



The Population Health Award

Amy B. Martin, Dr.P.H., was recruited to MUSC in 2014 to establish the Division of Population Oral Health in the College of Dental Medicine. In her first year, despite having no start-up funds, she was able to assemble a multidisciplinary team, launch a research agenda on the dental safety net needs of South Carolina, and secure \$4 million in extramural funding. Over her tenure at MUSC, Martin has obtained over \$10 million in grant funding.

Some of Martin's most impressive work has been cultivating partnerships. With support from the Duke Endowment and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundations of North and South Carolina, she is addressing oral health inequities in school-aged children who attend rural, Title I public schools. This partnership impacts more than 140,000 underserved children at seventy-nine schools in North and South Carolina.

Further, Martin assembled an oral health policy research team to serve SC Medicaid. Together, MUSC and Medicaid are exploring measures of value and quality in school-based oral health programs, shifting the adult dental benefit toward evidence-based coverage, and developing a statewide network of dental providers to meet the needs of 5,000 children in foster care. She has demonstrated that she is a strategic thinker who can envision systems-level change and has the knowledge base and personal characteristics required to lead implementation of those changes.

Her exceptional leadership has not gone unnoticed. In 2019, Martin was appointed chair of the Department of Stomatology and asked to co-lead the community engagement program within the South Carolina Clinical and Translational Research Institute. Martin led the development of an 18-credit-hour certificate program in safety net dentistry. This creative initiative provides specialized training for dental students and residents to improve their clinical and cultural expertise while also developing their business acumen for sustaining practice in underserved areas. This program was recognized nationally in 2020 when the College of Dental Medicine received the prestigious Gies Award for Innovation from the American Dental Education Association.

In summary, Martin has been extremely successful in building relationships and obtaining grant funding from numerous federal, philanthropic, and corporate partners. She has made outstanding contributions to the health of many citizens in rural and other underserved areas of South Carolina through the development of programs that serve as models for the integration of oral health with primary care. For these reasons, the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation proudly presents the Population Health Award to Amy Martin, Dr.P.H., on August 17, 2021.