

COVID-19: IN THIS TOGETHER

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
SHOUT-OUTS & SHARES

April 24, 2020

COVID-19: IN THIS TOGETHER

A special bi-weekly newsletter recognizing some of the amazing ways Department of Medicine members are stepping up to support our mission and reflect our core values during this difficult time.

Message from the Interim Chair

Dear Colleagues,

I am extremely proud of the selflessness, resilience, and resourcefulness that our faculty, staff, residents, and fellows have shown in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. In these challenging times, it has become even more critical that we find mechanisms to support each other and spread positivity, gratitude, and recognition. That is why we are launching a special bi-weekly newsletter to recognize some of the amazing ways Department of Medicine members are stepping up to support our mission and reflect our core values during this difficult time.

Thank you to each of you who submitted stories. If you would like to send a shout-out, a story, or a photo of yourself or your team (working on the front lines, behind-the-scenes or remotely), email it to medcomm@musc.edu. We'll publish these stories in future DOM newsletters, and on the DOM blog and Facebook page.

With gratitude for you all,



Benjamin Clyburn, M.D.
Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Medicine

COVID-19 Collaborations, Innovations, and Praise

**MUSC Electrophysiology a Global
Leader in EP Fellow Education**



The MUSC electrophysiology team rapidly transitioned to video conferences for research, QI review, and education. They have been in collaboration with other leading EP centers (Northwestern, Brigham and Women's, U of Chicago, Penn, Hopkins, UCLA and UCSF), to participate in Zoom education conferences.

Hand Sewn Masks

Jen Oates, wife of Dr. Jim Oates, made 3-layer masks for providers and fellows out of fabric donated by Dr. Gary Gilkeson and Mary Ann Gilkeson. Dr. Gilkeson brought this fabric back from a Helping Children Worldwide (HCW) trip to Sierra Leone. While in Sierra Leone, Dr. Gilkeson worked on a research project to compare the genetics of Sierra Leone citizens to that of the Gullah of SC who suffer from lupus. The vivid and bold fabrics, produced in nearby West African countries, are used in clothing for women, men, and children, as well as for baby blankets, curtains, and more.



So far, masks have been distributed among healthcare workers in the Seattle area where Dr. Oates' sister-in-law is a nurse manager, to MUSC Rheumatology faculty & fellows, and MUSC basic science faculty.



Grateful Patient Story

Endocrinology patient, Michael Beecham, called to personally thank Renee Dunn, administrative coordinator in Endocrinology, for helping him set up his virtual video visit appointment with Dr. Kathie Hermayer.

"Hey Renee, this is Michael Beecham – we spoke briefly last week about getting me into a virtual endocrinology appointment. I did have that appointment today. It was fantastic. It has been a huge morale boost for me just to be able to have that. We have some great plans in order for my health care and I just want to say thank you again very much - that means a lot to me and I really appreciate you doing that for me as well as you caring so much and wanting to help. MUSC's doctors and staff have been so good to me, and honestly, without your care and coverage, I most likely wouldn't be here. It means a lot to me and I hope you have a wonderful day." – *Michael Beecham, endocrinology patient*

How to talk with older relatives about the COVID-19 pandemic

Geriatrician Dr. Amanda Overstreet, offered some of her suggestions for talking with older relatives to help them navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read More](#)





COVID-19 Science Cafe

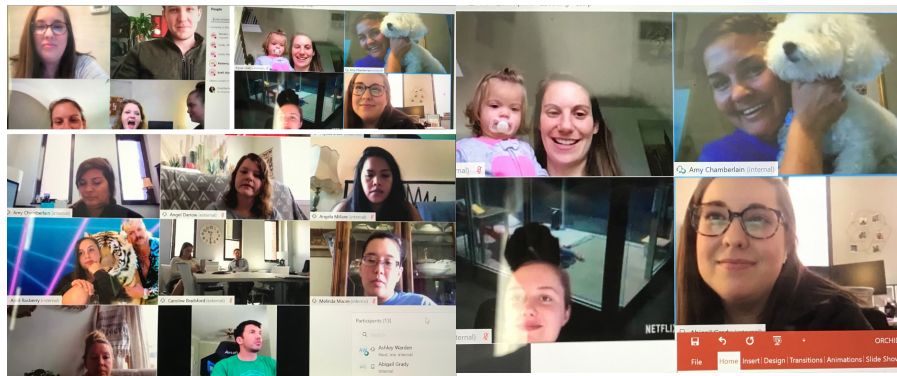
Drs. William Moran and Andrew Goodwin recently spoke with the Science Cafe team on important COVID-19 topics, including best practices for older adults to follow to curtail the virus' impact and COVID-19 respiratory concerns and how it affects the lungs.

[Read More](#)

Exercise to Boost Morale

How are teams keeping spirits up while working on the frontlines? Recently, **Dr. Nandita Nadig**, assistant professor and associate medical director of Tele-ICU, instituted daily push-ups within the MSICU team to increase endorphins to maintain positive team morale.

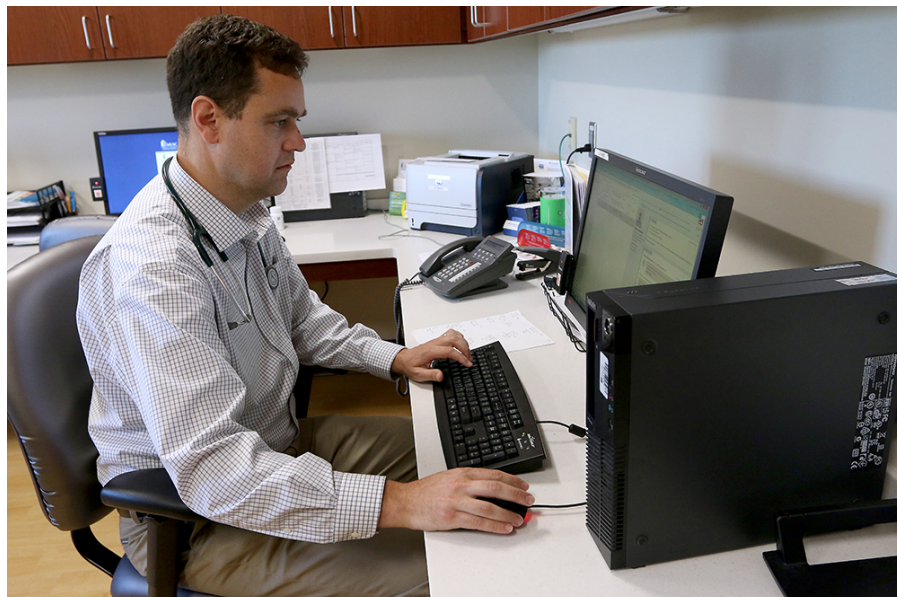
[See Video](#)



Pulmonary & Critical Care Research Team

The Pulmonary & Critical Care Research Program has been hard at work planning the launch of their COVID-19 Clinical Trials. Occasionally during their regular Webex meetings, they have special guest appearances from adorable kids & pets!

[Read about the Hydroxychloroquine Clinical Trial](#)



COVID-19 Immunity Testing

Dr. Eric Meissner, assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases, is the principal investigator for a study starting this week that focuses on MUSC's very own frontline health care workers and their immune responses to potential virus exposure.

[How the test works](#)

The Power of Copper

Michael Schmidt, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was recently recognized by Smithsonian Magazine for his research of the antimicrobial properties of copper. He led a Department of Defense funded study that looked at copper alloys on surfaces at three hospitals around the country. **Cassandra Salgado, M.D., Joseph Cantey, M.D.,** Joseph John, M.D., and Lisa Steed, Ph.D., were other major contributors to that study. You can read the article on Smithsonian Magazine's website.

[Read](#)

Clinical Trials

We are forming a multi-PI team at MUSC to develop a novel therapeutic strategy for the treatment of patients with severe COVID-19 in a phase I clinical trial. Our strategy will be based on mechanisms and technologies that our team members have developed to treat COVID-19 patients using modified allogeneic T cell transfer therapy to enhance anti-viral T cell function. Our team includes Besim Ogretmen, Ph.D., Shikhar Mehrotra, Ph.D., Xue-Zhong Yu, M.D., **Michael Lilly, M.D., Brian Hess, M.D., Cassandra Salgado, M.D., Alice Boylan, M.D.,** and Kent Armeson, M.S., along with the clinical trials office at Hollings Cancer Center. We are in the planning phase and writing the IRB protocol and NIH supplemental grants to support this exciting and important trial.



Critical Care for the Non-ICU Physician Grand Rounds Mini-Series

Dr. Edward Kilb and other critical care colleagues in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care developed a special grand rounds lecture series focused on topics that pertain to COVID-19 and management of critically ill patients. The **"Critical Care for the Non-ICU Physician"** series kicked off with a talk by Drs. Andy Goodwin and Edward Kilb about ARDS and ventilator management and had over 200 participants join in virtually. The full series and recordings of these lectures are below:

- **April 9: "ARDS and Refractory Hypoxemia in the Era of COVID-19"** presented by Andrew Goodwin, M.D. and Edward Kilb, M.D.
- **April 14: "Acute Kidney Injury and Renal Replacement Therapy During Coronavirus"** presented by Ruth Campbell, M.D. and Blaithe McMahon, M.D.
- **April 16: "Palliative Care Communication During the COVID-19 Pandemic"** presented by Patrick Coyne, MSN, Elizabeth Higgins, M.D., and Julia West, M.D.
- **April 21: "Pain, Agitation, Delirium, and Paralysis in the COVID Era"** presented by Carolyn A. Magee, PharmD, BCCCP and Joe Mazur, PharmD, BCPS
- **April 23: "Sepsis, Shock and Cardiac Involvement in COVID-19"** presented by Nandita Nadig M.D., MSCR and Thomas Di Salvo, M.D., MBA
- **April 28: "Diagnostic Studies and Therapeutic Options in COVID-19"**

Watch these lectures and learn more

Residents



Residents on the Frontline

The DOM residents have been hard at work adapting to new work and educational schedules and challenges.

- Members of the community, including Feeding our Heroes, a local nonprofit organization, have graciously provided multiple meals to our residents.
- Phoozy donated phone protectors which shields your phone from contamination. We are very grateful to PHOOZY for providing our residents with their products during this difficult time.
- A weekly WebEx called "Dockside with Duckett" with Dr. Ashley Duckett has been established where residents can ask PD, APDs and chiefs live questions.
- To cope with stress, fear, and anxiety related to COVID-19, residents have organized wellness/mental health groups which consist of 10-12 residents and a chief. The groups are aiming to meet weekly to check-in.
- Residents who are at home have been reaching UIM patients with virtual check-ins and video visits.

COVID-19 News Roundup

News Stories and Media Mentions

- [Amid rising coronavirus cases across the world, SC health officials offer clarity](#) (Post and Courier) Scott Curry, M.D.
- [Preparedness, not containment' for COVID-19](#) (MUSC Catalyst News) Scott Curry, M.D.
- [Caretakers of SC's elderly prepare for high risk of coronavirus as disease spreads](#) (Post and Courier) Mark Newbrough, M.D.
- [Specialists pivot to virtual, phone care to protect patients at high risk of COVID-19](#) (MUSC Catalyst News) Aundrea Loftley, M.D. & Amanda Overstreet, D.O.
- [MUSC Health is first hospital/medical center in state to do its own COVID-19 testing](#) (MUSC Catalyst News) Danielle Scheurer, M.D.
- [Oncologist offers tips for cancer patients during COVID-19](#) (MUSC Catalyst News) Antonio Giordano, M.D., Ph.D.
- [Life as a cancer patient, caregiver during COVID-19](#) (MUSC Catalyst News) Antonio Giordano, M.D., Ph.D.
- [MUSC expects surge of patients, says hospital is prepared](#) (Live 5 News) Cassie Salgado, M.D.
- [Researchers hope to learn more about coronavirus epidemic by studying](#)

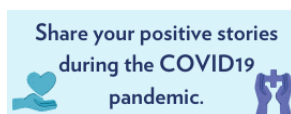
[frontline health care workers](#) (MUSC Catalyst News) Eric Meissner, M.D., Ph.D.

- [MUSC doctors perform first blood plasma transfusions in Lowcountry for COVID-19 patients](#) (Post and Courier) John Wrangle, M.D.
- [Hydroxychloroquine trial set to launch at MUSC Health](#) (MUSC Catalyst News) Andrew Goodwin, M.D.
- [MUSC prepares biorepository of COVID-19 samples for research](#) (MUSC Catalyst News) Patrick Flume, M.D.



Thank you!

The DOM administrative team is keeping spirits up knowing #WeStayHomefor all of our hardworking faculty, trainees, residents, and staff who are on the frontlines day in and day out to keep us safe and healthy. Thank you!



Share your story!

We have received many emails about the amazing ways you are supporting our MUSC community during this COVID-19 pandemic. Please continue to submit stories about faculty, staff, and trainees, or other community members coming together during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please send them to the DOM communications team.

Submit a Story to medcomm@musc.edu



COVID-19 Resources and Information

Please check DOM's Coronavirus Resource page for up-to-date information and changes

[Read the latest](#)

Have you liked Department of Medicine



on Facebook yet?

Help us spread the good news about the amazing activities happening in our divisions, clinics and laboratories every day! Please send your latest wins, presentations, events, photos, and story ideas to medcomm@musc.edu.

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