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Health Sciences South Carolina announces new affiliates AnMed Health, McLeod Health, Self Regional Healthcare

Nation's first statewide health collaborative grows exponentially; three new affiliates will work with HSSC to improve public health and boost state's economy.

Health Sciences South Carolina (HSSC), a biomedical research collaborative that includes the state's largest research-intensive universities and major health systems, has added three new affiliates.

Joining HSSC are AnMed Health, based in Anderson; McLeod Health in Florence, and Self Regional Healthcare, based in Greenwood.

These organizations join existing members Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Palmetto Health, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome these new affiliates," says Jay Moskowitz, HSSC president and CEO. "By contributing their expertise and resources to our efforts, they will add even more strength to HSSC's drive to improve public health and economic wellbeing in South Carolina through better health care and health research."

"At AnMed Health, a core part of our mission is to take proactive steps toward optimizing the health of our patients, staff and community," says John A. Miller, CEO of AnMed Health. "We have a long-standing commitment to this core value, and as a result we view our new relationship with HSSC as a tremendous positive. This new partnership matches our strategic and organizational goals as it relates to research, patient care and quality. This new partnership also aligns with AnMed Health's belief that collaboration among institutions will be critical to facing the challenging and changing environment we see not only in health care, but across a broad spectrum of arenas in South Carolina. We are excited to join in the efforts of Health Sciences South Carolina, and we look forward to contributing to the building of a stronger and healthier state."

"Health Sciences South Carolina is truly to be applauded for their progress," says Senator Hugh Leatherman. "As the nation's first statewide biomedical-research collaborative, they are continuing to improve the lives of all South Carolinians."

"The selection of McLeod Health into this group of research universities and major health care systems is further proof that McLeod continues to produce first-class medical services and professionals. I have no doubt McLeod Health will be a pivotal player in this collaborative, as they seek to further study disease treatment and prevention," he adds.

"The mission of Self Regional Healthcare is to bring advanced health care closer to home, so affiliating with HSSC and its statewide biomedical research collaborative is another step in this direction," says James A. Pfeiffer, president and CEO of Self Regional Healthcare. "Our focus on quality care and continuous improvement in patient and employee satisfaction has earned our hospital recognition at the state, national and even global level. Joining forces with HSSC compliments these efforts and places us in the forefront of major efforts to expand information technology for the betterment of our patients. HSSC is also involved in clinical trials networks for cancer trials and other cutting edge advances in medicine. Further, the collaboration is actively working on research to improve the quality of rural healthcare and reduction in health care associated infections. We see these benefits as an asset to the Greenwood area."

South Carolina is the only state in the nation in which all major research universities and six teaching hospital systems have joined forces to improve the quality of health care. Among its many activities, HSSC is leading efforts to provide better education and training for the state's health care workforce, to develop a statewide strategic plan for e-health, and to develop a statewide health information technology infrastructure to support research and advanced patient care.

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.