



**School of Medicine  
Columbia**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# THE DEAN'S EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

*The Dean's Executive Advisory Council was established in 2018 to provide the Dean of the School of Medicine Columbia with the opportunity to interact and work with informed, influential and philanthropic community and corporate leaders, business owners, dedicated faculty and devoted alumni to help expand our reach and raise our profile, while also helping secure the support we need to grow into a world-class medical school.*



We strive to be on the cutting edge of health sciences and to meet the critical demand for more health care workers in our state and beyond.





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# PURPOSE STATEMENT

## *Membership*

The Dean's Executive Advisory Council membership is by invitation. It is comprised of informed, influential and philanthropic community and corporate leaders, business owners, dedicated faculty and devoted alumni from across the country that have a vested interest in helping us grow into a world-class medical school and who demonstrate a personal commitment to advancing the strategic vision of our medical school through philanthropy and advocacy.

## *Membership Term*

Members will serve a three-year term and membership may be renewed for one additional term.

## *Time Commitment*

The Council meets virtually as needed and holds two full- or half-day meetings per year (one in the spring and one in the fall), which are typically coupled with some type of social event.

Meetings include presentations by selected clinical, basic science and allied health faculty members; updates from the Dean on the progress of our medical school; engaged discussion on the Dean's vision for the SOMC as it relates to priorities, funding needs, goals and progress toward those goals; break-out sessions or discussion time to encourage council members' input and feedback; and specific action steps for members.

## *Advocates, Ambassadors and Connectors*

Dean's Executive Advisory Council Members will assist the SOMC in securing the financial resources needed to accomplish the school's goals both through their own commitments and the support of other individuals, corporations and foundations. Council members also serve as consultants to the Dean and the collective council as a think tank of sorts.

The Dean's key funding priorities will serve as the primary focus of the Dean's Executive Advisory Council. Members will be recognized by the Dean and senior leadership at USC SOMC events and on the SOMC website.

Service on the Dean's Executive Advisory Council is without remuneration, except for administrative support, travel, and accommodation costs in relation to council members' duties.

Our goal is to infuse a permanent pipeline of expertly trained physicians, allied health professionals and scientists that will not only serve every corner of our state, but also define the next generation of patient care and scientific discovery that saves lives and advances medicine.





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# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND BEYOND

The ongoing success and evolution of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia is dependent upon our ability to attract the best students and faculty and to provide a state-of-the-art, innovative learning and research environment that inspires excellence in the next generation of health care workers and scientists who will serve the midlands, the state of South Carolina, and the nation.

We strive to be on the cutting edge of health sciences and to meet the critical demand for more health care workers in our state and beyond. To this end, USC is investing more than \$300 million to build a comprehensive health sciences campus in the BullStreet District, which is two miles north of the USC main campus. The university will invest another \$30 million in one-time funds to establish a new state-of-the-art Brain Health Center that will be located at the new Health Sciences Campus and an additional \$5 million in recurring funds to support the South Carolina Rural Brain Health Network, a new system of rural clinics that will provide differential diagnostic assessments and care support for rural SC patients. The new campus will position us to transform the way medicine is taught and health care is delivered. The capital building project is believed to be one of the largest high-dollar efforts ever undertaken at any South Carolina public college, underscoring the university's commitment to transform South Carolina from one of the least healthy states in the nation to one of the healthiest.

Our goal is to infuse a permanent pipeline of expertly trained physicians, allied health professionals and scientists that will not only serve every corner of our state, but also define the next generation of patient care and scientific discovery that saves lives and advances medicine. A new health sciences campus will serve as the spark to ignite our greatness and be a catalyst for economic growth by establishing a hub that attracts biomedical industry to the state.

✿ **A new medical education building and new biomedical science research building:** The current timeline for construction of the new SOMC medical education and biomedical sciences research facilities calls for construction to begin in 2025, with occupancy occurring in 2027. The need for a new medical school and research facility can't be overstated. The USC School of Medicine Columbia's lease with the Department of Veterans Affairs for the use of facilities located on the campus of the Dorn VA Medical Center on Garner's Ferry Road ends in 2030. The facilities, which date back to the 1930s, are in desperate need of at least \$75 million in improvements. The rent could increase to as much as \$7 million per year under a new rental agreement, up from the \$1/year the school currently pays. Since the Columbia VA Hospital needs the space for its own expanding patient population, moving the School of Medicine Columbia to the BullStreet Campus will benefit both the VA Hospital and the SOMC.

The University of South Carolina is a Carnegie-R1 institution, the highest research ranking afforded by the Carnegie Foundation to universities. The SOMC has active basic science, translational science, and clinical research programs.







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The new campus will provide opportunity to reimagine how medical education is delivered and foster greater collaboration among university biomedical researchers, while also encouraging statewide economic growth in the biomedical industry.

🌿 **Student Scholarships:** While medical school recruitment of underrepresented students in medicine is critically important to achieving a more diverse workforce, such an environment also fosters a more meaningful learning experience for all students, preparing them to better serve a diverse patient population. Student scholarships play a crucial role in our ability to recruit the most talented students. Additionally, most medical students graduate with \$200,000+ in debt, which can impact their decision-making when it comes to where they will live and practice. Primary care physicians working in rural areas traditionally do not earn as much as those who work in more populated suburban or metropolitan areas, and rural areas are where they are most needed. Scholarships will enable us to offset student debt, increasing the likelihood that our graduates will remain and practice in South Carolina and in rural areas where the need is greatest.

🌿 **Endowed Chairs and Professorships:** Recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty to lead clinical and biomedical science programs is a top priority of the SOMC. Endowed faculty positions are critically important to this endeavor. In American higher education, endowed faculty professorships and chairs are the gold standard for recruiting and retaining talented faculty. They signal the commitment of the university to an academic discipline at the highest level. They attract leading scientists and clinicians who, in turn, attract more top faculty and students. For faculty, endowed positions affirm the value placed on the excellence of one's work and demonstrate to other faculty that exceptional work is rewarded by the university community.

An endowed professorship, chair or scholar position generates discretionary spendable funds to support the holder's work, advance their instructional programs, develop new research ideas, fund their students' work and, most importantly, to make innovative advances in their own portfolios of research and work.

🌿 **Research Enhancement:** USC is a Carnegie-R1 institution, the highest research ranking afforded by the Carnegie Foundation to universities. The SOMC has active basic science, translational science, and clinical research programs. These programs play a critical role in improving the health and quality of life for South Carolinians. School of Medicine Columbia researchers have received just over \$211.3 million in sponsored awards dollars in the last five years (2018-2022). As overall federal support for research has been flat to declining in the United States in recent years, ongoing growth in our research contributions will depend upon broadening our base of research support through non-federal grants, industry collaborations, and from donors who embrace the vision of our research programs.

Recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty to lead clinical and biomedical science programs is a top priority of the USC SOMC.





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# WHY OUR MEDICAL SCHOOL MATTERS

South Carolina was ranked as the 43rd healthiest state in 2018. With above average rates of stroke mortality, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, and obesity, the health situation in our state is dire. Combatting these health challenges is becoming more difficult as our population ages. The number of Americans ages 65 and older is projected to nearly double from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060. As the population ages, the rates of chronic illnesses are expected to increase, too. If we don't act now, these demographic shifts will hit South Carolina hard. However, with the right support, South Carolina can go from one of the country's least healthy states to one of its healthiest.

On top of facing serious health challenges, South Carolina also is experiencing a population boom. As of 2019, the Palmetto State was the sixth-fastest growing state in America, yet it ranks 35th in the nation for the number of primary care physicians per 10,000 residents. A shortage of primary care providers already exists in all but one of South Carolina's 46 counties. The problem is clear. Our population is getting larger and older, and we don't have enough health professionals to meet the current and growing demand.

A shortage of providers has significant consequences on the health of our population, including:

- poorer chronic disease management
- higher overall health care costs
- lower satisfaction with health care

Given the health care workforce challenges that our state and nation are facing, training and retaining high-quality health professionals is critically important. We also have added five graduate programs to help develop a comprehensive health care workforce for South Carolina and beyond. These include a doctoral program in nurse anesthesia, masters programs in counseling and rehabilitation and genetic counseling, and masters and PhD programs in biomedical sciences. Additionally, recognizing the important role of advanced practice providers, the School of Medicine Columbia established the state's second physician assistant training program in 2017.

Since its founding in 1974, the SOMC has graduated more than 4,700 health sciences professionals. We are better positioned than ever before to meet the growing demand for health care professionals in South Carolina and beyond. While we've made great progress toward achieving our mission, we cannot rest. As the health care demands of our state continue to grow and are ever changing, and as the health care workforce demands escalate, we, along with the entire university, stand ready to meet these challenges and to transform health care in South Carolina and beyond.

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# THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE COLUMBIA'S MISSION IS A PROMISE KEPT

We're top five in the nation for the percent of graduates practicing in medically underserved areas (2022, 2023, 2024 US News and World Report)

44 of 46 -- The # of South Carolina counties where our alumni are caring for patients

More than 50% of our M.D. graduates choose to live and work in South Carolina

More than 70% of our first class of physician assistant graduates accepted positions in South Carolina and that trend continues

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**We offer our students an exemplary and innovative learning environment:**

We were **FIRST** in the nation to integrate ultrasound education into all four years of our Doctor of Medicine curriculum

**We do research that translates into better treatments and important medical advances:**

School of Medicine Columbia researchers received just over \$211.3 million in sponsored awards dollars in the last five years (2018-2022).

**We provide quality patient care that is saving and improving lives:**

1.4M unique patient visits occurred last year within our primary teaching hospital Prisma Health System, which includes 18 acute care and specialty hospitals and 270 physician practices

Our 12 centers and institutes are just one way we're working to advance medical education and improve patient care in our state.

