

# NEW KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

**While defining new knowledge, seeking innovation and striving for improvement is what dreams are made of, these concepts are within our realm at MUSC every day.**

MUSC has been defining this benchmark since its doors opened in 1824 with a faculty of seven physicians and 30 students. It's at the very core of our practice. The dynamics involved with serving as a public institution of higher learning enable us to adapt to the ever changing patient population.

The New Knowledge, Innovation and Improvement initiative is being redefined with the guidance of Cindy Little, MSN, MBA, RN, CCRN, NE-BC, Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit's Nurse Manager, as well as Brian Conner, Ph.D., MSN, RN, Nurse Alliance Research Council Chair and College of Nursing Assistant Professor. The natural synergy between Magnet's New Knowledge Committee and the Nurse Alliance Research Council resulted in their combined efforts.

**“Quality improvement is always about continuous improvement,” Dr. Conner said.**

The focus of these efforts includes performing cutting-edge research, defining strong evidence-based practice and leading discovery in the world of health care. Great significance is placed on conducting research that translates into quality bedside care. Nurses are championing improvement projects stemming from research that's been completed just down the hallway.

**“We expect and want to be recognized as leaders in nursing research,” Little said. “When the John Hopkins, the M.D. Andersons and the Cleveland Clinics of the world say, ‘our nursing care will be like this,’ their reference point will be MUSC because our nurses have such great research to prove this is the best way to perform.”**

Objectives for this initiative are being met by providing nurses with the following resources:

1. Education about the differences and connections between research, evidence-based practice and quality improvement
2. Development of online research tools to promote the validation of new findings
3. Establishment of the intensive Clinical Scholars Program

“If we want to change what's possible for patients, we have to change what's possible for nurses,” Dr. Conner said. “This is an overall shift of moving everyone towards the vision that we're all here to try to constantly figure out how to generate new knowledge, find better ways to do what we do and ultimately have better outcomes for our patients.”

## 2012 Clinical Scholars

### Nursing Research at the Bedside

MUSC is offering fellowships to help nurses develop evidence-based projects and research projects. Evidence-based practice requires that we base care provided to patients, families and communities on current, best knowledge. Fellows will work with Dr. Conner to identify areas of focus. Additional MUSC faculty will contribute to this program as mentors.

Andrea White, 9 West BSN, RN

*Patient-centered approach to pain management*

Nicole Walhaupter, Hollings Cancer Center BSN, RN, OCN

*Infusion-behavioral activation for depression among cancer patients*

Crystal Menick, 6 East BSN, RN

*Explore effects of increased interprofessional collaboration on patient outcomes*