. Over time, systems return to homeostasis, but the new balance is usually different from what came beforehand.

What does this mean to those of us who take care of patients? It means that if we want our patients to be successful in adapting to illnesses, we can't just stop with an individual. We need to take care of their whole family and their community.

Three years ago our Department faculty made a commitment that we would invest 1,000 hours a year of faculty time to volunteer activities that benefited the health of our community. Not only was this consistent with our University's mission of public service, but it would help us take better care of the people who are our patients. Since that time, we have collaborated with many organizations to help provide needed care to people in our community who might otherwise not receive care. In addition, we have focused some of our research on how care might be delivered more efficiently for people in our community who are at risk for disease.

Many of these efforts are reflected in the stories you will read in our annual report. But not all of them are. So as you read this report, think of these as a sample of some of the things that our Department (like the rest of MUSC) is doing to reach out to our neighbors in the tri-county area. The entire list of what the MUSC faculty does to help our community is too long to be chronicled in one annual report. And that is how it should be.

# CLINICAL SERVICES SECTION

The Clinical Services Section of the Department of Family Medicine is responsible for the operation of our three outpatient offices. The most recent of these, East Cooper University Family Medicine, opened in the summer of 2005, joining University Family Medicine in North Charleston and our downtown campus Family Medicine Center. Together, these offices provided 52,000 patient visits, making it one of the largest providers of ambulatory care in our Medical Center and affiliates.

Our Department also continues to admit patients to two hospitals, MUSC Medical Center and Trident Regional Medical Center. Starting in July 2006, our Trident Regional Medical Inpatient Service was expanded to two inpatient teams to accommodate even more patients in that facility. Additionally, in the summer of 2006 we assumed responsibility for a skilled nursing facility within Trident Hospital, with Dr. John Freedy as medical director.

## Clinical Service Section by the Numbers:

	MUSC Family Medicine Center	University Family Medicine	East Cooper University Family Medicine
Office visits FY 2006:	27,900	22,200	800
New Patient Visits	1600	1700	200
	MUSC Medical Center	Trident Regional Medical Center	
Hospital Admissions	470	1281	

## CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

We have tried to diversify our geographical locations to improve healthcare services for those who are neediest in our community. For example, over the past year we have provided prenatal care to medically indigent patients at Sea Islands Community Health Center on Johns Island. Our new office in Mt. Pleasant, University Family Medicine - East Cooper, is one of the few primary care practices in that area to accept patients with Medicaid health insurance.

In 2006 -7 we hope to expand our community initiatives even further. One of the initiatives is providing prenatal care to pregnant women who are high school students at or near their school location, thus minimizing their time missed from classes. Dr. Vanessa Diaz has been organizing efforts at Stall High School in Berkeley County and at North Charleston High School in Charleston County. Another new community-based activity for 2006 will be providing prenatal and delivery care for mothers attending the Florence Crittendon Home in Charleston.

We also are working with the MUSC School of Nursing school based health care clinics to care for students in North Charleston and Hollywood. Starting this year, we are working to expand services available at the schools to care for siblings and parents when feasible.

## AHEC LOCUM TENENS PROGRAM

For the past four years, the Department has provided relief services for local doctors who need to leave their practice for vacation, continuing education, or illness. Under a contract with the state AHEC system, Dr. Cleve Hutson serves as a substitute family physician for the patients of these physicians for 12 weeks a year. The locum tenens service allows community doctors in rural areas to get a much needed break while assuring that their patients continue to get high-quality medical care in their absence.

## CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP

Dr. Maria Gibson continues in her role as medical director at our University Family Medicine office and Dr. Wanda Gonsalves has stepped in as the medical director of our new office in Mount Pleasant. However, this also has been a year of change in the leadership for our downtown faculty practice.

Dr. Carolyn Thiedke who had served as medical director has decided to step down. Dr. Thiedke previously served as the course director of the Longitudinal Patient Care Experience, the MUSC first year medical students' course that teaches interviewing skills and provides opportunities for patient care in the community, before becoming the faculty practice medical director two years ago. Dr. Thiedke resigned her medical director position and has taken a leave of absence to pursue some of her interests outside a university faculty medical career. We wish her the best and know her patients will miss her dearly.

## C.A.R.E.S. CLINIC

The Department of Family Medicine is proud to be assisting the student-run C.A.R.E.S. Clinic by allowing the students to conduct their clinic in our new East Cooper University Family Medicine office in Mount Pleasant. The students operate the free clinic from 6:30-9:00 pm two times per week and have seen a total of 597 patients and 706 patient visits since September 2005. Dr. Wanda Gonsalves of the Department serves as the faculty advisor and medical director of the clinic.

The clinic has been successful because of the support of an extraordinary number of dedicated volunteers. To date, the clinic has benefited from a total of 2,280 hours of volunteer service by approximately 250 students. The work of these devoted volunteers has proudly awarded the clinic the MUSC Gives Back award for the most outstanding College of Medicine service organization.

Additionally, over half of our volunteer physicians who work with the students are faculty members in the Department of Family Medicine.

## FLORENCE CRITTENTON HOME

The MUSC Department of Family Medicine is excited to begin a new collaboration with the Florence Crittenton Home. The Florence Crittenton Home has provided shelter and support for single mothers in South Carolina since 1897. The mission of Florence Crittenton is to provide and promote comprehensive medical, educational and support services that will most effectively ensure the well-being and self-sufficiency of single parents and their children in South Carolina.

At the request of the Florence Crittenton Home, we agreed to partner with their program to provide easily accessible, teenage-friendly, holistic prenatal care and pregnancy prevention services for their residential teens. One priority of the program is to provide care to young women at the Florence Crittenton Home. These on-site services allow young women who are participating in the program to stay in school rather than miss classes in order to get their prenatal care.

Each week, Amy McCurley, CNM, a midwife with the Department of Family Medicine, goes to the Florence Crittenton Home to conduct weekly on-site group visits based on the Centering Pregnancy Model (CPM), a model of group prenatal care that provides increased contact time with the prenatal care provider throughout the course of the pregnancy. The CPM curriculum is designed to provide peer support and features educational modules that focus on areas such as coping with pregnancy, various self-care skills, and pregnancy-related topics. Participants learn about pregnancy risk assessment and preterm labor precautions, birth, and parenting. The group education model has been very effective and popular in our teen populations.

Each teen who participates in the Florence Crittenton program visits the MUSC Family Medicine Center for their first prenatal visit and routine prenatal laboratory testing. After the first visit, the teens may return to the Family Medicine Center as needed whenever they require services that are not available at the Florence Crittenton Home. Heather Liszka, MD, offers weekly visits for these teens who need to be seen at the Family Medicine Center.

# TRIDENT / MUSC FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Trident / MUSC Family Medicine Residency Program, an educational partnership between Trident Medical Center and the Medical University of South Carolina, is a “bridge” between a community hospital and a tertiary care academic medical center. With a foundation in a large community medical center and the opportunity to rotate in a tertiary care hospital with its modern technology, this community-based, university affiliated residency program continues to attract excellent family medicine residents to the Charleston area.

The Trident / MUSC Family Medicine Residency Program had another successful year in 2005 - 2006. Our residents and faculty are active in regional, national and international family organizations and continue to provide significant contributions to the academic basis for family medicine through publications and presentations. In addition, we matched all 10 of our positions with U.S. senior medical students. Five of our new residents are graduates of MUSC, two are from the University of Kentucky, and one each from University of Louisville, East Tennessee State, and the Medical College of Virginia.

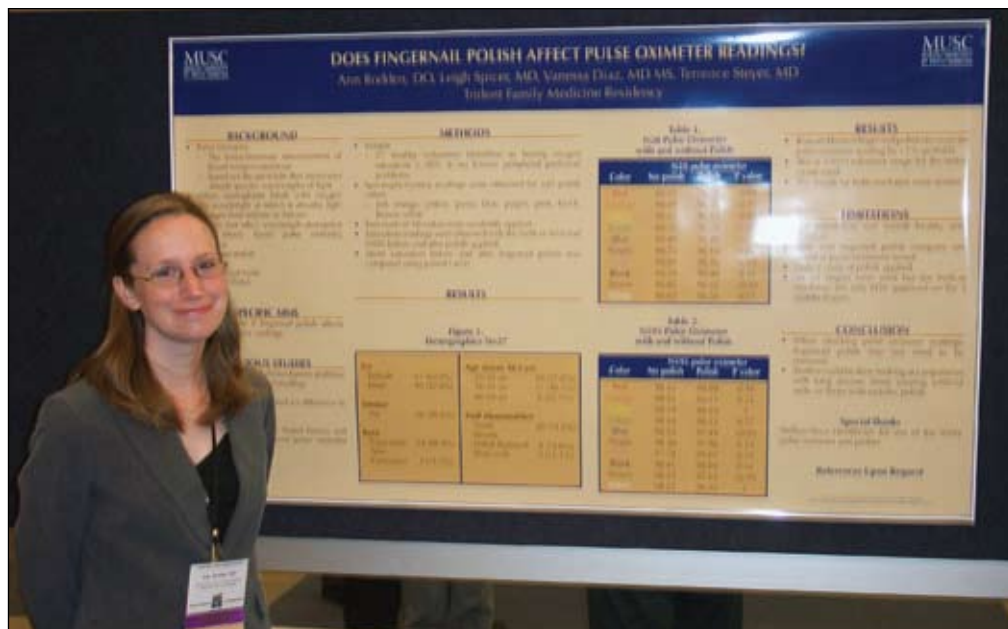
During the annual graduation dinner for the Trident / MUSC Family Medicine Residency Program, the resident class of 2006 honored Robert Mallin, MD, with the Annual Golden Oyster Award for Excellence in Residency Education. In a demonstration of their gratitude for the work of other faculty and preceptors, the residents presented several other teaching awards. Kesh Hebbar, MD, received a special recognition for his outstanding commitment and dedication to quality resident education.

Resident awards were also presented during the graduation ceremonies. Cathy Hurray, MD was awarded the Outstanding Resident of the Year honor,

an award sponsored annually by the South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Resident Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Curtis Franke, MD. Marty Tucker, MD and Dr. Franke received Chief Resident awards for Outstanding Leadership.

A majority of the residency class of 2006 have decided to remain in South Carolina following graduation (see below). We thank them for being part of our family and wish them the best with their careers.

Resident	Location
Curtis Franke, MD	Dallas, TX
John “Jed” Hetlinger, MD	Kansas
Cathy Hurray, MD	Anderson, SC
Craig Koniver, MD	North Charleston, SC
Patrick Meehan, MD	Summerville, SC
Nabeel Saeed, MD	Los Angeles, CA
Leigh Spicer, MD	Charleston, SC
Marty Tucker, MD	Charleston, SC
Daniela Wright, DO	Charleston, SC



## RESEARCH IN RESIDENCY

As a requirement for the program, upper level residents are required to participate in a scholarly activity. This activity results in a presentation during Resident Scholars Day conducted each June. During this event, judges (Rick Foster, MD; Ann Rodden, DO, and Andrea Wessell, PharmD) selected best projects in the categories of quality improvement and research. The following projects were presented:

- Quality Improvement Utilizing Point of Care INR Testing in a Group Practice (Curtis Franke, MD)  
- ***Voted Best Quality Improvement Project***
- Analysis of Practice Trends and Procedure Training: Which Procedures Should Be Taught in a Family Medicine Residency? (William M. Tucker, III, MD)
- Patient Understanding of Mail Order Prescription Plans (Nabeel Saeed, MD)
- Standardized Diagnosis of Adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in the Primary Care Setting (Cathy Hurray, MD and Daniela Wright, DO)
- Does Fingernail Polish Affect Pulse Oximeter Readings? (Leigh Spicer, MD)
- Cholesterol Screening in Asymptomatic Young Adults (Craig Koniver, MD)
- The Appropriate Treatment of Adolescent Obesity in Family Medicine (Patrick Meehan, MD)
- The Effectiveness of Group Visits for Diabetes (Jed Hetlinger, MD; Leah Jacobson, MD; Morgan Arvidson, MD; Frank West, MD)
- Complimentary and Alternative Medicine Use in the Hispanic Community (Philip Trangmar, MD)  
- ***Voted Best Research Project***
- Attitudes and Beliefs about Emergency Contraception in Patients at the MUSC Family Medicine Center (Stephen Busby, MD; Johnny Campbell, MD)
- The Practical Treatment of Obesity through Education at University Family Medicine (Janet Gould, DO; Scott Ramshur, MD; Shanna Moore, MD; Blake Leslie, MD)

This past year, many of the second and third year residents presented their projects during the Hickory Knob Symposium, sponsored by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (SC AHEC). This symposium provided residents from the programs affiliated with SC AHEC an opportunity to present a brief 10-minute scholarly presentation. Presentations were categorized into the following areas: basic research, clinical review, case report, or quality improvement. Topics focused on any area of interest to a primary care audience (e.g., patient care, preventive strategies, practice-based systems of care, or resident education). The presentations were judged and awards provided to the winner in each category. Jed Hetlinger, MD, a third year resident, received the 2nd place award for quality improvement (“The Effectiveness of Group Visits for Diabetes”). Curtis Franke, MD, a third year resident, received the 3rd place award for quality improvement (“Quality Improvement Utilizing Point of Care INR Testing in a Group Practice”).

## NEW TRANSITIONAL YEAR PROGRAM

This year also marked the launch of the Trident / MUSC Transitional Year Residency Program. This program was developed as a partnership between the Departments of Family Medicine and Radiology at MUSC and the Trident Medical Center. Under the direction of Terrence Steyer, MD, the Transitional Year Residency Program obtained initial accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and successfully recruited its first class of six residents. Upon completion of this program, all of the transitional year residents will be pursuing subspecialty training. Many of them will continue their training in radiology at MUSC while others will obtain training in ophthalmology and dermatology.

Six new residents have joined us for the Transitional Year Program. These include two MUSC graduates, and one resident each from East Carolina University, the University of Tennessee, and Mercer University.

The transitional year residency is another example of how the Department of Family Medicine partners with others in the community to establish highly respected educational programs.

# PREDOCTORAL EDUCATION SECTION

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The Department of Family Medicine is an important contributor to the education of medical students at MUSC. Faculty members in the Department of Family Medicine work with students in all 4 years of the medical school curriculum. In addition, several faculty members have leadership roles in required courses in the first 3 years of the curriculum. An overview of these contributions follows.

## YEAR 1

### *Doctoring Curriculum*

In 2005 Dr. Todd Detar assumed the role of director of the Doctoring Curriculum for 1st and 2nd year medical students. He has helped to oversee a major change to the 1st year curriculum as two of the courses, Longitudinal Patient Care Experience (LPCE) and Behavioral Science in Medical Practice (BSMP), will be combined into one course, beginning with the 2006-07 academic year.

### *Longitudinal Primary Care Experience (LPCE)*

Drs. Wanda Gonsalves and Todd Detar continue to direct the LPCE course, a Doctoring Curriculum 1st year course that continues the entire year. Students are taught medical interviewing skills and then practice what they have learned both in community practices with regular patients and in the classroom with standardized patients who are actors trained to portray patients with certain illnesses. Students also learn about special topics such as sleep and geriatrics, while studying the organization and business side of medical practice. Thirteen faculty members from our Department participated in this course as small group leaders in 2005-2006.

### *Biochemistry Selectives*

During the medical students' 1st year Biochemistry course, the Department contributes to sets of educational sessions called Selectives that meet weekly for 10 weeks. Students choose such Selectives as the one led by Dr. William Simpson called "Medicine and the Environment." This selective covers such topics as pesticide toxicity, water quality, insect-borne

diseases, and plant pathology. In addition, Dr. Peter Carek lectures on "The Biochemistry of Exercise: Fuel for Thought" within the Biochemistry course.

## YEAR 2

### *Introduction to Clinical Ethics*

Dr. Albert Keller served as co-director of a 2nd year, 1st semester course required of all medical students, Introduction to Clinical Ethics. This Doctoring Curriculum course gives students a solid background in ethical decision-making prior to their clinical years.

### *Introduction to Clinical Medicine / Evidence Based Medicine*

Drs. Bill Hueston and Richelle Koopman co-direct this 2nd year Doctoring course. This second semester course helps students to generate and refine differential diagnoses that include both the most likely diagnoses and those that carry a high risk of morbidity or mortality. Students also learn how to use evidence, how to analyze and apply findings from research studies back to the clinical care of patients. In addition to Drs. Hueston and Koopman, eleven additional faculty members from the Department served as small group leaders for ICM/EBM in 2005.

### *Caring for the Community*

Drs. Todd Detar, Wanda Gonsalves, and Donna Kern launched a new and exciting elective called Caring for the Community. Students learned about the health care system and disparities and spent time in faith-based medical clinics in the greater Charleston area.

In addition, Dr. Wanda Gonsalves provided faculty leadership for a new student-run free clinic that is housed at East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) in Mount Pleasant. Serving as a clinical site for the elective, the CARES Clinic provided care to a growing number of patients, now on two nights per week. Starting in 2006, an additional elective will be available for 4th year students who will learn more about managing a medical office by spending a month as the director of the CARES clinic.

## YEAR 3: THE NEW FAMILY MEDICINE / RURAL CLERKSHIP

Beginning in July 2003, the Department assumed leadership for a combined 2-month clerkship required for all 3rd year medical students. Students spend 8 weeks in rural practice settings, where they can learn from superb clinicians and partner with AHEC, DHEC, and community leaders and organizations to plan and implement community-wide health improvement projects.

Students value this training highly, and granted this course one of the highest satisfaction ratings for a clerkship. Students enjoy the autonomy provided within the context of a two-month long relationship with a preceptor in rural practice. Unlike the usual university hospital-based clerkship, this course places students in settings where they can work one-to-one with skilled clinicians, without competing with residents for training opportunities. Centered within these communities, their preceptors provide in-depth learning about the practice of medicine, within the context of family and community.

Orientation and mid-clerkship activities include workshops held in Charleston. MUSC faculty members provide practical, hands-on training in managing diabetes, asthma, and hypertension. A Motivational Interviewing workshop prepares students to help patients quit tobacco use. Other workshops cover skin suturing, musculoskeletal physical exam, basic interpretation of EKGs. Care of the older patient is also covered.

In addition to their formal clinical and didactic experiences, the residency program faculty at Anderson, Florence, and Greenwood offer students a highly regarded procedural skills workshop during the clerkship. Most students choose to attend these workshops, where they learn about such procedures as line and tube placement, colposcopy, colonoscopy, and exercise stress testing.

## YEAR 4

### *Family Medicine Externship (Acting Internship)*

The Department continues to offer an excellent educational experience that satisfies a 4th year medical student's requirement to complete an Externship, also known as an Acting Internship. The Externship allows 4th year medical students to perform as if he/she

were an intern, on the busy Trident Hospital Family Medicine service.

### *Elective Courses*

Dr. William Hueston directs a Medical Delivery Systems elective for 4th year medical students. This seminar series ran from August through March to address topics such as insurance and payment systems for health care, the health care workforce, components of the American medical system, quality of care, and some aspects of personal and professional financial management for physicians. Thirty-one students participated in the elective during the 2005-6 academic year.

Dr. Dana King teaches a popular 4th year elective entitled "Clinical Medicine, Spirituality and Health." The elective offers clinical spiritual history-taking experience, in-hospital rounding with chaplains, and relevant readings in spirituality and health.

Dr. Peter Carek offers a one-month elective in Sports Medicine for 4th year medical students. Students often seek out this elective not only to develop assessment and management skills in this area, but also to consider a career track that includes a Sports Medicine focus.

Dr. Todd Detar instituted a new course, called The Healer's Art. This course is modeled on Rachel Remen's internationally acclaimed course and is based on a discovery model which draws on tested approaches from humanistic psychology, formational theory, and cognitive and Jungian psychology. Eight 2nd year students participated in a series of reflective exercises and group experiences to help prevent the hidden crisis in medicine, the growing loss of meaning and commitment experienced by physicians under the stresses of today's healthcare system. Students delve into their desire to be true healers.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

### *The Charleston Interfaith Crisis Ministries Clinic*

Dr. William Simpson became the Medical Advisor for the student-run clinic at the Crisis Ministry in 2005. Faculty members Drs. Robert Mallin, William Simpson, and David Garr and several family medicine resident physicians served as preceptors at the clinic during  
[See, Other Activities, Page 12](#)

# RESEARCH SECTION

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The Department and its Research Section continue to focus on showcasing scholarly activity and research to improve the national reputation and recognition of the Department and Section as leaders in family medicine research. The 2005-2006 academic year has been one in which the Section has sustained the momentum in scholarly productivity that had been evident for the past several years. We added two new faculty members to the Section: Heather Liszka, MD, MS and Ruth Jenkins, PhD. Dr. Liszka recently completed her faculty development fellowship at MUSC including a Masters of Clinical Research. Dr. Jenkins has worked with our community-based research network, the Practice Partner Research Network or PPRNet, for over a decade as a staff analyst and then received a PhD in Bioinformatics from the MUSC Department of Biometry, Bioinformatics and Epidemiology in 2006. These two new faculty members will help us keep the machine moving forward and hopefully to reach new and greater levels of success.

## PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

The Research Section had an impressive year in disseminating their research at major family medicine professional meetings and in the literature. The Section was very active and received acknowledgment from their peers for producing quality research.

The Research Section continued its outstanding representation at the 2005 North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) annual meeting in Quebec City. The MUSC Department of Family Medicine had 13 oral presentations of original research. These presentations were authored or co-authored by 18 different members of the Department. Presentations were given by Department faculty as well as by our faculty development fellows and MUSC students who worked with mentors in our Department.

The Section faculty members are not only active in conducting and presenting primary care research, but are also participants in the planning processes and leadership roles associated with these national meetings. Dr. Arch Mainous, Director of Research, continued his role as Chair of the Program Committee and Dr. Dana King continued participation as a member of the Program Committee for NAPCRG. Dr. Vanessa Diaz continued as a member of the Communications Committee for NAPCRG.

The Research Section also was well represented at the 2006 annual meeting of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) in San Francisco, California. Five Section members presented oral research papers on a diverse list of topics that included insulin resistance, antibiotic use and hospitalizations, prehypertension, and undiagnosed diabetes. It is important to note that STFM is competitive in their selection of papers for original research podium presentations. Only 40 papers are selected each year and for the third consecutive year MUSC's Department of Family Medicine accounted for more than 10% of all the original research podium presentations at this national meeting that has 1,000 attendees. Further, Dr. Steve Ornstein was selected for Honorable Mention for the Best Research Paper published by an STFM member. Lastly, Dr. Richelle Koopman continued her work on the Research Committee for STFM.

The Section was not only visible at the national meetings, but also internationally. Dr. Arch Mainous gave two presentations on diabetes among minorities in the United States and England at the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Academic Primary Care in Newcastle, Scotland. One of the presentations was awarded the Best Poster prize.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Department faculty members were again extremely productive in publishing their work during the 2005-2006 academic year. The faculty authored 53 peer reviewed publications, 1 book, and 2 book reviews.

## GRANT FUNDING

The Section has been very successful in continuing its goal to advance in our ranking of NIH funding for family medicine departments. Dr. Steve Ornstein was awarded a grant for \$2,460,519 from the National Cancer Institute/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to examine quality improvement initiatives to improve cancer screening. Dr. Arch Mainous was awarded a two-year grant from the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation of South Carolina to develop, implement and evaluate an intervention to change the practice of Latinos in terms of acquiring antibiotics without a prescription and self-medicating respiratory infections.

These new grants add to several ongoing grants in the Department including one directed by Dr. Dana King from the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute which is in its third year of funding to study the relationship between a high fiber diet and C-reactive protein. Dr. Vanessa Diaz is continuing work on a grant from the Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to evaluate the relationship of BMI, dietary factors and physical activity to cardiovascular fitness and cardiovascular risk in African-Americans, Latinos and Caucasians using primary data collection. Dr. Steve Ornstein continues his grant on accelerating the translation of research into practice in work funded through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. In addition, the department concluded work on a three-year Academic Administrative Units grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration and has received continued funding for the faculty development fellowship grant which funds three new fellows per year.

In addition to grants on which Section members are principal investigators, Research Section members have shown themselves to be good collaborators with other investigators across campus. Research Section members are co-investigators on grants from the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (with Dr. David Bradford from the College of Health Professions), National Institute on Aging (with Dr. Tilley from Biometry and Epidemiology), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (with Dr. Peter Miller from Psychiatry), as well as grants from Health Resources and Services Administration and the Duke Endowment (with the College of Nursing).

## RESEARCH WITH THE COMMUNITY:

### *Improving Antibiotic Use among South Carolina's Latino Population*

A recent study by investigators in the MUSC Department of Family Medicine showed that among individuals in the Latino community in South Carolina 16% report importation of antibiotics obtained without a prescription and 19% report acquisition of nonprescribed antibiotics in the US. The study also notes that people in the Latino community believe that antibiotics should be available without a prescription. Many respondents in the survey suggested self-medicating with antibiotics was preferable to going to the doctor.

This behavior might have unfortunate consequences, though, since overuse of antibiotics is linked to drug resistance. In an effort to combat the health problem of rising antibiotic resistance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the federal government's Interagency Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance have focused on how to improve antibiotic prescribing in the United States. Interventions developed by the CDC have been successful in educating the general public and changing physician prescribing behavior.

However, the Latino community, and particularly recent immigrants may present unique challenges for controlling antibiotic resistance. Recent studies by investigators both here and at other institutions indicate that immigrants from Latin America commonly self-medicate common respiratory illnesses like colds and coughs with antibiotics that they obtained outside the US without a prescription and brought with them to our country or have acquired them here through informal networks. In response to this important public health issue, Dr. Arch Mainous has received a grant from the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation of South Carolina to develop, implement and evaluate a culturally sensitive educational intervention to improve the use of antibiotics for respiratory infections in the Latino community.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is very interested in this topic and is partnering with Dr. Mainous and Dr. Vanessa Diaz in the design of the interventions. Once the investigators have conducted focus groups with members of the Latino community to better understand the attitudes and behaviors toward use of antibiotics, a multifactorial intervention will be implemented focusing on three different points of dissemination. The project will utilize community dissemination of information and community opinion leaders, the Spanish language media, and physician offices with large Latino patient populations.

# AGROMEDICINE PROGRAM

The South Carolina Agromedicine Program (SCAP), now in its twenty-second year of operation, is a combined program of Clemson University and MUSC, housed in the Department of Family Medicine of the Medical University of South Carolina, funded through Clemson's public service activity. Founded by Dr. Stan Schuman of our department and Dr. Jere A. Brittain of Clemson in 1984, SCAP was the first combined effort of a land grant university and an academic medical center. The two state universities had routinely cooperated on farm health matters for a long time, but not through any formal association. The original stated purpose of the activity was "to promote more efficient, safer and healthier agricultural techniques for crop production."

Over the years, that original purpose has been maintained, but additional roles have been undertaken in the areas of education of consumers and medical professionals and research. A series of educational brochures has been produced and continuously updated, originally distributed through the statewide Clemson Extension Service offices and now available on the web. Some of the topics covered: "Handling Tick Bites," "Health Effects of Red Imported Fire Ants," "Preventing Skin Cancer," and "Health Tips for Older Farmers." Continuing education booklets for physicians have been developed in five areas including "Tick-Borne Diseases," "Pesticide Toxicity," and "The Quality of the American Food Supply."

Research by the Program staff has focused on pesticide related illness (a series of articles describing 25 years of data on hospitalizations in South Carolina due to pesticide poisoning) and insect-related morbidity and mortality (including surveys of primary care practitioner experience with tick and spider bites, pest control operator experience with fire ants inside structures, and delay in referral to allergists for systemic insect allergy). More than 100 articles have been published by program staff on topics related to agromedicine, numerous book chapters and four books, including two editions of AG-MED: The Rural Practitioner's Guide to Agromedicine (funded by the Office of Rural Health Policy, HRSA, in cooperation with the National Rural Health Association).

During the past year, the program's Medical Director, Dr. Bill Simpson has answered more than 200 consultations from individuals, community

practitioners, agricultural professionals and Cooperative Extension Service staff on topics ranging from insect bites and stings to human health effects of mold/mildew. Total consultations to the Program now number over 3000. In addition, Dr. Simpson has made more than 50 presentations to groups around the state including county farm bureau meetings, beekeepers, cattlemen, and other lay, agricultural and medical audiences.

Dr. Ivar Frithsen, a graduate of the MUSC residency in family medicine, has stayed on as a fellow in the Family Medicine Faculty Development Fellowship. His primary area of research is in agromedicine, specifically mercury in the food supply. We anticipate that he will join the Agromedicine Program as Associate Medical Director on completion of his fellowship.

## DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE COMMUNITY SERVICE

In the third year of tracking faculty participation in community service twenty faculty members volunteered over 1000 hours in the community.

The greatest number of hours (nearly 300) was donated by faculty serving as supervisors for students in free clinics in the area (primarily the CARES Clinic at East Cooper Community Outreach and the Crisis Ministries Clinic downtown). One faculty member spent 170 hours volunteering at the SC Aquarium. Three mission trips, one within the United States (New Orleans) and two to foreign areas of need (Equador and Mexico) accounted for over 200 hours of service. More than 30 presentations were made to community organizations, 25 hours were spent providing cancer screenings in the community, one faculty member provided more than 20 hours of health content for a Spanish-language radio station and another more than 30 hours helping to build handicapped access ramps for needy individuals.

In all, more than 40 groups received volunteer services provided by our faculty members. The Department is proud to continue to "give back" to the community in these and many other ways.

# SPOTLIGHTS

*This section highlights leadership positions, national presentations, and other accomplishments by our faculty and alumni over the past year:*

## Awards and honors

**Bert Keller, DDiv**, was selected to receive the MUSC Health Science Foundation Community Service Award for 2005. The award was presented at the MUSC Fall Convocation in August, 2005.

**Wanda Gonsalves, MD**, was selected to receive the University of Kentucky Community Service Award. Before coming to MUSC in 2003, Dr. Gonsalves was instrumental in establishing the medical student-run free clinic in Lexington. The Award was presented at the UK Homecoming in October, 2005.

**Kelly Ragucci, PharmD**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Family Medicine, has been elected to be a Fellow in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Kelly was installed as a fellow during the ACCP Annual Meeting in October, 2005.

**Robert Mallin, MD**, received the Golden Oyster Award from the graduating residents on 2005.

## Leadership positions

**Terry Steyer, MD**, Assistant Professor, continues as Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and as a board member on the Board of Directors of STFM.

**Peter Carek, MD**, Professor and Residency Director, serves as member at large to the Board of Directors of the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors. Dr. Carek also is the AFMRD liaison to the Board of Directors of the North American Primary Care Research Group.

**Peter Carek, MD**, serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Annals of Family Medicine journal.

**Bill Hueston, MD**, Professor and Department Chair, was installed as the President of the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians at the SCAFP Annual Meeting in November, 2005.

**Bill Hueston, MD**, was appointed to the state Medicaid Advisory Board in May, 2006.

**Alec Chessman, MD**, has been appointed to the editorial board of MedEdPORTAL, the web-based and peer-reviewed site for medical educational material sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Dr. Chessman represents the undergraduate medical student education section of the AAMC on the MedEdPORTAL board. Dr. Chessman also was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Family Medicine Digital Resources Library (FMDRL). Funded by a grant from the National Library of Medicine, the FMDRL project strives to meet the needs of family medicine educators, with this web-based and peer-reviewed database of educational material.

**Dana King, MD**, was appointed Editor of the International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine. His term began December 1, 2005

**Arch Mainous, PhD**, continued to serve as Chair of the Program Committee for the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) and sits on the Board of Directors.

**Wanda Gonsalves, MD**, serves as the medical director for the CARES Clinic which is the student-run free medical clinic that opened in September, 2005, in the East Cooper Community Outreach Building in Mount Pleasant. The CARES Clinic operates in the new University Family Medicine-East Cooper office opened by the Department in August, 2005.

## Committee Participation

**Wanda Gonsalves, MD**, serves on the South Carolina Oral Health Advisory Board. Dr. Gonsalves also sits on the board of directors for the Nicholas Pisacano Scholarship Foundation which awards medical school scholarships to students demonstrating excellent leadership and academic skills and who aspire to enter family medicine.

**Bob Mallin, MD**, serves on the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners Disciplinary Committee. Dr. Mallin continues to serve on the Step I Committee for the National Board of Medical Examiners this year.

**Dana King, MD**, is a member of the North American Primary Care Research Group Program Committee.

**Richelle Koopman, MD**, is a member of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Research Committee.

**Barry Hainer, MD**, served as co-chair of the American Academy of Family Physicians Skin Problems and Disease Conference.

**Vanessa Diaz, MD**, is on the Communication Committee of the North American Primary Care Research Group. Dr. Diaz also serves on the Board of Directors of the Charleston County Pregnancy Prevention Council.

## Promotions

**A. Kesh Hebbar, MD**, was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor this past year.

**Sara Young, MD**, completed her course work for the Masters of Clinical Research degree at MUSC and completed the faculty development fellowship. Dr. Young and her husband have moved to Augusta where she has joined the Department of Family Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia.

## NEW FACULTY

### FRED MICHAEL

Dr. Michael grew up on a farm in Indiana, but always knew he was a southerner at heart. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and then attended medical school in the Hoosier state. He stayed on to complete a general surgery internship at Indiana University. He and his wife Maggie moved to South Carolina in 1993, where he practiced emergency medicine for three years prior to entering the MUSC Family Medicine Residency. He served as co-chief resident in 1998-99 and then opened a solo medical practice in Mt. Pleasant, SC. The electronic health record experience gained in residency allowed him to develop a streamlined office automation system, and he served as a clinical consultant for a medical computing firm. He is immediate past chairman of the East Cooper Regional Medical Center Department of Family Medicine. He remained in private practice until joining the MUSC faculty this year. His professional interests include: the use of technology in family medicine, development of a uniform inpatient care curriculum, the doctor-patient relationship, and examining the role of the family physician in the twenty-first century. He has served as a volunteer with East Cooper Habitat for Humanity and the Christian Medical Clinic. He and



his wife have three young children. Personal interests include carpentry and woodworking, sailing and guitar.

### RUTH G JENKINS

Dr. Jenkins received her BS in Biology from Georgia Southern and MS in Biometry, with emphasis in Biostatistics, from MUSC. She taught Math and Computer Science at the College of Charleston and the Citadel before joining the Family Medicine Department in 1987 as a Programmer/Research Analyst. She completed her PhD in 2005 in the Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Epidemiology with emphasis in Medical Informatics and joined the faculty in 2006. She was instrumental in the selection and conversion of the department's EMR system in 1991, directing its operation for several years. She helped create and develop the Practice Partner Research Network in 1995, currently serving as its data/information manager. She is an advocate of electronic medical records, practice-based research networks, evidence-based medicine, quality improvement in health care, the use of information systems as tools in medical practice, and technology innovation research in medicine. She and her husband have three children.



### Other Activities continued from page 9

the past academic year. The students appreciate the teaching and support provided by the Department, and the FM residents have enjoyed the teaching role greatly.

### Student Development and Diversity Program (SDDP)

Dr. David Garr, in his role as Executive Director of the SC AHEC, has helped to oversee the Student Development and Diversity Program (SDDP). The SDDP seeks to attract and support high school and college students' interest in careers in the health professions. A number of the students who have participated in this program over the years have graduated from the College of Medicine at MUSC.

### Student Research

Four medical students worked with Dr. Steve Ornstein this summer. Ileana Strauch, Elizabeth Gruenberger, Kelley Montoya, and Angela Rank worked on the Accelerating - Translating Research Into Practice (A-TRIP) project. Angela Rank will continue part-time to participate in research during the school year.

Working with Dr. Vanessa Diaz last summer, Brian Boland, a third year medical student, interviewed health care providers in the Low Country who care for Latino patients who have diabetes. His interviews are being used to develop a manuscript describing providers' difficulties and successes while caring for these patients.

# RECENT AND CURRENT GRANT FUNDING

## DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE

### Peter J. Carek, MD

1 D58HP03371-02  
7/1/04-6/30/07  
\$504,471  
Residency Training in Primary Care  
Health Resources and Services  
Administration

### Alec Chessman, MD

1 D56 HP03357-02  
7/1/04-6/30/07  
\$539,897  
Predoctoral Training in Primary Care  
Health Resources and Services  
Administration

### Vanessa Diaz, MD

1/1/05-12/31/08  
\$365,400  
Amos Medical Faculty Development  
Program  
Robert Wood Johnson

1 P30 AG021677  
9/30/02—9/29/07 (PI: Tilley)  
\$395,867  
SC Cooperative for Healthy Aging in  
Minority Populations  
Resource Center for Minority Aging  
Research (SC CHAMP/RCMAR)  
NIH-NIA

8/1/2006-7/31/2011(PI: Tilley)  
\$218,237  
Parkinson's Disease Clinical Trial:  
Statistical Center  
National Institute of Neurological  
Disorders and Stroke

### John Freedy, MD

7/1/2005—6/30/2006  
\$15,700  
PTSD Screening Test Characteristics  
within a Primary Care Setting  
University Research Committee

### William J. Hueston, MD

2 D12 HP 00023-04  
9/1/03—8/31/06  
\$730,963  
Health Resources and Services  
Administration  
Academic Administrative Units in  
Primary Care

### Dana E. King, MD

1 R01 HL076271-01  
7/1/04—6/30/07  
\$926,556  
Dietary Fiber and Cardiovascular  
Inflammatory Markers  
NHLBI

1/1/04—12/31/05  
\$114,305  
Effect of Beta Blocker Treatment with  
Toprol-XL to Reduce C Reactive Protein  
Levels in High-Risk Patients with  
Hypertension, Diabetes, and/or Heart  
Failure  
Astra-Zeneca

### Richelle J. Koopman, MD

1 R21 DK067130  
10/1/04—9/30/05  
\$292,000  
Undiagnosed Diabetes: Predictors and  
Comorbidities  
NIDDK

5P60MD000267  
6/1/06—9/1/07 (PI:Slaughter)  
Excellence in Partnerships for Outreach,  
Research and Training (EXPORT)  
NCMHD

### Heather A. Liszka, MD

4/1/06—3/31/07  
\$15,920  
Restructuring Prenatal Care for Teens  
(RESPECT)  
March of Dimes Project Grant

### Arch G. Mainous, III, PhD

1R21DK66066-01A1  
7/1/04—6/30/06  
\$200,000  
Racial Disparities in Diabetes in the US  
and the UK  
NIDDK

1 D55HP05150-01  
7/1/05-6/30/08  
\$1,303,103  
Family Medicine Faculty Development  
Fellowship  
Health Resources and Services  
Administration

1 P30 AG021677  
9/30/02—9/29/07 (PI: Tilley)  
\$395,867  
SC Cooperative for Healthy Aging in  
Minority Populations  
Resource Center for Minority Aging  
Research (SC CHAMP/RCMAR)  
NIH-NIA

8/1/2006-7/31/2011(PI: Tilley)  
\$218,237  
Parkinson's Disease Clinical Trial:  
Statistical Center  
National Institute of Neurological  
Disorders and Stroke

7/1/06-6/30/08  
\$199,275  
Solo con Receta (only with Prescription)  
BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina

### Steve Ornstein, MD

HS 013716  
9/30/02—9/30/06  
\$396,613  
Accelerating TRIP in a Practice Based  
Research Network  
AHRQ

PAS-99-165 Miller (PI)  
7/1/04—6/30/06  
1,000,855  
Facilitating Alcohol Screening of  
Hypertensive Patients  
NIAAA

1 R01 CA 112389  
6/1/06—4/30/10  
\$2,460,519  
NCI  
Colorectal Cancer Screening in Primary  
Care Practice

1R01HL077841 (Bradford) PI  
7/1/04-5/31/2007  
\$551,602  
NHLBI  
DTC Advertising Effect on Adherence to  
Statin Therapy

### Terrence Steyer, MD

1R01HL077841 (Bradford) PI  
7/1/04-5/31/2007  
\$551,602  
NHLBI  
DTC Advertising Effect on Adherence to  
Statin Therapy

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