



## MUSC Schwartz Center Rounds

Schwartz Center Rounds offer health care providers a regularly scheduled time during their fast-paced work lives to openly and honestly discuss social and emotional issues that arise in caring for patients. In contrast to traditional medical rounds, the focus is on the human dimension of medicine. Caregivers have an opportunity to share their experiences and feelings on thought-provoking topics drawn from actual patient cases. The premise is that caregivers are better able to make personal connections with patients and colleagues when they have greater insight into their own responses and feelings.

A hallmark of the program is interdisciplinary dialogue. Panelists from diverse disciplines participate in the rounds, including physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, allied health professionals and chaplains. After listening to a panel's brief presentation on an identified case or topic, caregivers in the audience are invited to share their own perspectives on the case and broader related issues. Schwartz Center Rounds strengthen the caregiver-patient relationship and remind caregivers why they entered their profession. A comprehensive evaluation shows that the program has a unique and profound impact on caregivers, as well as their patients.

- MUSC is one of only two hospitals in S.C. approved to offer Schwartz Center Rounds.
- MUSC began offering Schwartz Center Rounds monthly in November 2008.

**“The mission of the Schwartz Center is to strengthen relationships between patients and their professional caregivers in a way that provides hope for the patient, support for the caregiver and sustenance to the healing process.”**

—Ramita Bonadonna, Ph.D., APRN-BC, Therapeutic Services

## Nurse Alliance - Our Shared Governance

The Nurse Alliance provides a shared governance structure for nurses of all levels to take ownership of issues and empower themselves. It was established in 2004 to provide an outlet of change for current practices in an effort to promote beneficial outcomes for patients and staff members. All nurses and interdisciplinary members are encouraged to discuss issues impacting health care with the Nurse Executive Committee and the five councils: Practice, Education, Research, Leadership and Quality.

## Ripple Effect of One Nurse

“Nine years ago my department at MUSC adopted a family for Christmas. MUSC health care workers are by their nature generous people, and during the holidays they really shine. The response was so overwhelming I decided we needed to do more. I partnered with the Salvation Army who selects the families and, most importantly, helps them all year long, not just during the holidays. The response grew each year until we eventually formed an MUSC Angel Board, a group of exceptional employees representing a cross section of departments in the university and hospital. With the board's help the program grew to include an annual parade and celebration of the season where the employees, and Santa, hand deliver the toys. This year we provided over 3,000 toys to children that otherwise would have gone without. The Lowcountry will be a different place Christmas morning because of the MUSC community,” said Elizabeth Nista, BSN, RN, CQIA.

