Congratulations and Best Wishes to Dr. Bryan Toole, who has been appointed to serve as Interim Chair for the Dept of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dr. Toole's new role was effective January 26, 2012.

President's Day Holiday
President's Day is an official state holiday and will be observed on Monday, February 20, 2012. All employees who occupy FTE or research grant positions, regardless of their regular schedules, are entitled to this holiday. Should scheduling problems exist requiring that employees work, compensatory time can be granted (Please refer to Policy No. 23).

University Mail Services will be closed, but the Office of Parking Management and University Transportation Services will operate all parking facilities and bus service as usual. All employees should park in their normal parking locations on February 20. Public parking locations serving patients and visitors will operate as usual.

The Office of Parking Management reminds employees that parking in a patient/visitor parking lot or garage is restricted to patients and visitors. Employees may use these facilities only when at MUSC as patients themselves or with pre-authorization by Parking Management. Any employee in violation of this policy is at risk of receiving a parking citation, and payment of hourly parking fees will be required upon exiting the parking lot.

Employee Wellness Events
- “Pitch The Pack” Smoking Cessation Clinics – Monthly three-session cessation clinics facilitated by physicians, psychologists and trained staff free of charge for MUSC employees, students and family members. The next clinic begins at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 13 in Room 102, Colbert Education Center & Library. Visit http://mcintranet.musc.edu/health1st and click on “Smoking Cessation Enrollment Form” to register or email musc-empwell@musc.edu for information.
- Worksite screening: Feb. 3 in ART Atrium as part of Go Red Day. This screening, valued at about $350, is available to employees with the State Health Plan for $15 (covered spouses can also participate for $15). Employees and spouses without this insurance can participate for $42. The screening includes height, weight, blood pressure and a blood draw for a blood chemistry profile, hemogram, and a blood lipid profile. To register, go to http://www.musc.edu/medcenter/health1st and click worksite screening.

Faculty Meeting
The next faculty meeting on March 7 will include Dr. Etta Pisano, Dean College of Medicine. Conference Room BSB611, Noon.

Website Update
Please make sure everything is correct and updated on your faculty page at: http://regmed.musc.edu/Faculty/FacultyList.htm. If things such as office/lab room numbers, office/lab phone numbers, or recent publications need to be updated or changed, send an email to preacher@musc.edu or trusk@musc.edu. Thanks.

Ernest Just Scientific Symposium
The Just Symposium will be held February 24 in the James E. Clyburn Research Center Auditorium. Registration opens at 8am and the program runs from 9am - 4pm. For more information, talk to Dr. Titus Reaves, or visit the Just Symposium website.
Welcome New Faculty

In January 2012, Dr. Ying Mei joined the faculty of the Clemson-MUSC Bioengineering Program in Charleston as an assistant professor. His primary research focus areas are regenerative medicine, biomaterials, and stem cell engineering. Prior to coming to Charleston, Dr. Mei was a research associate at MIT where he worked in Dr. Robert Langer’s Laboratory on combinatorial materials for self-renewal of human pluripotent stem cells. He received his PhD in materials chemistry in 2003 from the Polytechnic University. Dr. Mei’s office is BE 308 and his laboratory is BE 331 in the Bioengineering Building. He has a wife and two small children currently reside in Mount Pleasant.

Education

COM Faculty Excellence

Each month, the students of the College of Medicine like to honor the professors, residents, and physicians who they feel have been exceptional with a Teacher of the Month award, recognizing outstanding teaching efforts and appreciation of excellence in fostering medical student education. The awardees for the month of January are all teachers in the human gross anatomy component of the first-year medical curriculum: Thierry Bacro, David Bernanke, Michael Caplan, and Debra Hazen-Martin.

CASE News

On Thursday Jan 5th, the CASE provided a specimen to support a workshop sponsored by ConforMIS and organized by Dr Calandra, from the MUSC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. ConforMIS, Inc. is a privately held medical device company based in Massachusetts. It was founded in 2004 to provide advancements in patient care by utilizing imaging technology to create personalized, patient-specific implants and instrumentation. ConforMIS transforms traditional CT data into patient-specific implants and instrumentation employing two related ‘image-to-implant’ technology platforms:

- **iFit technology** converts CT data into implants that are precisely sized and shaped to conform to the unique 3D topography of an individual joint.
- **iJig instrumentation** utilizes the same data to create cutting and placement guides that eliminate the need for manual sizing, reduce surgical time and trauma, and improve reproducibility.

On Thursday Feb 2nd, Thierry Bacro, Director of the CASE, met with Gary Hyman, Executive Director of the Hawkins Foundation in Greenville, SC, to visit the Hawkins Clinic of the Carolina on the Patwood Memorial Campus of Greenville Hospital System Medical University Center. The Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas provides advanced treatment options for orthopaedic injuries and disorders. Patients from all walks of life are treated there, from recreational to elite athletes. The physician, surgeon, therapist, and patient work together as a team in the same facility. The 4th floor of the building (27,000 sq ft) is dedicated to hosting the new research laboratories of the Clemson Bioengineering Dept as well as research space for collaborations and partnerships with private corporations.

A Surgical Training and Innovation Center (5,000 sq.ft) is located on the 4th floor of the building. The state-of-the-art bioskills surgical training and innovation center provides surgeons with the opportunity to conduct research, test new products and procedures, and test hypotheses for research purposes. Surgical technicians, nurses and other medical professionals also have access to the facility for training and to ensure that they are informed about the latest practices and surgical equipment. The center is designed to accommodate up to 30 participants via 10 surgical stations and has conferencing areas for associated didactic sessions and complete changing room/shower facilities.
Welcome New Students
Rachel Ekdahl is a junior in the Honors College at the College of Charleston and has recently joined Dr. Christi Kern’s lab for her independent study this semester. During this study, she will look at TGFβ signaling in cardiac valve formation to investigate a novel etiology of bicuspid aortic valve disease. She is currently working on molecular biology and studio art majors with the hopes of continuing on to Medical School. Rachel also serves College of Charleston campus EMS and volunteers regularly at the MUSC Children’s Hospital’s Atrium and Special Care Units.

Research

Research Awards to Department Members
97 total abstracts were presented at the 6th Annual Department of Medicine Research Day held on January 19, 2012 in the Harper Student Center Gymnasium. Two posters presented by department members won awards in the 6 available categories:

**Basic Science Junior Faculty Category** - “Remodeling of the Peripheral Cardiac Conduction System in Response to Pressure-Overload” by Brett S. Harris, Catalin F. Baicu, Nicole Haghshenas, Harinath Kasiganesan, Mary S. Rackley, Rupak Mukherjee, and Terrence X. O’Brien

**Medical Student Category** - “The Role of Tissue Trans-glutaminase 2 in the modulation of polymorphonuclear Leukocyte Function” by David P. Lebel, Meghan K. Anderson, and Titus A. Reaves

A $1,000 travel award was presented to the best poster in each category.

New Grant Awards
PI – Bryan P. Toole (Department of Defense) “Inhibition of Ovarian Cancer Chemoresistance and Metastasis with Antagonists of Hyaluronan-CD44-CD147 Interactions”

Recent Publications


Ongstad EL, Gourdie RG. *Myocyte-fibroblast electrical coupling - the basis of a stable relationship?* **Cardiovascular Research** 2012 93(2):215-217. PMID: 22166713


MUSC CELEBRATES HEART AWARENESS

February is American Heart Month, and MUSC is working hard to get the word out about heart disease and prevention. Heart disease kills an estimated 630,000 Americans each year and is the leading cause of death for both men and women.

In the United States, the most common type of heart disease is coronary artery disease, which can lead to a heart attack. But heart disease is preventable in many cases. You can greatly reduce your risk through lifestyle changes and, in some cases, medication. Controlling and preventing risk factors is also important for people who already have heart disease.

Start Heart Month off right – take MUSC’s free Heart Aware Online Risk Assessment. This is a free, confidential tool to evaluate your risk of cardiovascular disease, including congestive heart disease; it will only take 10 minutes.

In addition, join MUSC this month at these fun events in February:

2nd Annual Go Red! Heart 5k Run & Walk - Saturday, Feb. 11 at 9 am
Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina Pavilion, Mt. Pleasant
Visit MUSChealth.com/goredrun to register. Proceeds from this certified 5k run / walk benefit the MUSC Women’s Heart Program and the American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women campaign

Paws Go Red - Sunday, Feb. 26, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Visit pethelpers.org for more information. MUSC, The American Heart Association, and Pet Helpers team up at the James Island County Park for human and canine health, featuring health screenings for dogs and owners, pet and owner photo sessions, dog walk, a Go Red dog costume competition, and more.

Stingrays “Go Red” Hockey Game - Sunday, Feb. 26, 4 pm

Have content for the Newsletter? Send information to brownjoa@musc.edu