

RMC affiliation with MUSC Health positively impacting area patients



In January 2015, Regional Medical Center (RMC) President & CEO Thomas Dandridge and MUSC Health CEO Patrick Cawley, MD, announced a clinical affiliation between the two organizations. While RMC and area physicians have enjoyed a great working relationship with MUSC Health for years, the affiliation formalized the relationship.

The collaboration further strengthens RMC's comprehensive portfolio of primary, specialty and subspecialty healthcare services provided in Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg counties and surrounding areas. RMC physicians have access to the latest advances in medicine, an additional 700 specialists and groundbreaking

research and technology at the Medical University of South Carolina that is often the first of its kind in the world. Patients and families can now benefit by having convenient access to advanced care near their homes, saving cost, travel time and missed work.

On April 6, 2015, the community, along with area legislators and dignitaries, celebrated the partnership at RMC. Dandridge and Cawley gave remarks about the RMC-MUSC affiliation. Then, RMC and MUSC Health clinical staff discussed patient impact and the added value of access to MUSC Health subspecialist expertise via the telestroke network with a telehealth demonstration. After the presentation, a reception was held on the patio.



Daniel Avosso, MD, RMC emergency department medical director, explains how telehealth brings greater access to advanced medical services.



Community leaders, board members, area providers and RMC medical staff discuss the RMC-MUSC Health affiliation at a reception following the program.

AFFILIATION TIMELINE

JANUARY 2015

Affiliation between RMC and MUSC Health announced

FEBRUARY 2015

Advanced stroke care enhanced through telestroke

APRIL 2015

Community event celebrates affiliation

AUGUST 2015

MUSC Radiation Oncologist (Goetowski) joins Mabry Center for Cancer Care

OCTOBER 2015

MUSC agrees to manage RMC Behavioral Health Center

Joint infectious disease preparedness and response drill held

NOVEMBER 2015

Community event celebrates Behavioral Health affiliation

JANUARY 2016

RMC Cardiologists receive MUSC adjunct faculty appointments

RMC enjoys a very active and engaged community

Patients and families, businesses, governmental officials and the public at large have always been actively involved with RMC, providing valuable input and support.

SC Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter emphasized how the partnership will make sure that patients in Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg and surrounding counties will always be able to access affordable healthcare.



Advanced telestroke intervention is saving lives



Sherry Davis, RN, BSN speaks to stroke prevention seminar attendees.

When a stroke patient comes to the Regional Medical Center Emergency Department, they need immediate care. The telestroke program provides instant access to MUSC Health's stroke care experts 24 hours a day. MUSC neurologists remotely provide urgent consultations after virtually examining patients and brain imaging studies through a specialized computer connection.

Orangeburg, Calhoun and Bamberg area residents are fortunate that RMC has a primary stroke center. Affiliating with MUSC Health, the only Comprehensive Stroke Center

in the state, strengthens an already strong program.

In May and November 2015, RMC offered two free seminars on "Lowering Your Risk for Stroke." RMC Stroke Program and Telehealth Coordinator Sherry Davis, RN, BSN taught attendees the risk factors, the signs and symptoms of a stroke, and the importance of recognizing the symptoms of a stroke early. MUSC Neurologist Christine Holmstedt, MD provided a demonstration via computer of the MUSC telestroke program.

The number of tPA treatments for stroke patients at RMC has tripled due to the telestroke program – saving lives and reducing the effects of stroke.

RMC Mabry Center for Cancer Care adds cancer services



MUSC Faculty Member Paul Goetowski, MD joined the Mabry Center for Cancer Care as medical director of radiation oncology, providing radiation oncology professional services exclusively to the RMC patient community and growing RMC's cancer care services.

“The main goal of the affiliation with MUSC Health is to help patients stay at RMC to receive collaborative advanced cancer care with the support of one of the nation's leading cancer centers – MUSC Hollings Cancer Center.”



“Please know the signs and symptoms. I luckily knew the signs – and so did my daughter – and was able to get to RMC to get the drug tPA. I am living proof it works.”

- Tracy Plush, Stroke Patient

How to travel 161 miles in only six minutes



MUSC Health Neurologist and Telestroke Program Director Christine Holmstedt, MD was sitting in the parking lot of the Regional Medical Center, where she was about to enter the hospital to conduct telestroke training. Ironically, she responded to a consult for a stroke patient coming into Palmetto Health Tuomey in Sumter. The patient was admitted to the hospital and within six minutes was being evaluated remotely by Dr. Holmstedt, rather than being transported 161 miles to Charleston.

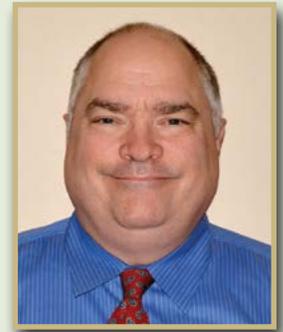
RMC Behavioral Health offers expanded services to area patients suffering from mental disorders

The Regional Medical Center contracted with MUSC Health to provide a medical director and physician staff to the RMC Behavioral Health Center, a 15-bed, inpatient psychiatric care unit serving adults who require a short inpatient stay.

Treatment is available for a variety of conditions including depression, psychosis, bipolar disorder and extreme anxiety. Services include: psychiatric consultation, individualized treatment planning, individual and group therapy, occupational therapy, nutritional therapy, medical management, and aftercare planning and follow-up.

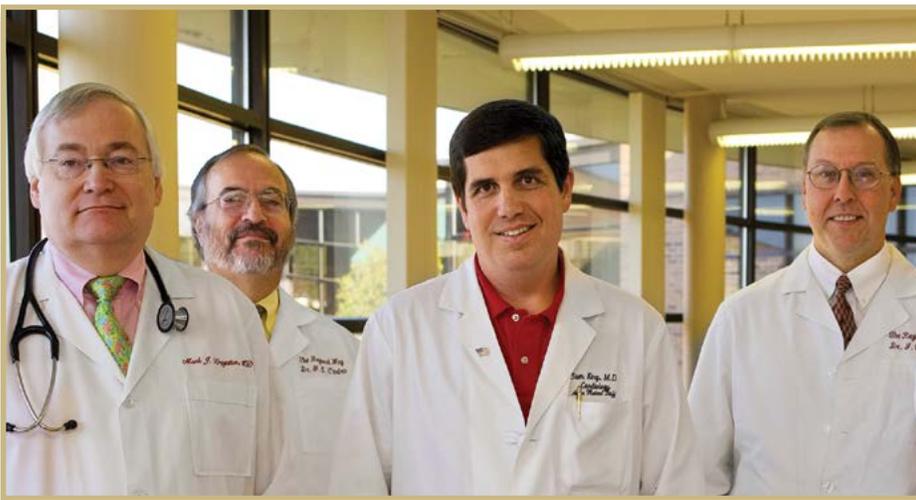
RMC Behavioral Health Center Program Director Richard Bjarnesen, RN, BSN has developed a mobile assessment team, which can complete psychological evaluations off site, including the patient's home, if needed. "This is our way of helping integrate behavioral health into the primary care practices as well as increasing the patient's access to these services," said Bjarnesen.

The Behavioral Health Center celebrated its affiliation with MUSC and the recent renovations to the facility at a community event held in November.



Richard Bjarnesen, RN, BSN
Behavioral Health Center
Program Director

RMC Cardiologists receive faculty appointments at MUSC



From left to right: Mark Krzyston, MD, FACC; George Castro, MD, FACC; Samuel King, MD; and John Hutto, MD, FACP, FACC

The Regional Medical Center's four cardiologists have obtained adjunct faculty appointments with the Medical University of South Carolina. The ultimate goal of the cardiology affiliation is to enhance the cardiac care and treatment options available to patients from this region and help ensure that they receive the right care at the right time in the right place. RMC currently offers a variety of cardiac screenings and treatments, which includes regular and nuclear stress tests, echocardiograms, electrocardiograms, transesophageal echocardiograms, cardioversions, heart catheterizations, permanent pacemakers and defibrillator implants.



RMC joins with MUSC to practice managing a health disaster such as Ebola or Zika

The Regional Medical Center and MUSC Health participated in an infectious disease preparedness and response drill with a mock patient who came to the RMC emergency department with a suspected diagnosis of the Ebola disease. RMC Infectious Disease Specialist John Samies, MD, CWS, FSHEA and the MUSC Transport team worked together to arrange patient transport during the infectious disease preparedness drill.

**Stroke
is an Emergency.
Every Minute Counts
ACT F.A.S.T.!**

Stroke Symptoms:

Face Facial Droop
Uneven Smile

Arm Arm Numbness
Arm Weakness

Speech Slurred Speech
Difficulty speaking
or understanding

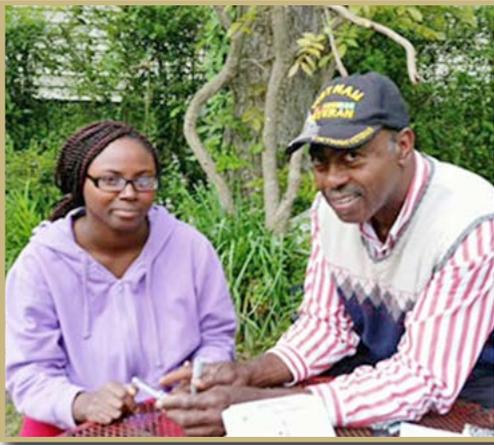
Time **Call 911** and
go to the hospital
immediately

To minimize damage to the brain, treatment **must** begin shortly after the onset of symptoms.

The Regional Medical Center
3000 St. Matthews Road
Orangeburg, SC 29118

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #535
COLUMBIA, SC

Rural residents with diabetes do significantly better with outreach support



Community Health Worker Horace Britton, right, works with Bamberg patient Krista Dickinson.

MUSC researchers are touting the preliminary results of the Bamberg Diabetes Transitional Care Study that hoped to overcome barriers to healthcare in rural areas. The study involved MUSC, the University of North Carolina and the Regional Medical Center. The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services was a major source of funding for the project.

Participants with uncontrolled diabetes received either calls from a local nurse interventionist or in-home visits from a local community health worker. Carolyn Jenkins, DrPH, a professor in the College of Nursing at MUSC, considers the study, which involved 48 participants, a success on many levels.

Participants' A1C levels, which show the average level of blood sugar over the previous three months and how well a person's diabetes is under control, were pulled from their medical records and compared with measurements taken during the study.

Preliminary results showed that with roughly half of the participants having a post-study A1C test, 58 percent of the participants in the community health worker group and 64 percent of the participants in the nurse group had improvements in their A1C over three months. Preliminary data also showed improvements in self-reported depression scores for the majority of participants.

“This study is so compelling because the interventionists partnered with these participants and their families to find individualized, practical solutions. These solutions were realistic, sustainable and achievable – that hopefully will last long after the study ends.”

– Dana Burshell, Study Coordinator at the Medical University of South Carolina

Coming soon to RMC

Tele-education: Physicians and nurses must continue their education in order to maintain their licenses to practice. MUSC will soon begin offering online continuing medical education (CME) courses for physicians and continuing education unit (CEU) courses for nurses and other providers. Now, doctors and others can keep up with the latest advances in healthcare without having to travel to a conference or college – and the courses are offered for free!