



Outstanding Clinician Award

Virgilio George, M.D., excels in patient care, has a deep passion for inspiring future surgical leaders, and is an outstanding collaborator. His positive energy and smile are contagious to all that have the benefit of working alongside him, learning from him, and being cared for by him. His impact as an educator and mentor is manifested by the significant number of surgical resident mentees who have gone on to fellowship training in colorectal surgery.

George received a medical degree from the Universidad Centrooccidental School of Medicine in Venezuela in 1997. He completed a general surgery residency at Indiana University where he served as chief resident and a colon and rectal fellowship at Washington University, Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Before he was recruited to MUSC in 2015, George was on faculty at Indiana University and chief of colon and rectal surgery at Wishard Memorial Hospital.

In 2019, the Division of Colorectal Surgery was developed, and he became the division chief, a position he currently holds. He created this division from the ground up, hiring staff and recruiting surgeons. The talented team he assembled works with exemplary synergy, and they achieved certification as an ACS Commission on Cancer Colorectal Center of Excellence. MUSC is one of only twenty-three programs in the United States with this rigorous designation.

Moreover, as the division was being developed, George was able to connect academic and community surgeons to create alliances that support the MUSC missions of education and clinical excellence. He brought expertise in laparoscopic colon and rectal surgery and led the operating room effort into robotic minimally invasive surgery. George has made major contributions in transforming MUSC's colorectal surgery center into a nationally recognized program.

George is well-respected by colleagues and has a contagious positive energy and smile that lifts the spirits of those who interact with him. As a clinician leader, he is known for his empathy and compassion. He has a drive to radically change the way patients with colorectal disease are managed and is an excellent role model for our residents.

Recognizing his ability to develop effective multidisciplinary teams that promote excellence in patient care, his innovations in surgical technique, and his conscientious mentoring, the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation proudly presents the Outstanding Clinician Award to Virgilio George, M.D., on August 17, 2021.