



The Population Health Award

Sarah Ball, Pharm.D., has spent nearly fifteen years at MUSC pursuing educational outreach for providers throughout South Carolina, ultimately benefiting the state's diverse population of citizens and their communities. She has creatively developed and implemented multiple training programs to improve prescribing among health care providers and the pharmacologic care of their patients.

Ball remains abreast of the ways healthcare providers need support and provides them with a trusted and thorough literature search which she condenses to bite-size educational nuggets and couples with practical support tools. This thoughtfulness and hard-work ensure that evidence-based education can be absorbed and immediately put into practice for community providers. Her work enables busy healthcare providers to implement change.

In 2007, Ball joined MUSC and founded the SCORxE Academic Detailing Service, a university-based provider educational outreach and support program to promote evidence-based prescribing and patient care decisions that consider risk, benefit, and cost-effectiveness. This service has educated over 450 prescribing clinicians across 18 counties in the state. In 2012, Ball was appointed project director of the University Internal Medicine NCQA-accredited Patient Centered Medical Homes, a population-based care model that enables teams to address more fully the medical needs of aging patients, including planning end-of-life care.

As of 2017, Ball is the principal investigator and director of the tipsSC Educational Outreach initiative, which is designed to address gaps in evidence-based care and promote appropriate medication use in response to the opioid crisis. This initiative has educated over 435 prescribing clinicians and has awarded over 700 continuing medical education units to providers around the state. Remarkably, pharmacy students on rotation have extended the tipsSC Educational Outreach initiative to the states of California, Georgia, Ohio, and North Carolina.

Ball has secured significant funding and led multidisciplinary teams in research projects and quality initiatives that have benefitted the health and well-being of thousands of individuals across South Carolina. For these reasons, the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation is honored to present the Population Health Award to Sarah Ball, Pharm.D., on August 17, 2021.