Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC)
*America’s Only Statewide Biomedical Research Collaborative*

Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC), established ten years ago in April 2004, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to transforming South Carolina’s public health and economic well-being through research. The organization combines the intellectual talents and physical resources of the state's three largest research-intensive universities with six of the state's largest health systems to advance an exciting research enterprise.

Members of the collaborative are: Palmetto Health, Greenville Hospital System, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, University of South Carolina (USC), Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and Clemson University. Affiliates include AnMed Health (Anderson), McLeod Health (Florence), and Self Regional Healthcare (Greenwood).

The mission of HSSC is to support our members in improving the health of all South Carolinians by collaborating across the state of South Carolina with the goal of enabling evidence-based research. HSSC’s supported organizations have the capability to coordinate joint activities for clinical trials and behavioral studies.

Through its role as a collaborative organization, HSSC will engage and encourage its members to:
- create and develop new products, new jobs, and new industries that positively impact economic growth
- contain and reduce health care costs
- minimize health care disparities
- improve patient safety and effectiveness
- improve access to health care services; and improve the patient care experience

**Financial Resources**

**Duke Endowment**
In 2006, The Duke Endowment awarded a three-year, $21 million grant to HSSC. The grant was the largest award ever made by the 85-year-old private foundation’s health care division. The grant supported the establishment of the Center of Economic Excellence in Healthcare Quality, the Center of Economic Excellence in Patient Safety and Clinical Effectiveness, and other HSSC initiatives.
In 2011, HSSC was awarded a second grant of $11.25 million from The Duke Endowment. Such support will enable HSSC to continue to fulfill its mission, organize new cores for meeting our objectives, and become a self-sustaining organization.

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of SC Foundation**
In 2008, the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation awarded a $5 million grant to support an endowed chair within the Center of Economic Excellence in Regenerative Medicine. The grant allowed the HSSC-supported center to recruit Martin Morad, PhD, an internationally acclaimed researcher known for his work in cardiology research, as its endowed chair.

**Some People We Know**
Policy Committee: James Raymond, MD, PH IRB Signatory Official is chair.
Clinical Trials Council: Rebecca Marigliano, PhD and Helmut Albrecht, MD are members.
eIRB Working Group: Mary Prather, Jeff Parks, and Eyeisha Barron are members.
IRB Management Committee – Rebecca Marigliano, PhD is a member.
Legal Committee – Howard West, JD, PH General Counsel, is chair.
Pharmacy Committee – David Amsden, PharmD is a member.

Research Initiatives

**eIRB**
- Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC) electronic Institutional Review Board (eIRB) application for managing the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process for human subjects research that provides a single platform to unify and streamline the IRB operations of the five participating institutions.
- The HSSC eIRB is a web-based system for IRB submissions, review, and management. It is a paperless, electronic method to submit, track, and route all submission types through the approval process and provides a means to document information required for the review of human subjects research. This includes the initial application, amendments, reportable events and continuing renewal submissions.

**SC Research.org**
- SCresearch.org is the South Carolina Research Studies Directory, which enables South Carolinians to participate in research opportunities and novel treatment options available across HSSC member universities and hospitals.
- http://scresearch.org/studies/by_institution - click on the star for Palmetto Health in the center of the image of South Carolina and go directly to our page to see clinical trials that have been registered by investigators.

**Clinical Data Warehouse and i2b2**
Refer to separate handout for summary of information about this initiative.

**SmartState Program**
- Creates Centers of Economic Excellence in research areas that will advance the state’s economy. HSSC currently supports.
- 12 Centers of Economic Excellence that are addressing a wide range of issues, including health care quality, clinical re-engineering, health care facilities design and testing, cancer, heart disease, and medication safety. These centers are magnets for talent, and the resulting research is creating advances for health and economic development.
- Visit http://smartstatesc.org/ to see information about these centers. One of them is the Stroke Center for Economic Excellence, and Dr. Souvik Sen is featured as the USC Endowed Chair in Clinical Neurology.

**Summary**
Since its launch in 2004, HSSC has developed the concepts, infrastructure, and technology to become a leading force for improvements in health care research, education, and delivery in South Carolina. Now, HSSC plans a shift to new focus areas that relate more directly to improving patient care and population health.