











MUSC
Medical University of South Carolina

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

2026 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 From the Chair
04 By the Numbers
05 Leadership
06 New Faculty & Promotions
07 Research Highlights
10 Education Highlights
12 Clinical Care Highlights
14 Division Highlights
26 Specialty Programs
30 Awards & Distinctions

14 Addiction Sciences
15 BioBehavioral Medicine
16 Brain Stimulation Laboratory
17 Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
18 Community & Public Safety Psychiatry
19 Global & Community Health
20 Military Sciences
21 National Crime Victims Research & Treatment
22 Psychiatry Hospitalists
23 Sleep, Mood, Anxiety Research & Treatment
24 Weight Management Center
25 Women's Reproductive Behavioral Health

MESSAGE
FROM THE CHAIR



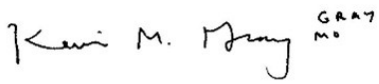
We are grateful to share this Annual Report, highlighting the remarkable work of the MUSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences during the 2025–2026 academic year (FY 2026). Our Department continues to grow while maintaining a foundational culture of collaboration across clinical services, research laboratories, and educational programs. Together, our faculty, staff, and trainees are advancing the Department's mission while making a meaningful difference for the people and communities we serve.

The breadth of our work is reflected in the many teams and programs that constitute the Department, all focused on optimizing, delivering, and disseminating the very best care for the people of South Carolina and beyond. Our impact extends from deep and sustained connections throughout our local and statewide communities to innovative advances yielding national and international influence.

FY 2026 was a year of substantial growth and impact. We welcomed 17 new faculty members, expanded our grant portfolio to $55 million in annual extramural support, and broadened access to clinical care across settings, with more than 107,000 outpatient visits and an expanded school-based behavioral health network reaching more than 150 schools statewide. Our researchers secured major new investments, including more than $11 million to establish the BRIGHT Center for trauma resilience, while the Department ranked 14th nationally in National Institutes of Health funding among psychiatry departments. Our training programs continue to distinguish themselves nationally, with our psychiatry residency ranking among the top 10% in the country, and our faculty serve in several prominent national leadership roles, reflecting the Department's growing stature and influence.

As you read this report, I hope you will see not only a snapshot of FY 2026, but also the energy, commitment, and sense of purpose that define the Department. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Chair and for the trust placed in me by our faculty, staff, trainees, alumni, and colleagues. I am equally grateful to everyone whose work contributes to the Department's continued success.

The future is bright. We are well positioned to lead rather than follow, and we do not take that opportunity for granted. With continued collaboration, innovation, and dedication to those we serve, I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the years ahead.



Kevin M. Gray, M.D.
Chair, Department of Psychiatry

FY 2026 BY THE NUMBERS

Our commitment to providing the highest level of compassionate patient care, best-in-class training for the next generation of leaders, and cutting-edge research are Changing What's Possible for our patients.

CLINICAL ACTIVITY

11,808 NEW PATIENTS

240,123 RVUs GENERATED

107,441 OUTPATIENT VISITS

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

42 NEW AWARDS

$55+ MILLION in research awards

67 PI's with Active Federal Awards and Clinical Research

FACULTY AND STAFF

171 FACULTY

209 STAFF

- **84** Research Staff
- **59** Management & Support Staff
- **30** Advanced Practice Providers
- **36** Independent Social Workers, Counselors, Therapists

TRAINEES

226 TRAINEES

- **70** Residents
- **15** Fellows
- **23** Post-Doctoral Scholars & Post-Doctoral Fellows
- **118** Students, Interns, & Volunteers

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES **LEADERSHIP**



Kevin M. Gray, M.D.
Chair, Department of Psychiatry



Alyssa Rheingold, Ph.D.
Vice Chair, Research and Research Administration



Edward Kantor, M.D.
Vice Chair, Education and Training Programs



Rebekah Shinta, MHA
Vice Chair, Finance and Business Administration



LalithKumar Solai, M.D.
Vice Chair, Clinical Operations
Chief, Mental Health Integrated Center of Clinical Excellence

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences would like to thank the many leaders and team, whose collective efforts have helped to complete this year's annual progress report. Additionally, we would like to thank those who are featured within these pages for their continued service to MUSC and contributions to this publication.

Editor, Creative and Production Manager: Lillian Chen
Photography: MUSC Photography Team
Graphic Design: Courtney Irvin, *Studio C*

Our people are at the heart of all we do to always put patients first. Pictured on the cover are some of our amazing faculty, staff and trainees.

DIVISIONAL **LEADERSHIP**

ADDICTION SCIENCES

Larissa Mooney, M.D., *Division Director*
Jacelyn Lane, *Division Administrator*

BIOBEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Jeffrey Borkhardt, Ph.D., *Division Director*
Michelle Forster, *Division Administrator*

BRAIN STIMULATION LAB

Mark George, M.D., *Division Director*
Michelle Forster, *Division Administrator*

CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

Alvin Lee Lewis, M.D., *Division Director*
Jen Allen, *Division Administrator*

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY PSYCHIATRY

Diana Mullis, M.D., *Division Director*
Molly Houghton, *Division Administrator*

GLOBAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH

Michael Sweat, Ph.D., *Division Director*
Molly Houghton, *Division Administrator*

MILITARY SCIENCES

Hugh Myrick, M.D., *Division Director*
Ryan Jackson, *Division Administrator*

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RESEARCH & TREATMENT CENTER

Dean Kilpatrick, Ph.D., *Division Director*
Alyssa Rheingold, Ph.D., *Associate Director*
Vicky Cornielson, *Division Administrator*

PSYCHIATRY HOSPITALIST

Edward Thomas Lewis, M.D., *Division Director*
Jen Allen, *Division Administrator*

SLEEP, MOOD, ANXIETY RESEARCH & TREATMENT

Thomas Uhde, M.D., *Division Director*
Holly Leslie, *Division Administrator*

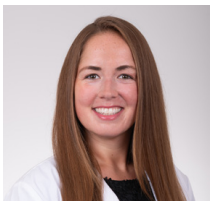
WEIGHT MANAGEMENT CENTER

Patrick O'Neil, Ph.D., *Division Director*
Molly Houghton, *Division Administrator*

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Constance Guille, M.D., *Division Director*
Michelle Forster, *Division Administrator*

NEW **FACULTY FY26**



Brooke Anderson, D.O.
Clinical Associate Professor, *Hospitalists*



Emily Bay, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor, *Hospitalists*



Mariel Bello, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, *Addiction Sciences*



Erin Ferguson, Ph.D., MPH
Clinical Assistant Professor, *Biobehavioral Medicine*



Alicia Gallo, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor, *Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*



Carlisle Hiott, M.D.
Assistant Professor, *Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*



Jessica Lyon, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor, *BSL, Hospitalists*



Erin Martin, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor, *Addiction Sciences*



Lindsay Meredith, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor, *Addiction Sciences*



Larissa Mooney, M.D.
Professor, *Addiction Sciences*



Jordan Organ, Psy.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor, *Forensics*



Jeffrey Pavlacic, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor, *SMART*



Kelly Rabenstein, Psy.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor, *Biobehavioral Medicine*



Andrea Rinn, D.O.
Clinical Associate Professor, *SMART*



Rachel Siciliano, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor, *NCVRTC*



Debra Wallace, LISW
Instructor, *Forensics*



Amelia Watson, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor, *Hospitalists*

PROMOTIONS



Christine Hahn, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, *NCVRTC*



Sarah B. Hales, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, *Weight Management Center*



Alvin Lee Lewis, M.D.
Professor, *Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*



Rosaura Orengo-Aguayo, Ph.D.
Professor, *NCVRTC*



Allison Smith, M.D.
Associate Professor, *Hospitalists*



Claire Smith, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor, *Women's RBH*



Regan W. Stewart, Ph.D.
Professor, *Mental Health Disparities*

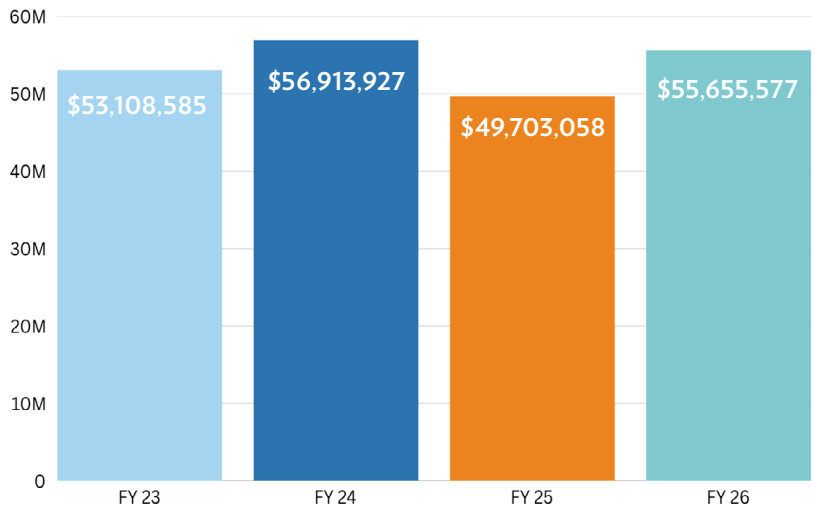
RESEARCH **HIGHLIGHTS**

The MUSC Department of Psychiatry, ranked 14th nationally in NIH research funding among psychiatry departments, is the largest research department in the College of Medicine. Through nationally recognized translational research conducted across its divisions, the Department advances scientific discovery and improves behavioral health outcomes locally, nationally, and globally. Its faculty are leaders in a wide range of research areas, including substance use, civilian and military trauma, mass violence, chronic pain, women's reproductive and behavioral health, tobacco control, anxiety, sleep, mood, and sensory processing disorders.

AT A GLANCE

FY26 RESEARCH FUNDING & ACTIVITY

FY 23-FY 26 AWARD FUNDING



$55,655,577
Total Award Funding

$15,206,716
New Award Funding

136
Total Awards

42
New Awards

300+
Publications

12% Increase in Award funding for FY 26

NIH RANKINGS (BRIMR REPORTING)

The Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences secured more than **$30.3 million in National Institute of Health (NIH) funding** during Federal Fiscal year ending 2025 (October 2024–September 2025), placing the Department 14th nationally among 79 psychiatry departments nationwide that receive NIH support according to the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research (BRIMR).

Out of 1374 researchers that achieved national ranking:

- Carla Kmett Danielson, Ph.D. ranked in the **top 3%**
- Aimee McRae-Clark, Pharm.D. ranked in the **top 5%**

Nine faculty members in the department received over **$1 million in NIH funding in FY25**: Carla Kmett Danielson, Ph.D., Aimee McRae-Clark, Pharm.D., BCPP, Jennifer Dahne, Ph.D., Tracy Smith, Ph.D., Kenneth Michael Cummings, Ph.D., MPH, Erin McClure, Ph.D., Kelly Barth, Ph.D., Lindsay Squeglia, Ph.D., and Julianne Flanagan, Ph.D.

NOTABLE RESEARCH **AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITIONS



Sarah Book, M.D., has been named a 2026 Distinguished Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).



Kathleen Brady, M.D., Ph.D., was named one of Charleston's 50 most influential people by Charleston Magazine.



Jennifer Dahne, Ph.D., has been appointed Director of Research Innovation and Integration within the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR).



Julianne Flanagan, Ph.D., has been appointed Director of Mental Health Research Development within the HEROIC Center of Innovation (COIN).



Jennifer Dahne, Ph.D., received the Governor's Young Scientist Award for Excellence in Scientific Research, recognizing her innovative use of technology to expand access to smoking cessation and depression treatment. Her work advances remote behavioral health care, extending evidence-based treatment to patients across South Carolina.

Scan the QR code to read more about Dr. Dahne's award.

MUSC awarded $11M to launch Trauma Resilience Center

During FY26, the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences has been awarded more than **$11 million by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences** over five years to establish a **Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)** to build resilience after trauma, which will be known as the **South Carolina Building Resilience through Innovative Interventions to promote Growth and Health after Trauma COBRE**, or the **BRIGHT Center**.

Scan the QR code for more information about this grant and the BRIGHT Center.



COBRE PI's Carla Kmett Danielson, Ph.D. and Kenneth Ruggiero, Ph.D.

GRANT RENEWAL



Gray

Established in 1998, the **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)** Physician Scientist Program in Substance Use provides specialized research training and career development for early-career child and adolescent psychiatrists, preparing physician-scientists to advance youth substance use prevention and treatment. In FY26, Kevin M. Gray, M.D., principal investigator, and his team received a five-year renewal of more than $7.5 million to continue developing the next generation of researchers in this critical field.

Project Details:

Brady / Lydiard EXCELLENCE IN PSYCHIATRY RESEARCH DAY

*On April 17, 2026, the Department of Psychiatry held its **2nd Annual Brady Lydiard Excellence in Psychiatry Research Day**. 20 poster presentations and 18 abstracts were accepted at this year's event. Out of the 20 invited poster presentations, 10 were from staff scientists or research specialists, 6 from medical students, and 4 from postdoctoral scholars/medical residents.*

Additionally, our keynote speaker, Barbara Olasov Rothbaum, Ph.D., ABPP, gave a wonderful presentation titled "The Promise of MDMA-Assisted CBT in the Treatment of PTSD."



Dr. Rothbaum delivers her Keynote Address



Jennifer Dahne, Ph.D., Anna Kirkland, Ph.D., Angela Dawn Moreland-Johnson, Ph.D., and Alexis Garcia, Ph.D.

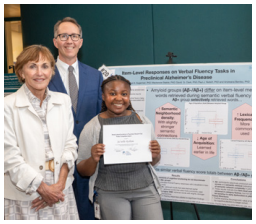


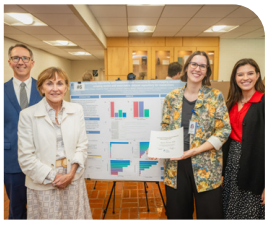
Stewart Cox, M.D., Ph.D. presenting his Poster

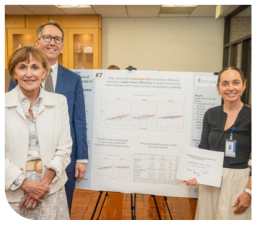


Barbara Rothbaum, Ph.D., Angela Dawn Moreland-Johnson, Ph.D., Kevin Gray, M.D., and Bernadette Cortese, Ph.D.

Poster Winners









From Top Left (L-R):

Ja'nelle Kellam, *Research Assistant*
Maria Perica, Ph.D., *Early Career*
Sarah Cote, M.S., M.A, *Trainee*
Grace Allison, *Trainee*

CHAIRMAN'S RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUND PILOT GRANT PROGRAM (CRDF) AWARDEES



Hahn

Christine Hahn, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, NCVRTC

Title: Open Pilot Trial of an Integrated Intervention for PTSD/AUD Symptoms Following Recent Trauma



Dowd

Ashley Dowd, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Addiction Sciences

Title: Characterizing Hemp-Derived Alternative Cannabinoid Use.

EDUCATION **HIGHLIGHTS**

Our Education and Training programs continue to evolve with the changing mental health landscape, deepening collaboration with other specialties and a focus on health disparity and rural populations. Faculty and residents contribute to medical student education at every level, and Psychiatry Clerkship satisfaction remains the highest in the College of Medicine and well above the national average.

*The department supports over **15 training programs** for physicians, psychologists, and allied health professionals. Amid a worsening national shortage of mental health providers, we continue growing residency positions, with our Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship adding training positions in 2025-26.*

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME)

The residency programs have been highly successful with recruitment, retention, career placement and board certification "take" and pass rates. The Psychiatry/Neurology combined program is one of only 4 in the country and Medicine/Psychiatry is one of 15. With a 100% passed in 2026, our program is among the top performers in the country. As of July 2025, our combined programs in psychiatry moved from ABMS specialty board agreement and oversight, into individually accredited ACGME pathways but maintain a collaborative relationship with the core specialty programs.

Fellowship Programs (New Initiatives): The department has initiated several unique non-ACGME subspecialty fellowships in highly relevant, emerging areas of the field: A one-year fellowship program in Brain Stimulation (also known as Neuromodulation) and a Reproductive Psychiatry Fellowship focusing on Women's mental health and peri-partum care.

Other Noteworthy Accomplishments:

- The new **Resident Education Center** at the Institute of Psychiatry opened in mid 2025.
- In July 2025, we added Safety Care training for all incoming residents.
- Telesupervision of residents and students to expand the reach of our collaborative care education and training.

GME AT A GLANCE

Top 10%
Ranked #35 out of 356 Psychiatry Residency Programs Nationally by Doximity

70
Residents

16
Fellows

1,112
Resident Applications Received by the 3 core Psychiatry Residency Programs
(Psychiatry, Internal Medicine/Psychiatry, Neurology/Psychiatry)

4
ACGME Fellowship Programs
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
Addictions
Forensics
Geriatrics

3
ACGME-Accredited Residency Programs
Psychiatry
Internal Medicine/Psychiatry
Neurology/Psychiatry

2
Non-ACGME Fellowship Programs
Brain Stimulation
Reproductive Psychiatry



Psychiatry Residents enjoying the new Resident Education Center at the Institute of Psychiatry

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (UME)

- Approximately **180 MS3s** rotated through psychiatry this past year.
- With this year's quality initiative to provide a well balanced education to each student while maintaining the consistency of spending the 6-week rotation with one team/unit, **scoring of effective resident teaching improved from 89% to 96.8%.**
- A new Medicine/Psychiatry elective rotation has been approved.
- Multiple MUSC graduating seniors matched at MUSC for psychiatry related residency training along with graduates from Dartmouth, UVA, and MGH Harvard.

UME AT A GLANCE

Highest Student Satisfaction

The Psychiatry 3rd Year Clerkship maintains the highest student satisfaction score in the College of Medicine.

2026 Graduate Matches

2026 MUSC COM Graduates matched into Psychiatry Residency Programs at:

MUSC
Emory
Pittsburgh
Georgetown
USC (Columbia)

CHARLESTON CONSORTIUM PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The **Psychology Internship** successfully **filled all 22 positions** across seven internship tracks in the 2026 Match. Selected from **265 applicants**, the incoming class represents **19 universities** and every region of the U.S., reflecting the program's national footprint of our recruiting.

The cohort brings a strong record of scholarship, with a median of **13 peer-reviewed publications**, and three interns have already received individual research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the National Science Foundation (NSF).



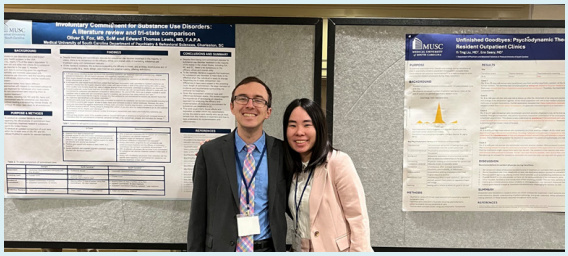
Internship Class of 2026

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CECAR)

- A virtual option series has significantly broadened the reach and accessibility of the Grand Rounds series across the expanding MUSC regional network, fostering a more inclusive and collaborative learning environment.
- Achieved **5-year certification from the American Psychological Association (APA)** to provide continuing education for psychologists.

SC PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING POSTER WINNERS

Oliver Fox, M.D., and Yi Ting Liu, M.D., Psychiatry Residents received 2nd & 3rd place for their posters at this year's South Carolina Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, January 23-24, 2026.



Fox and Liu

CLINICAL CARE **HIGHLIGHTS**

The Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences has been on a remarkable clinical expansion over the last few years driven by increasing community needs and rapid advances in clinical sciences.

*In FY26, the department focused on strategic growth and recruitment, welcoming **17 new faculty members** and **11 advanced practice providers (APPs)** to our clinical care team. This growth in providers has supported expansion of our clinical footprint not only in Charleston but across the state (via teleservices), resulting in significant expansion across nearly all divisions.*

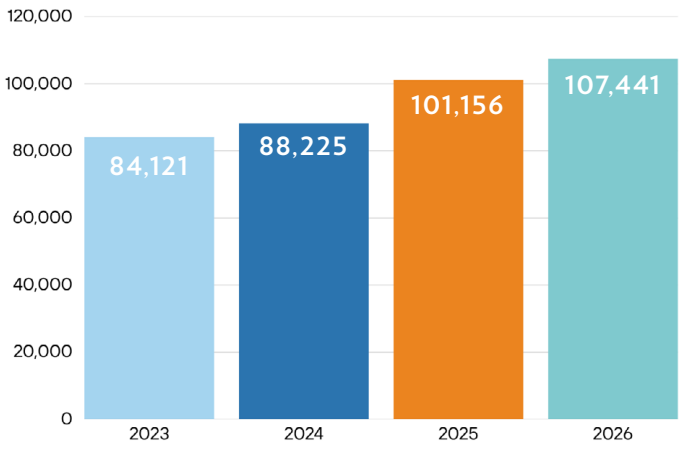
BY THE NUMBERS

107,441
Outpatient Visits

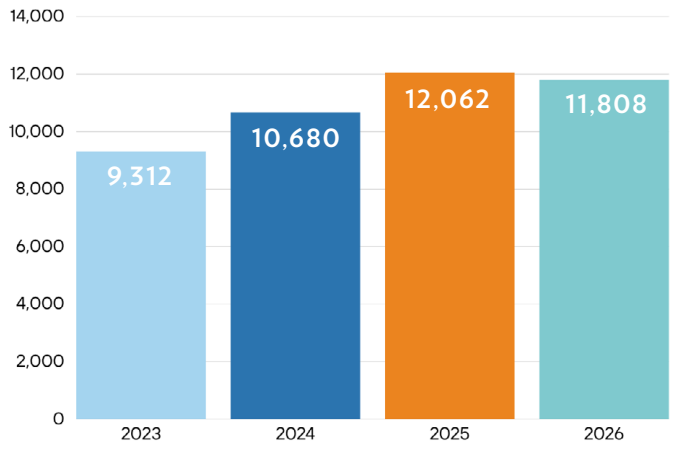
6%
Increase over FY25

11,808
New Patient Visits

OUTPATIENT VISITS



NEW PATIENT VISITS



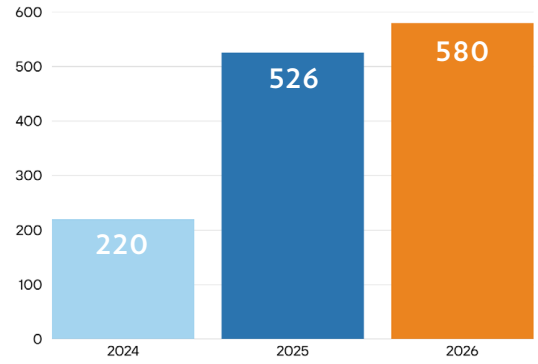
COMPLEX INTERVENTION UNIT (CIU)

The **Complex Intervention Unit (CIU)**, located on the second floor of the Main Hospital, opened successfully in fall 2025 at MUSC Health's Charleston campus. The unit provides care for patients with both active medical and psychiatric diagnoses. Benjamin Kalivas, M.D., pictured on the far right, is an associate professor with dual appointments in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry. He serves as medical director of the CIU and is a core faculty member for the unit.

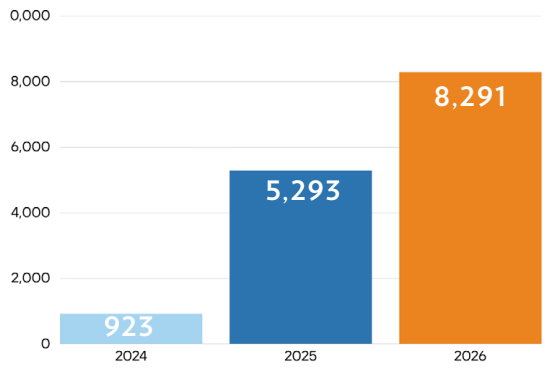


SCHOOL BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (SBBH) TELEHEALTH MODEL

SBBH NEW PATIENT VISITS



SBBH TOTAL VISITS



MUSC Health has developed a **telehealth School Based Behavioral Health (SBBH) model** to enhance mental health services in South Carolina schools, focusing on accessible, high-quality care for students. This initiative integrates psychotherapy, psychiatric care, collaborative management (when possible), and crisis intervention to support student well-being with minimal educational disruption.

- The program launched in 6 Charleston schools in September 2023 and has since expanded to serve students in more than **150 schools across South Carolina**.
- Services include **telehealth and in-person psychotherapy**, **psychiatric medication management** provided by child and adolescent psychiatrists, a **Collaborative Care Model (CoCM)** - an evidence-based framework that integrates mental health into school-based pediatric healthcare services - and **on-demand crisis appointments** designed to reduce emergency department visits.
- The program also provides **school-based day treatment services** for students requiring a higher level of behavioral health support. A **Day Treatment program** was launched in **Rock Hill School District** in August 2025. A similar program for the **Charleston County School District** launched in August 2026.
- Future plans include collaboration with graduate medical education to develop training opportunities for residents and fellows.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- MUSC Health has again been recognized by the **SC Hospital Association (SCHA)** for the 2025 Drive to Suicide Prevention Zero Harm Award for our Suicide prevention initiatives.
- MUSC Health **Jean and Hugh K. Leatherman Behavioral Care Pavilion** has achieved two **Green Globes®** for New Construction. This is our first Green Globes certified BMH facility within MUSC Health.
- MUSC Health has prioritized **Primary Care Behavioral Health (BH) integration** across Charleston and the state. Currently **12 primary care sites** have in person BH services and collaborative care management services.
- MUSC Health successfully opened **4 adult and 3 Children Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment and Healing (EmPATH) units** across the health system including one each within Charleston Main and Shawn Jenkins Emergency Departments.





EMPATH Therapy Session - Adam Reed, Therapeutic Assistant, Madison Mitola, Psychiatric Social Worker

ADDICTION SCIENCES DIVISION



Addiction Sciences Division Faculty & Staff

*The **Addiction Sciences Division (ASD)** is a leading academic center for addiction research and treatment, advancing innovative basic, translational, and clinical research on substance use and co-occurring conditions across the lifespan. Its multidisciplinary work is complemented by clinical services, education, mentorship, community engagement, and national and international collaborations.*

RESEARCH

- Kathleen Brady, M.D., Ph.D., received a $2.5M SCDHHS Grant for her project "Mat Access ED".
- Rachel Tomko, Ph.D., received a $686K NIH/NIDA Grant for her project, "Prospective Changes in Patient-Reported and Objective Functioning Following Reduction of Cannabis Use."
- Austin Hahn, Ph.D., received a $675K NIH/NIDA Grant for his project, "Integrated Treatment of Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders and PTSD."
- Karen Hartwell, M.D., received a $453K NIH/NIMH Grant for her project, "Empowering EmPATH Units: Training for Integrated Mental Health and Opioid Use Disorder Management."
- Aimee McRae-Clark, Ph.D., Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research Top 100 in NIH Funding - Psychiatry (2025).
- Julianne Flanagan, Ph.D., appointed as Director of Mental Health Research Development within HEROIC Center of Innovation.

NEW LEADERSHIP



Larissa Mooney, M.D., joined Addiction Sciences as the Division Director.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- DART Summer Research Program provided summer immersion in addiction research training to 13 undergraduate scholars.
- MUSC NIDA K12 supported 3 junior faculty, preparing them for independent careers in substance use research. Scan the QR Code for more information.

CLINICAL CARE

- This past year, the **Center for Drug and Alcohol Programs (CDAP)** clinic continued to expand community outreach and services while supporting research efforts. Key initiatives included serving as a strategic recruitment source for six ongoing studies, beta-testing an intimate partner violence survivor toolkit, expanding recovery services to families and significant others, and launching a Women's Recovery Group.

BY THE NUMBERS

$27.1M	$23.1M	$4M	6,514
Total External Funding for FY26	NIH Awards for FY26	State, Corporate & Foundation Funding	Outpatient Visits

BIO-BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE DIVISION



Bio-Behavioral Medicine Division Faculty & Staff

*The **Division of Bio-Behavioral Medicine** serves as the interface between psychiatry and medicine at MUSC, helping patients with chronic medical conditions and their providers manage the complex psychosocial aspects of illness to alleviate suffering, promote health, improve quality of life and optimize medical care.*

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- The division supported continued development across specialty areas including **Burn Psychology, GI Behavioral Medicine, Transplant Psychology, Pulmonary Psychology, Hepatology/HCC, Sickle Cell Psychology and pediatric collaborations**.
- An internal **College of Nursing** grant supported the launch of **PACE (Pain Adaptation and Coping Empowerment)**, a psychology and physical therapy program designed to improve coping and quality of life for individuals living with chronic pain in the context of sickle cell disease.
- The Sickle Cell team includes **two psychologists, two clinical social workers** and **one psychiatrist**, and Rebecca Kilpatrick, Ph.D., serves as executive champion for the newly formed Patient and Family Advisory Council in Sickle Cell Disease.

RESEARCH

- Faculty advanced research, quality improvement and scholarly work addressing **chronic illness, pain, oncology, transplant outcomes, pulmonary disease, aging, cognition and psychosocial adjustment to medical illness**.
- Faculty contributed to publications and presentations addressing **psychogastroenterology, sickle cell pain care, transplant psychology, and integrated psychological care for NTM**.

Sickle Cell Publication:

NTM Publication:

AWARD WINNER



Lillian (Lily) Christon, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Co-Director of our Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, was awarded the **Carolyn C. Richard Mattingly Leadership in Mental Health Care Award** at the 2025 North American Cystic Fibrosis conference, held in Seattle, WA.

CLINICAL CARE

- Faculty provided integrated behavioral health assessment, consultation and intervention across a broad range of medical specialties, including **transplant, oncology, pulmonary medicine, CF, NTM and bronchiectasis**. Services ranged from pre-surgical psychological evaluations and psychotherapy to caregiver support and management of co-occurring medical and psychiatric conditions.
- Behavioral Medicine faculty continued to support **lung, heart, liver, kidney and living donor transplant programs**, providing pre- and post-transplant evaluations, ongoing psychological care and expertise in psychosocial risk, adherence, coping, family support and transplant readiness.
- Psychologists embedded within pulmonary programs provided screening, consultation, brief intervention, longitudinal psychotherapy and inpatient monitoring for patients with **CF, NTM and bronchiectasis**.

BRAIN STIMULATION LABORATORY DIVISION



Brain Stimulation Laboratory Division Faculty & Staff

*The **Brain Stimulation Laboratory (BSL)** Division began 27 years ago and has been at the forefront of using brain stimulation techniques combined with advanced brain imaging to study and treat neuropsychiatric diseases. Until July 2026, Clinical Services were housed under a separate **Brain Stimulation Services Division** and behavioral treatments were in **Behavioral Medicine**. Going forward into 2026-27, these three groups have been merged into the new **Division of Neuromodulation and Behavioral Medicine (NBM)**.*

RESEARCH

- The BSL was a major site in a positive clinical trial that was published in October and then led to **FDA approval** in December 2025 of a new at-home cranial nerve stimulation device (Neurolief Proliv). This is a pioneering new approval for at-home brain stimulation. This approval brings the number of FDA-approved brain stimulation treatments that the BSL has helped advance to five.
- Through the endowment of the **Loveless Foundation**, BSL has created a Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) van that brings treatment for depression to patients who may be unable to travel to Charleston. Outlying clinics are located in Hilton Head, Orangeburg, and Georgetown.
- Lisa McTeague, Ph.D., and her group continued their pioneering work with DARPA to create rapid and durable treatments for depression by combining EEG phase synchronized, personalized accelerated TMS with intensive cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT).
- Xingbao Li, M.D., and his team has expanded rTMS for smoking cessation to veterans and cancer patients who smoke. His VA Merit–funded research is developing personalized, rTMS treatments to help veterans quit smoking and improve their long-term health and quality of life.

CLINICAL CARE

- Clinical Services have historically been provided through the **Brain Stimulation Services Division**, with a strong complementary brain stimulation program at the **Ralph H. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (RHJVAMC)**, led by Christine Pelic, M.D. This group established a satellite TMS clinic in Savannah, and is now offering accelerated TMS as well as the FDA-approved at-home device.

BY THE NUMBERS				
	27 Years since Establishment*	5 New Brain Stimulation Treatments we helped to get FDA-approved and out to market	25 Currently Active Grants	51 Biannual Brain Stimulation CME Courses offered*

** These two statistics make us the **oldest and longest running Brain Stimulation Program** in the United States!*

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY DIVISION



Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division Faculty & Staff

*The **Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (C&A) Division**, in concert with other divisions and via partnership with community organizations, provides a comprehensive spectrum of mental health clinical services for children, adolescents, and families ranging from primary care consultation and school-based care to acute hospitalization.*

RESEARCH

- Alexis Garcia, Ph.D. is advancing Parent-Child Interaction Training (PCIT) via telemedicine to underserved populations, funded through the Duke Endowment.

EDUCATION

- Fellowship program approved to expand to **12 fellows** per 2-year cycle (previously 10) — reflecting growing need for C&A psychiatrists in SC. Carlisle Hiott, M.D. joined as Associate Program Director, starting FY27.
- Faculty teaching excellence recognized: Jennifer Patterson, M.D., Amanda Roten, M.D., and Alexis Garcia, Ph.D. each received awards in the past academic year.

CLINICAL CARE

- Launched the nation's first pediatric **EMPATH crisis unit** at Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital in partnership with the Mental Health Integrated Centers of Clinical Excellence (ICCE) program; Rakin Hoq, M.D. was named Medical Director of the SJCH service.
- Launched a collaborative care network with primary care partners across MUSC's growing network; Rachel Getzenberg, M.D. leads timely consults to Pediatric Primary Care & Family Medicine clinics.
- Expanded outpatient clinical footprint into **North Charleston** and **West Ashley**.
- School-based services now reach **100+ schools** statewide across multiple districts; Morgan Goodyear, M.D. named Medical Director of this service line.



DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY SERVICES

- Division assumed directorship of the Project Rex Program; Caroline Nardi, M.D. named Medical Director.

BY THE NUMBERS				
	12 Fellows per 2-Year Cycle	100+ Schools Served Statewide	32 Total Division Staff*	1st Pediatric Empath Unit in the US

** M.D. Faculty - 15; Ph.D. Faculty - 2; Clinical APP - 3; Outpatient Therapists - 7; Clinical Social Workers - 5*

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY PSYCHIATRY DIVISION



Community Clinic and Forensic Division Faculty & Staff

*In the **Community & Public Safety Psychiatry Division**, our faculty advance mental health care at the intersection of psychiatry, public service, and the legal system through clinical expertise, education, and training across South Carolina.*

CLINICAL CARE

- Established a collaboration with the MUSC Veterans and Corrections ICCE to provide mental health medication management at three South Carolina detention centers.
- Established a collaboration with the Office of Mental Health to provide jail-based competency restoration services.

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Resilient Responder Program** expanded from Charleston County into Dorchester County. Program therapist Elizabeth Evans, LISW-CP, was recognized and awarded by the Fire Service Psychology Association at their October 2025 National Conference. Program therapist Craig LeGates, MS, LPC joined the team, bringing 28+ years of former Police and Fire experience to clinically support the increased demand for the program.
- Launched the **Assisted Reproduction Consultation & Evaluation Program (ARCEP)**, providing specialized psychological consultations and evaluations for intended parents, gestational carriers, and gamete donors in accordance with ASRM guidelines, filling a unique gap in reproductive behavioral health through evidence-based support for patients, fertility providers, and third-party reproduction professionals. The program is developing partnerships with fertility clinics and reproductive attorneys across South Carolina and other PSYPACT (Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact) states.
- Launched the **Assessment for Civil Claims, Eligibility, and Supportive Services (ACCESS) Program**, creating a new clinical-forensic service line to provide specialized evaluations and consultation services. The program expanded services to Probate Court Matters to include probate court evaluations, broadening the program's scope and increasing access to specialized forensic assessment services for guardianship, conservatorship, and related legal matters.
- Emily Gottfried, Ph.D., in the **Sexual Behaviors Clinic and Lab (SBCL) Program**, presented at the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO) conference in Poland and was invited to lecture at the Centre for Forensic Behavioral Science of Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia.
- Case volume in the **Professional Progressive Program (PPP)** increased for specialized forensic evaluations in FY26 with a financial growth rate in excess of approximately 50%.

BY THE NUMBERS

580+
First Responder Wellness Check-ins

24
Referrals by the South Carolina Attorney General Office for Evaluation Requests

50%
Financial Growth in specialized forensic evaluation cases

GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION



Global and Community Health Division Faculty & Staff

*The **Division of Global and Community Health** opened in 1992 under the name Family Services Research Center directed by **Scott Henggeler, Ph.D.** The Division has been a center for development and trialing of family and ecologically-based treatment models based on Multisystemic Therapy (MST). Seven innovations developed at MUSC have been rated as evidence-based due to outcomes through rigorous research that was funded by NIMH, NIDA, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and governments in the U.S. and around the world. These innovations are being disseminated in the U.S. and in 16 other countries today.*

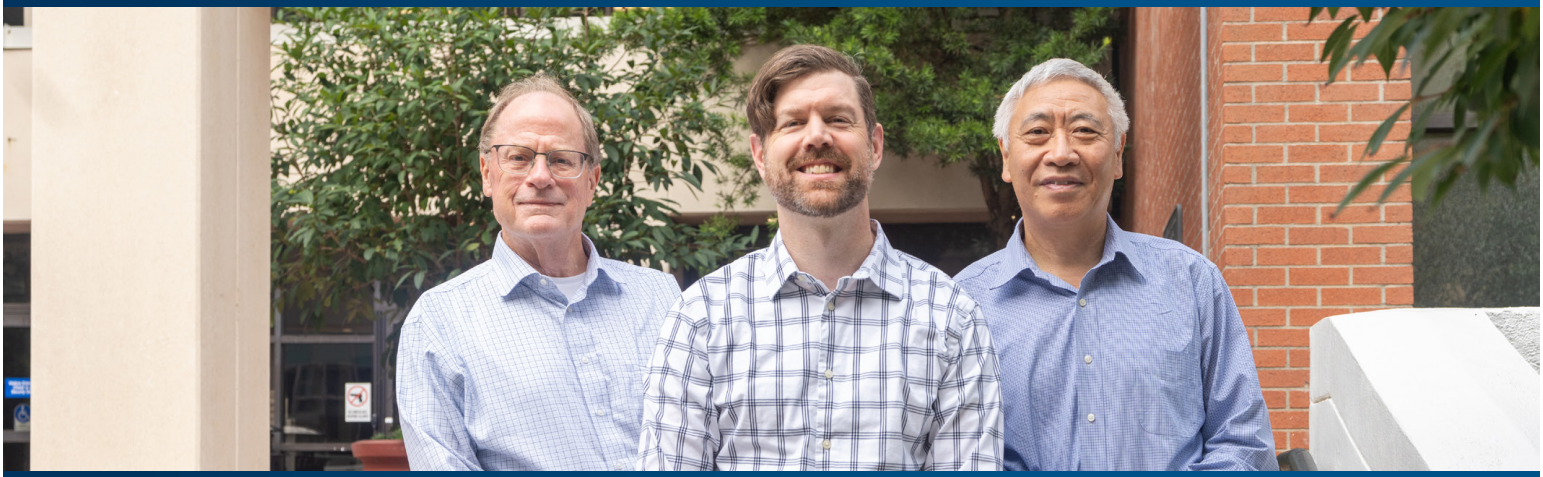
*In 2011, Dr. Henggeler retired and **Michael Sweat, Ph.D.** joined MUSC as Director and the name was changed to Division of Global and Community Health. The research continued to be ecologically and family based with expansions to additional countries around the world and adding a focus on severe health conditions such as HIV.*

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025

- Cynthia Cupit Swenson, Ph.D., completed research on MST for Intimate Partner Violence and is implementing this model in Connecticut. Dr. Swenson is testing a downward age extension to her primary model MST for Child Abuse and Neglect. This project extends the treatment model to families with children ages 0-5 who come to the attention of child protection in New South Wales, Australia due to physical abuse and neglect. In addition, Dr. Swenson is conducting implementation feasibility research for MST-CAN in Victoria, Australia and Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Swenson is the primary researcher on the evaluation of Plays4Joy, a treatment model that provides positive mental health level one interventions in schools around the United States and involves professional athletes. From a service perspective, Dr. Swenson began the 20th year of a project in rural Ghana, West Africa that has provided a free medical clinic every summer for over 20,000 people to date, built a school, implemented safe water and biogas toilet systems, changed farming practices to organic, and is finalizing a medical center.
- Michael Sweat, Ph.D., completed multiple projects around the world, set the MUSC Center for Global Health on strong footing and retired in February 2026.
- Colleen Halliday, Ph.D., implemented extramurally funded community-based research projects and training grants. Submitted 3 research grants as PI/Co-I and mentored junior faculty, psychology interns and a post-masters trainee.
- Phillippe Cunningham, Ph.D., engaged in four projects involving juvenile drug court, school-based asthma interventions in rural South Carolina, and interventions with youth experiencing obesity.
- Jeff Randall, Ph.D., worked as co-investigator on the obesity project and consulted with multiple clinical teams implementing Multisystemic Therapy for youth substance use.

On June 30, 2026, the Division of Global and Community Health was reorganized into components of other divisions. We are pleased that we have a made a difference for children and families in South Carolina and throughout the world. We will continue our work in different spaces.

MILITARY SCIENCES DIVISION



Military Sciences Division Faculty & Staff

*The mission of the **Military Sciences Division (MSD)** is to further clinical, educational, and research activities relevant to individuals who have served in all branches of the military. Faculty members within the MSD are largely based at the affiliated Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), the Ralph H. Johnson VA Health Care System.*

RESEARCH

- The MSD has a long history of significant research activity. The division offers important resources and provides a collegial atmosphere among investigators from psychiatry, psychology, epidemiology, pharmacology, and biostatistics.
- Areas of research range from the use of novel pharmacotherapies and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) for the treatment of major mental illnesses to the use of evidence-based psychotherapies for disorders such as PTSD and substance abuse.

EDUCATION

- The MSD plays a major role in the educational mission of the Department as a training ground for multiple disciplines of future healthcare providers.

CLINICAL CARE

- Faculty within MSD excel at the treatment of mental health issues facing today's Veterans. The Division has embraced virtual care and provides almost half of care delivered via virtual modalities.
- The MSD is a national leader in Veteran's Affairs in terms of suicide prevention activities and has won several national awards.

DIVISION FACULTY

Anna Birks, Psy.D., *Assistant Professor*
Olga Brawman-Mintzer, M.D., *Professor*
Daniel Gros, Ph.D., *Professor*
Mark Hamner, M.D., *Professor*
Michael Horner, Ph.D., *Professor*
Brian Lozano, Ph.D., *Associate Professor*
Wendy Muzzy, M.S., *Instructor*
Ursula Myers, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor*
Hugh Myrick, M.D., *Professor*
Zhewu Wang, M.D., *Professor*

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RESEARCH AND TREATMENT CENTER



NCVRTC Division Faculty & Staff

*Founded in 1977, the **National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center (NCVRTC)** currently has 19 faculty members and will celebrate its 50th anniversary on April 1, 2027. The NCVRTC also houses the DOJ-funded **National Mass Violence Center**.*

RESEARCH

- Funding agencies: NIH (NIMH, NICHD, NIDA, NIGMS); BVARI, LCVR, SAMHSA, SC Attorney General's Office, DOJ Office for Victims of Crime, NIJ, Jack & Anne Glenn Foundation.
- In FY26, our **National Mass Violence Center** supported 44 mass violence-impacted communities in 25 states, helped 42 communities in 23 states prepare for incidents, and analyzed and published assessment data from 1,259 victims/survivors and 5,991 community residents.

EDUCATION

- This is 39th year of our NIMH funded postdoctoral fellowship, "Basic and Translational Research Training in Traumatic Stress Across the Lifespan". We have six postdoctoral fellows this year, and **150-plus fellows in total since its inception**.
- Our two main online training courses for mental health professionals seeking to learn about evidence-based trauma treatments focus on **Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT)** and **Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT)**.
  - **TFCBTWeb2.0** had 23,563 paid learners from all 50 states (as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico), and 75 countries.
  - **CPTWeb2.0** had 4,905 paid learners from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and 36 countries.

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

- **Kris Rose, M.S.**, received the Lois Haight Award of Excellence in Innovation from the **United States Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus** and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the **Alliance for Hope International**.
- **Anne Seymour** received the 2026 Marlene Young Leadership Award from the **National Organization for Victim Advocacy**.
- **John Tressy, LPC/S** received the 2026 Outstanding Service Award from the **SC Victim Assistance Network**.
- **Aurelia Sands Belle, Ed.D.**, received the 2026 Distinguished Humanitarian Award from the **SC Victim Assistance Network**.

CLINICAL CARE

- In FY26, we served more than **1,000 crime victims**, had more than **12,000 case management contacts** for trauma-exposed individuals, and provided **more than 1,200 grant-funded therapy sessions** to crime victims.

BY THE NUMBERS				
	$7.5M Total Research Funding in FY26	16 Grants & Cooperative Agreements in FY26	1,000+ Crime Victims Served	28,000+ Online Learners from US and other countries

PSYCHIATRY HOSPITALIST DIVISION

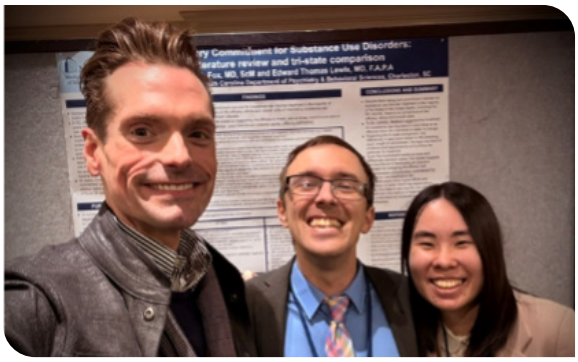


Psychiatry Hospitalist Division Faculty & Staff

*The **Psychiatry Hospitalist Division** was founded in 2012 and provides psychiatric care to patients in our behavioral health emergency spaces, inpatient units at the Institute of Psychiatry, and within the medical hospital when psychiatric consultation is needed. Our faculty have extensive background in providing psychiatric care in these settings, with subspecialty expertise in addictions, child and adolescent, forensics, and geriatric psychiatry.*

RESEARCH

- Division faculty led multiple state- and federally-funded projects focused on increasing initiation and retention of medications for opioid use disorder, improving transitions from hospital to outpatient care, expanding telehealth and peer recovery services, and reducing overdose risk. They also presented their research at national conferences, including the **American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting**, and **American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry**, sharing evidence-based approaches to integrated psychiatric and substance use disorder care that improved patient outcomes and informed health system transformation.



Thomas Lewis, M.D., alongside MUSC Psychiatry Residents Oliver Fox, M.D., and Yi-Ting Liu, M.D., presenting at the South Carolina Psychiatric Association 2026 Annual Meeting in Columbia, SC

EDUCATION



Lewis

Thomas Lewis, M.D., division director and medical director of adult inpatient services, facilitated ongoing learning opportunities throughout the academic year through didactics, case conferences, and journal clubs, with faculty leading discussions on various topics and fostering a collaborative learning environment for learners and faculty. The division also remained actively engaged in professional organizations focused on psychiatric education, including Dr. Lewis's service on the Forensic Psychiatry Committee for **the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN)**.

CLINICAL CARE

- Our division launched a new behavioral health space for adults in the psychiatric emergency room, the **EmPATH (Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment, and Healing) Unit**, serving patients requiring emergency assistance in a more therapeutic environment.
- Bryan Counts, Staff Liaison, leads the **Patient and Family Advisory Council**, where we work to learn more from individuals lived experiences to help shape a better patient care experience.

Scan the QR Code for more information on the Patient and Family Advisory Council

SLEEP, MOOD, AND ANXIETY RESEARCH AND TREATMENT DIVISION



SMART Division Faculty & Staff

*The **Sleep, Mood, and Anxiety Research and Treatment (SMART) Division** is a research intensive and clinical services program that conducts basic and clinical research and offers state-of-the-art, evidence-informed treatments for adults suffering from various sleep, mood, and anxiety disorders as well as sensory processing disorders such as empty nose syndrome, tinnitus, and environmental sensitivity conditions.*

RESEARCH

- Faculty are actively involved in research with contributions to **26 publications** and **16 international presentations**, which includes advancing research in understudied areas such as misophonia, narcolepsy, and nightmare disorder.
- Through support from federal funding, a **virtual insomnia patient** is being developed and tested for providers to practice clinical skills after receiving training in cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia.

EDUCATION

- Over the last year, the SMART Clinic reached a significant milestone by securing **accreditation from the Board of Behavioral Sleep Medicine**, formally establishing the clinic as an internationally recognized training site for clinicians pursuing the Diplomate in Behavioral Sleep Medicine.
- **10 Residents, Pre-Doctoral Interns, and Post-Doctoral Fellows** completed rotations in SMART.

CLINICAL CARE

- A **virtual brief behavioral therapy group** for insomnia was started to provide evidence-based care for those struggling to fall and stay asleep.
- A **virtual weekly skills-based group therapy** was added, averaging 4-8 patients per group.

NEW LEADERSHIP



Jeffrey Pavlacic, Ph.D., joined SMART in 2025, bringing valuable expertise in mindfulness and anxiety.



Yulia Gavrilova, Ph.D. joined SMART clinic faculty full-time in 2026, bringing extensive expertise in trauma-focused treatments and stepped care.

BY THE NUMBERS

679	7	$4M
Unique Patients	Randomized Clinical Trials focused on Sleep or Anxiety	in Grant Funding (FY26)

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT CENTER



Weight Management Center Division Faculty & Staff

*The **MUSC Health Weight Management Center** is the university's long-standing primary resource for evidence-based obesity clinical services, research, and education. Throughout the past year, we have continued to lead and support innovative research, provided community and organizational education throughout the lowcountry region and the state, and improved access to high-quality clinical care.*

RESEARCH

- Completed **two clinical trials** exploring the efficacy of potential anti-obesity medications, and initiating and fully enrolling (n=20) **one new clinical trial.**
- Selected for **two additional trials** to begin fall of 2026.
- Patrick O'Neil, Ph.D., and psychology intern Taylor Swanson, in coordination with UAB researchers, have led analysis of DNA data from a previous 16-center weight loss trial for people with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. This analysis is assessing potential genetic correlates of greater weight loss-mediated improvement in HbA1c. The results have been accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the **Obesity Society** and will be submitted for publication.

EDUCATION

- Participated in statewide programs by the **South Carolina Healthy Business Coalition** ("Obesity Care in the Age of GLP-1s") and two Wellness Wednesday presentations in collaboration with MUSC's Business Health. Bailey Edge, MS, RD, LD, also served as a nutrition expert for a South Carolina Public Radio "Health Focus" segment on healthy weight management strategies and was featured in a Moultrie News article discussing nutrition considerations related to GLP-1 therapies.



Edge

SC Public Radio Segment:

Moultrie News Article:

- Delivered outreach and education across the region, including multiple health fairs and events: Town of Mt. Pleasant Employee Health Fair, Charleston County Government Employee Well-being Fair, MUSC Senior Expo 2026, Folly Beach Senior Health and Wellness Fair, Del Webb Community, Blue Cross Blue Shield.

CLINICAL CARE

- Introduced new clinical offerings for patients on obesity medications, adding **Resting Metabolic Rate (RMR) testing**, and improving care integration through optimization of Epic referrals for weight management services across MUSC Health.
- Grew our clinical team with the onboarding of a new Director of Clinical Operations, Nicki Martinez de Andino, DNP, APRN, and a new Registered Dietitian, Kate Haynes, MS, RD, LD.
- Partnered with the VA-sponsored **EMPOWER study** of weight management for post-stroke patients.

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

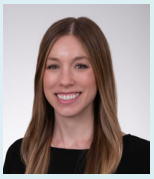


Women's Reproductive Behavioral Health Division Faculty & Staff

*The **Women's Reproductive Behavioral Health (WRBH) Division** is a nationally recognized leader in perinatal mental health, advancing patient-centered clinical care, education, training, research, and community engagement to improve the emotional well-being of pregnant and postpartum women.*

RESEARCH

- In FY 2026, the WRBH Division was awarded nearly **$6M in extramural funding**, a 10-fold increase over 5 years. Funding includes two highly competitive Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI) Research Awards totaling **over $13M in funding**.
- The Duke Endowment awarded over **$6M in maternal and infant health initiatives** including programs to improve preconception health and a Technical Assistance and Training Center to support five health systems across the Carolina's implementing H.E.A.R. for Mamas and Babies program. Sara Witcraft, Ph.D. received an NIH career development award.
- In the last year, WRBH faculty have contributed to **20 scientific papers** published in high impact journals including the *JAMA Internal Medicine, American Journal of Psychiatry, Substance Use and Addition, Frontiers in Psychiatry, the Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Cannabis, Academy of Psychiatry,* and *Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Policy.*



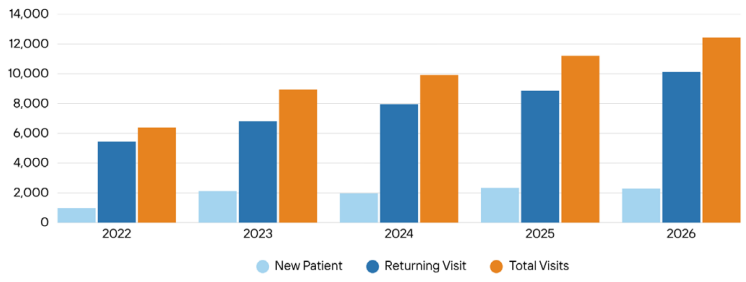
Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Career Development Awardee Sara Witcraft, Ph.D. received a NIDA/NIH Career Development award (K23DA062794) to study a novel intervention to enhance retention in buprenorphine treatment among pregnant and postpartum women called EMPWR.

EDUCATION

- Connie Guille, M.D., and Aimee McRae-Clark, Pharm.D., re-established the **Kathleen T. Brady BIRCWH K12 Career Development Program**, supporting up to 12 early-career faculty scholars over five years.
- The division accepted its 9th reproductive psychiatry fellow.

CLINICAL CARE

- The division provides access to outpatient behavioral health services to pregnant and postpartum individuals throughout South Carolina. From 2020 to 2026, there has been a **418% increase in new patient visits.**



BY THE NUMBERS

12,500	2,288	10x	20
Total Patient Visits	New Patient Visits	Increase in Award Amounts over the last 5 years	Published Papers

SPECIALTY PROGRAM: CLINICAL NEUROBIOLOGY LABORATORY



Clinical Neurobiology Laboratory Faculty & Staff

*The **Clinical Neurobiology Laboratory** is a College of American Pathologists (CAP)-certified clinical and research laboratory specializing in blood and urine testing for addiction medicine. The CNL serves clinicians, researchers, and organizations by providing high-quality laboratory testing, data management, and reporting across clinical care, pharmaceutical trials, and federally funded studies.*

ADVANCING CLINICAL LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS IN PSYCHIATRY

This year the Clinical Neurobiology Laboratory launched our **first mass spectrometry assay** available for clinical use by the MUSC enterprise. The assay measures phosphatidylethanol (PEth) in blood, a biomarker of alcohol drinking that is used by clinicians in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and other departments to monitor patient drinking.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Internationally recognized** for demonstrating the clinical utility of Carbohydrate Deficient Transferrin (CDT) for heavy alcohol consumption and performed the initial work needed for FDA approval of CDT in the United States.
- Obtained a **perfect score** on our **College of American Pathologist's accreditation inspection**. This challenging inspection ensures that our laboratory is operating to the highest standards.

LABORATORY PERSONNEL

Sarah Book, M.D.
Director, Clinical Neurobiology Laboratory
Medical Director, Center for Drug and Alcohol Programs
Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

William Griffin, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Clinical Neurobiology Laboratory
Research Associate Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Lorie Robertson
Manager, Clinical Neurobiology Laboratory

Robin Hensley
Phlebotomist, Clinical Neurobiology Laboratory

BY THE NUMBERS

>23,000	~39%	~30%
Results Posted	Year over Year Increase in Testing Volume	Decrease in Results Turnaround Time using CNL's New PEth Assay

SPECIALTY PROGRAM: CLINICAL TRIALS AND INNOVATION SCIENCES



Clinical Trials and Innovation Sciences Faculty & Staff

*The **Clinical Trials and Innovation Sciences Program (CTIS)**, has a dual mission within the MUSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, serving as a resource to promote industry-sponsored clinical trials and academic entrepreneurship.*

PROGRAM GOAL

The Clinical Trials Unit within CTIS, directed by Bernadette Cortese, Ph.D., provides infrastructure support to faculty members interested in serving as Principal Investigator (PI) on industry-sponsored clinical trials relevant to their specific specialty/interest area. PIs may use all or specific trial related services including study start-up and activation, recruitment, and enrollment, as well as study close-out.

CTIS is currently working with multiple faculty members and industry sponsors to conduct trials in sleep, depression, generalized anxiety disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, alcohol and other substance use disorders, weight management and autism spectrum disorder. The goal of CTIS is to serve faculty in psychiatry and increase the number and scope of industry-sponsored clinical trials being conducted within the department.

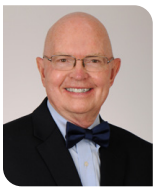
THE CTIS TEAM

Patience Abbas, *Study Coordinator*
Rhoda Ascanio, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC
Brooke Cameron, *Study Coordinator*
Nicole Cash, *Study Coordinator*
Mary Harley, *Study Coordinator*
Anjinetta Johnson, PA-C, MPAS
Mary Clare Koebel, *Study Coordinator*
Matt Woodson, *Study Coordinator*

FY 2026 PARTICIPATING PIs

McLeod Gwynette, M.D.
Robert Malcolm, M.D.
Patrick O'Neil, Ph.D.
Thomas Uhde, M.D.

CTIS HIGHLIGHT



Malcolm

Robert Malcolm, M.D., (Site PI), Matthew Woodson (Lead Study Coordinator) and the entire CTIS team recently completed the *RECLAIM Phase 2 Study of pemvidutide, a glucagon/GLP-1 dual receptor agonist, in Alcohol Use Disorder.* Altimmune recently shared a press release announcing positive topline results. Our entire team and its commitment to high-quality clinical research contributed to the success of this trial!

Scan the QR Code to view the press release.

CONTACT US

Requests for additional information can be submitted via email to corteseb@musc.edu.

BY THE NUMBERS			
	4	11	>$500,000
	Participating PIs	Active Trials	Revenue

SPECIALTY PROGRAM: MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES



Mental Health Disparities Faculty & Staff

*The **Mental Health Disparities Program** was established to increase understanding of the factors affecting mental health service gaps in low-access communities and generate research and knowledge to address them. Our program seeks to close mental health gaps and related issues through research, educational training, community outreach and information dissemination and clinical services.*

RESEARCH

- Faculty, staff, and trainees are actively involved in research with contributions to **6 publications** and **12 national presentations.**
- Regan Stewart, Ph.D., and colleagues are advancing Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) via telemedicine through a randomized clinical trial, funded through Health Resources & Service Administration (HRSA).



EDUCATION

- Faculty trained over **1,500 individuals** in telehealth best practices for child traumatic stress treatment nationwide in the past year, including nationally and regionally disseminated trainings for the National Children's Alliance, Association of Professionals Solving Abuse of Children, North Dakota Treatment Collaborative for Traumatized Youth, and the Puerto Rico Department of Education.
- **5 Pre-Doctoral interns and Post-Doctoral Fellows** completed rotations in the Telehealth Outreach Program for Traumatic Stress.

CLINICAL CARE

- The **Telehealth Outreach Program for Traumatic Stress** marks its **10-year anniversary** of providing clinical services for underserved, trauma-exposed youth.
- Faculty, staff, and trainees are working with the **University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine** and the **Puerto Rico Department of Education** to expand school-based telepsychiatry services to remote areas of Puerto Rico.



Regan Stewart, Ph.D. (2nd from left) and Rosaura Orengo-Aguayo, Ph.D. (4th from left, NCVC division) with the Puerto Rico Department of Education Secretary and Department of Education Staff

BY THE NUMBERS

1,500+	1	12	11
Clinicians Trained Nationally	Randomized Controlled Trial	National Presentations	South Carolina Counties Served

SPECIALTY PROGRAM: TOBACCO POLICY AND CONTROL



Tobacco Policy and Control Program Faculty & Staff

*The **Tobacco Policy and Control Program (TPCP)** conducts and translates research to reduce tobacco-related disease, particularly from cigarette smoking. Its work spans clinical and population studies focused on: 1. Factors influencing tobacco use and 2. Interventions to reduce harms from combustible products.*

RESEARCH

The TPCP works with researchers in other parts of the United States and internationally. The TPCP is part of the **International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project** research network, known as the ITC Project (See: https://itcproject.org/about/).

MUSC has been the **lead institution** for a 10-year long Program Project grant (2016-2026) from the **National Cancer Institute** investigating the impact of varying tobacco control policy regulations in seven countries.

NCI Project Grant Countries

United States
Canada
England
Australia
New Zealand
Japan
South Korea

EDUCATION

TPCP supports training and professional education through:

Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training:

- Held twice annually

Susan Rosenblatt Lectureship:

- Hosted by Hollings Cancer Center
- Oct 26, 2026 featured speaker: Dr. Peter Mazzone from the Cleveland Clinic, current editor of CHEST, who will discuss research developments in lung cancer screening.

CLINICAL CARE

TPCP supports clinical translation of research by:

- Supporting MUSC's **Tobacco Treatment Program (TTP)**, which currently offers evidence-based treatments to inpatients in MUSC hospitals, outpatients in Hollings Cancer Center clinics, and home discharged patients in emergency departments in Charleston.
- The **American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer** recently established oncology care standards **based on our program**. To read a paper describing the standard, scan the QR code.

BY THE NUMBERS

20,000+	10	52	2
Annual Patient Referrals	MUSC Hospitals Providing Treatment	Hollings Cancer Center Clinics	Emergency Departments Supporting Follow-Up Care

NOTABLE **AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS**

- Sasini Bentota, M.D. Received the Austen Riggs Excellence in Psychotherapy Award
- Delisa Brown, Ph.D. Appointed Associate Director of Counseling & Psychological Services
- Tamara Davis, RN in Brain Stimulation Services, received the Daisy Award
- Elizabeth Evans, LISW-CP Certified First Responder Counselor, selected as 2025 Master Level Clinician of the Year by the Fire Psychology Association
- Julianne Flanagan, Ph.D. Named Chair of our Promotion and Tenure Committee
- Martha L. Gomez, LMSW Recognized during the 2025 Hispanic Pride Gala
- Edward Thomas Lewis, M.D. Appointed as a member of the Medical Disciplinary Commission (MDC)
- Abby Mulay, Ph.D. is the co-editor of a published Wiley volume entitled *Clinical Applications of the DSM-5 Alternative Model for Personality Disorders*
- Christin Mujica, Ph.D. Selected as Change Leader for the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT)
- Christopher Sege, Ph.D. Appointed Director of Counseling and Psychological Services
- LalithKumar Solai, M.D. Received the W. Stuart Smith Leadership Excellence Award at the MUSC Leadership Development Institute
- Lindsay Squeglia, Ph.D. Received an Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) Award for Supporting an Excellent Translational Science Workforce
- Officer Zack Taffet Institute of Psychiatry Public Safety Officer, received the Officer of the Year Award
- Thomas Uhde, M.D. Named Distinguished University Professor at MUSC
- Sharlene Wedin, Psy.D. Named Associate Provost for Education Innovation and Student Life
- Savannah Weeks, RD, LD. Received the Charleston-Trident Dietetic Association (CTDA) Emerging Leader Award

EMPLOYEE INITIATIVES FUND GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Josh Moran Jiminez, DNP, PMHNP-BC (1) Improving Nursing Students' Confidence in Care; (2) Exploring Patient Perspectives on Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
- Charli Kirby, BA EMPOWERR Program
- Julia Mullen, MSW Restorative Resilience Project
- Meg Wallace, MSW, LISW (COPE) Initiative for Victims of Crime and Trauma

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK

Thank you!

The Department would like to thank **Meg Wallace, LISW-CP/S** for her leadership and advocacy, and to everyone who supported the **Charleston Area Out of the Darkness Walk benefiting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.**

The event surpassed our fundraising goal this year and raised $77,691. This is the highest fundraising total we have had in event history, and officially makes us the largest fundraising event in South Carolina. The MUSC Psychiatry Team alone raised $7,766 towards this goal.





MUSC Psychiatry Team Participants

Gratitude

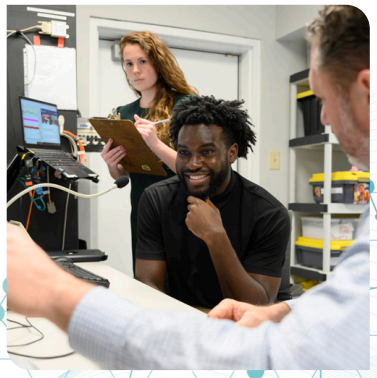
















To serve patients is our greatest privilege.
It is an honor to care for you and your families.

Your Gift is *Changing What's Possible*

By giving to the MUSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, you support our dedicated team members who provide exceptional, compassionate patient care, lead innovative research and advancements in clinical outcomes, and demonstrate a commitment to educational excellence— preparing the future mental health workforce today for the challenges of tomorrow.

We invite you to become part of this mission with your own promise to support MUSC's psychiatry programs.

To donate to the MUSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, scan the QR code or visit https://bit.ly/psychiatrybehavioralsciencesgiving.



MUSC
Medical University of South Carolina

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
67 President Street, Charleston, SC 29425

musc.edu/psychiatry