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## **Leading Stroke Expert Recruited as Third Endowed Chair for Stroke Center**

*Dr. Sen will be based at the University of South Carolina*

COLUMBIA, S.C., May 19, 2010 - - Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States, and the single largest cause of serious, long-term disability. Those who survive a stroke often find their lives forever altered: incapable of working, unable to enjoy previous activities and sometimes living in financial stress.

In 2007, the Stroke Center of Economic Excellence was established with support from Health Sciences South Carolina, the first statewide biomedical research collaborative in the United States, to use research to help lower this sobering statistic. Recently, Health Sciences South Carolina and the University of South Carolina (USC) announced the successful recruitment of a third leading stroke expert to the Center: Souvik Sen, MD, MS, MPH, has agreed to accept an endowed chair in stroke neurology and will hold his position at USC.

An expert in stroke treatment and research, Dr. Sen and was the founding director of the nationally recognized University of North Carolina Stroke Center. In his new role, Dr. Sen joins two other endowed chairs in the Stroke Center: Robert Adams, MD, MS, and Marc Chimowitz, MD, who hold their positions at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Sen's clinical and research expertise will complement the efforts of the REACH Stroke Network, implemented by Dr. Adams in 2008, in which telemedicine is used to provide hospitals with 24/7 access to stroke experts and in so doing achieve rapid diagnosis and treatment and better outcomes for stroke patients.

"Dr. Sen's presence on our faculty and as part of the endowed chairs program will be invaluable to stroke care in South Carolina, which has a particular need for his expertise," says Harris Pastides, PhD, University of South Carolina president. "Our state's citizens are most fortunate to have someone of the very highest caliber here to address this need."

Dr. Sen's stroke research focuses on the risk factors of stroke and new approaches for stroke treatment and prevention. Specifically, his interests include acute stroke treatment and cardio-embolic strokes, which are caused by blood clots that develop in the heart and travel to the brain. His research has been funded by national organizations, such as the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health.

He is board certified in Neurology and in the sub-specialty of Vascular Neurology. His work is published in peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

Commenting on Dr. Sen's recruitment, Jay Moskowitz, president and CEO of Health Sciences South Carolina, said, "Stroke is a serious threat to public and personal health. We are pleased that the Stroke Center has filled all three of its endowed chairs, making South Carolina home to three of the top experts in this necessary field of research. We also are extremely pleased that Dr. Sen will hold his chair at the University of South Carolina, which is home to both a medical school and school of public health, broadening the potential impact of Dr. Sen's research."

Added Moskowitz, "With the work of these three nationally-recognized researchers, we hope to make expert stroke care more accessible and improve the statistics of this terrible disease in our state and nation."

### **About Health Sciences South Carolina**

Established in April 2004, Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC) is a statewide public-private collaborative of research-intensive universities and major health systems possessing the shared vision of using health sciences research to improve the health, health care and economic wellbeing of South Carolina. HSSC includes Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina, Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Palmetto Health, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, McLeod Health, Self Regional Healthcare and AnMed Health. For more information, visit [www.healthsciencessc.org](http://www.healthsciencessc.org).