



# Distinguished Faculty Service Award

**Valerie Durkalski-Mauldin, Ph.D.**, has been an invaluable contributor to MUSC across missions—from teaching to research and public service—since she joined MUSC in 1997. After valuable contributions to the MUSC Foundation for Research Development (FRD) for six years, she transitioned to a faculty appointment as a biostatistician. In her time as faculty, she has risen to national prominence as an accomplished scholar and as director of MUSC’s Data Coordination Unit.

Durkalski-Mauldin earned a bachelor’s in biology and anthropology from Tulane University prior to earning an M.P.H. from Emory University in health management and policy. While working with FRD, she earned a Ph.D. in biostatistics from MUSC. Her background, unique in its breadth, foreshadowed her contributions and highly-regarded ability to communicate expertly across a diverse range of research areas. Her effectiveness as a collaborator and catalyst makes her among the nation’s foremost experts in the design of clinical trials.

Clinical researchers spanning various sites agree that Durkalski-Mauldin is an ideal colleague who signifies MUSC’s quality. As one colleague from another institution put it, she “is the epitome of a great collaborator. She has a keen ability to pose the most important questions and to help other investigators formulate questions that can be practically answered.” Another colleague observed, she is an “ideal biostatistical collaborator. She learns about the diseases and treatments under study, and compassionately helps educate and inform the entire research team.” Furthermore, “the great work that she and the fantastic team do at the Data Coordination Unit at MUSC really represents the gold standard for statistical design and data management.” These colleagues’ observations explain why she is so highly esteemed and her work so widely sought by experts in fields ranging from hepatology, neurology, and gastroenterology, to emergency medicine and even treatments for COVID-19 illness.

In addition to being a top-notch researcher, Durkalski-Mauldin is also a conscientious and devoted senior colleague, mentor, thesis advisor, and course instructor. Not only has she served as mentor for junior colleagues and on multiple dissertations, but also she has been an outstanding teacher of clinical trial design for the Department of Public Health Sciences at introductory and advanced levels. For more than a decade, she has led a summer institute on quantitative methods spanning public health, population health, biomedical and clinical research. Like any effective scholar, she shares her expertise across the range of other fields, with a range of learners, from those just starting out to those on the cutting edge of their own disciplines, as she is of hers.

For deep understanding of her own field, her remarkable dissemination of information across fields and levels, and her sustained contributions to the range of missions, the MUSC Foundation presents the Distinguished Faculty Service Award to Valerie Durkalski-Mauldin, Ph.D., on August 17, 2021.