



NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
135 CANNON STREET, SUITE 403  
CHARLESTON, SC 29425

843.792.3621  
843.792.6723 FAX



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Heather Woolwine  
(843)792-7669  
woolwinh@musc.edu**

## **MUSC Children's Hospital listed in America's Best Children's Hospitals**

### **Annual U.S. News & World Report rankings cite children's heart program**

**Charleston, S.C. (June 3, 2010)** – MUSC Children's Hospital has again been ranked for children's heart programs in U.S. News Media Group's 2010 edition of *America's Best Children's Hospitals*, published online at <http://www.usnews.com/childrenshospitals> and featured in the August issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, available on newsstands July 27.

"We are indeed proud to be recognized again as one of the top Children's Hospital nationally for heart and heart surgery," said J. Philip Saul, M.D., MUSC Children's Hospital medical director and director of pediatric cardiology. "We are particularly pleased by our mortality ranking in the highest category (3 of 3), which only five of the top 20 programs received. This indicates that children with complex heart conditions requiring surgery are more likely to survive at MUSC than almost any other program in the US."

The 2010 America's Best Children's Hospitals, the most extensive listing of its kind, includes an Honor Roll of 10 pediatric hospitals ranked in all 10 specialties. Hospitals are ranked in cancer, diabetes and endocrine disorders, digestive disorders, heart and heart surgery, kidney disorders, neonatal care, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, respiratory disorders, and urology. This year's rankings methodology weighed a three-part blend of reputation, outcome, and care-related measures such as nursing care, advanced technology, credentialing, and other factors. A detailed description of the methodology can be found at <http://www.usnews.com/childrenshospitals>.

"The children of South Carolina are fortunate to have a heart health program that is among the best in the nation. The many patients and families served by Dr. Saul and his colleagues know firsthand what a difference this kind of care can make in their lives," said Ray Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D., MUSC president.

The Children's Hospital's heart program has obtained a 99 percent 30-day surgical survival rate for the last 6 years (2002-2008), ranking it among the best in the world. MUSC physicians and surgeons use a variety of advanced imaging and interventional techniques to optimize planning and treatment, including: 3D echo, cardiac CT and MRI, diagnostic catheterization and non-surgical interventions such as minimally invasive catheter procedures to complement, postpone or even eliminate the need for cardiac surgery.

“The recognition provided by *US News and World Report* shows the hard work and passion that our team has for providing the best care possible for the children we serve. When parents research the outcomes for various programs across the country as they are looking for a center for their child, MUSC Children's is routinely high on their radar screens,” said John Sanders, Children's Hospital administrator. “We are very proud of the physicians and all the staff involved in our Children's Heart Program.”

The Children's Heart Center, where all pediatric cardiology efforts take place, supports family-centered comprehensive care enhanced by one of the country's only dedicated pediatric cardiac intensive care units, designed for the critical care of all pediatric cardiac cases including postoperative monitoring and management. A multidisciplinary nursing team with expertise in caring for children with heart defects minimizes discomfort and stress for every patient. Other family support services such as child-life specialists further enhance the patient's experience. This team approach to caring for the littlest of hearts is also reflected in the statewide network that supports children with heart disease. More than 20 pediatric cardiologists throughout South Carolina and two pediatric cardiac surgeons in Charleston provide coordinated care unique to South Carolina through the Children's Heart Program of South Carolina. Cardiology groups are based in four locations – Charleston, Columbia, Greenville and Florence – with outreach clinics in a variety of other cities. All of the surgical and catheterization procedures are performed in The Children's Heart Center at the MUSC Children's Hospital. This system allows for the highest level of care by the specialized teams while still assuring that most of the patient's care is delivered closer to home.

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#### ***About MUSC Children's Hospital***

Built in 1987, MUSC Children's Hospital is the largest and most comprehensive pediatric health care center in South Carolina. Our children's health system is dedicated to providing a variety of services and programs to benefit the health and well-being of children. MUSC Children's Hospital is nationally ranked for its specialty services by Child Magazine, Best Doctors and U.S. News & World Report. The hospital has the only Level III neonatal intensive care unit in the region where the tiniest newborns are provided state-of-the-art care, and the only full-service Children's Emergency Department in South Carolina, which was ranked 9th nationally in 2007 by Child Magazine. For more information visit [MUSCKids.com](http://MUSCKids.com) or [MUSChealth.com/children](http://MUSChealth.com/children). Also, follow us on [Twitter @MUSCKids](https://twitter.com/MUSCKids) and become a fan of the Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MUSCKids).