



# Peggy Schachte Research Mentor Award

**Steven A. Kautz, Ph.D.**, has a tremendous record of success in mentoring junior faculty to obtain independent funding at MUSC and beyond. Moreover, he has prepared many individuals to be successful mentors by instilling the importance of professionalism, compassion, and a genuine interest in the success of others – all qualities that he consistently models.

Kautz is a world leader in applying biomechanical and neurophysiological principles to understand the coordination of movement in individuals with post-stroke hemiparesis. He has published more than 130 peer-reviewed manuscripts and has been awarded over \$50 million in rehabilitation research funding. In 2010, Kautz was recruited to chair the Department of Health Sciences & Research in the College of Health Professions at MUSC and charged with establishing a flagship center in stroke recovery research. He recruited three junior faculty to the new center, and all three faculty have since been awarded multiple grants as principal investigators and have been promoted to Associate Professor.

To complement his rehabilitation research program, Kautz sought an NIH/NIGMS-funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in stroke recovery. The COBRE provides a mentoring infrastructure and programmatic initiatives that are designed to help junior faculty become independent investigators. It is worth noting that Kautz requested Peggy Schachte's feedback on his specific aims for the COBRE grant submission. She advised him that the aims were "lacking a sense of forward movement" and he should "erase [them] and start over." He followed her advice and went on to win the grant. Kautz says he works to inspire his mentees to attain high standards as she modeled for him.

A common thread throughout the nomination letters is Kautz's care for each mentee. Remarkably, Kautz has supported over 70 postdocs and graduate students in addition to junior investigators. Among his mentees are two department chairs and a division director. Kautz values leadership and advancement of career goals as part of the research mentoring experience. His approach has never been about simply vying for research money. Instead, he focuses on building research careers in which grant applications flow logically from prior experiences, future goals, and structured mentoring interactions to help define and refine a career plan.

Kautz is an eminent scientist and Distinguished University Professor who has made mentorship a central facet of his career. He is hard working, passionate about science, and deeply committed to those whose lives he touches. Therefore, it is with immense pride that the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation presents Steven A. Kautz, Ph.D. with the Peggy Schachte Research Mentor Award on August 17, 2021.