

COMPREHENSIVE  
PULMONARY VASCULAR DISEASE

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CARE FOR PATIENTS



# Comprehensive Pulmonary Vascular Disease Care

The Pulmonary Vascular Disease Program at MUSC Health is nationally recognized as an accredited Pulmonary Hypertension Association Center of

Comprehensive Care (CCC) - the only one of its kind in South Carolina. Our center houses clinicians, counselors, and researchers who are studying the mechanisms of the disease and effects of new treatments. We have an experienced care team that includes members from varied disciplines such as nephrology, gastroenterology, cardiology, and rheumatology. We strive to provide evidence-based care, while incorporating the latest advances in diagnostics and treatments, including clinical trials.

Pulmonary hypertension is a complex health problem that is characterized by high blood pressure within the lungs, which can lead to heart failure. Frequently, patients with pulmonary hypertension are not recognized until they have advanced disease because early symptoms can be confused with those of many other conditions. An earlier diagnosis, a greater understanding of the disease, and the development of a comprehensive treatment plan can improve quality of life and prognosis in this life-threatening condition.



**Rahul Argula, M.D., MPH**  
Director, Pulmonary Vascular Disease Program  
Medical University of South Carolina



## LOCATIONS:

**MUSC Health Rutledge Tower**  
135 Rutledge Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29425

**MUSC Health East Cooper**  
1600 Midtown Avenue  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

## Contact Us

Appointments	<b>843-792-9200</b>
Fax	<b>843-876-0649</b>

## MAKE A REFERRAL:

**Clinic Referrals:**  
[PVDprogram@musc.edu](mailto:PVDprogram@musc.edu)

**Urgent Referrals:**  
Call **843-792-2300**  
to page the PH Physician on Call

**Inpatient Transfers:**  
Call **Meduline at 843-792-2200**

**For more information, contact:**  
Kristine Ritenour, RN  
Program Coordinator  
Office: **843-792-2127**  
Email: [PVDprogram@musc.edu](mailto:PVDprogram@musc.edu)

## PATIENT RESOURCES:

The MUSC Pulmonary Vascular Disease team recommends the following related online resources:

**Pulmonary Hypertension Association**

**PHaware**

**Support groups**



[MUSChealth.org/pvd](https://MUSChealth.org/pvd)

LEARN MORE:





## Pulmonary Vascular Disease Program Overview

Pulmonary vascular diseases (PVD) are a group of conditions that affect blood circulation in the lungs, making the heart work harder. These conditions, including pulmonary hypertension, can lead to cardiovascular problems as well as impair quality of life.

The Pulmonary Vascular Disease program at MUSC Health offers a multidisciplinary health care team, advanced treatment options, clinical trials, patient education, and support groups for patients with these conditions.

### We treat many pulmonary vascular diseases, including:

- Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
- COPD or ILD Pulmonary Hypertension
- Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension
- Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia
- Hepatopulmonary syndrome
- Pulmonary arteriovenous malformations

Our team of providers offer state-of-the-art care in the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary vascular diseases. They work closely with our colleagues in cardiology, rheumatology, nephrology and other specialties to ensure our patients receive comprehensive and supportive care, tailored to their individual needs.

### Our Services:

#### Diagnostic Services:

- Transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography
- Comprehensive diagnostic radiology (MRI, Nuclear medicine, CT imaging)
- Pulmonary function testing
- Cardiac catheterization (including exercise right heart cath)
- Polysomnography

#### Therapeutic & Supportive Services:

- Oral, inhalational, subcutaneous and intravenous therapies for PH
- Patient/care giver support group
- Specialty pharmacy services
- Palliative Care
- Genetic Counseling

# MUSC Health PVD Team



Rahul Argula, M.D.  
Pulmonary



Denise Sese, M.D.  
Pulmonary



Richard Rissmiller, M.D.  
Pulmonary



Kristine Ritenour, BSN,  
RN  
Pulmonary



Meghan Morrisette,  
PharmD  
Pharmacy



Kimberly Foil, MS, CGC  
Genetic Counselor  
Cardiology

MUSC Health is home to South Carolina's first and only PHA-accredited Center of Comprehensive Care (CCC), a designation of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association's PH Care Centers (PHCC) accreditation program.

## At MUSC's Pulmonary Vascular Disease Program, we offer:

**A Multidisciplinary Team Approach** to make sure patients quickly see the best doctors for their case and patient-centered care.

**State-of-the-art Diagnostic Testing** and advanced treatment methods to provide patient-focused care that relieves a patient's symptoms and prevents irreversible damage from pulmonary hypertension.

**Cutting-Edge Clinical Trials and Research** to discover new diagnostic and treatment opportunities for patients with pulmonary hypertension.

**Talk to your doctor to learn how you can participate in Clinical Trials or for more information:**

 **843-792-0965**

 **recruitment@musc.edu**

 **SCResearch.org**



**“ Regardless of the cause, pulmonary hypertension significantly affects patients' lives as well as their loved ones. We work with patients and their families to help give them a quality of life they never imagined they could have. At the center of everything we do is the passion we have for caring for these patients and their loved ones. ”**

- Denise Sese, M.D.

## You Can Make a Difference!

If you would like to be a part of our lifesaving mission to help find a cure for pulmonary vascular diseases and help advance education and cutting-edge research for patients with PVD, the Development Office is ready to help guide you through the process.

For more information, contact:

Nat Howe  
Director of Development  
843-792-4280  
howen@musc.edu