



Section Chief of Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Leadership Profile

August 2026

Prepared by Jeff Schroetlin, Megan Welch, Fayth Hoecker



WittKieffer

The Opportunity

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston, South Carolina, seeks an accomplished academic leader to serve as its inaugural Section Chief of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. This is an outstanding opportunity to build an advanced academic IBD program as part of one of the nation's top digestive disease centers in a city and community known for its enviable quality of life.

The incoming Chief will be part of the division faculty, which includes national and international leaders in their respective disciplines. The Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology houses more than 29 faculty members, 14 fellows, and 9 advanced practice providers. The IBD section manages a complex cohort of more than 2,000 distinct IBD patients, generating over 8,000 encounters annually. By embedding subspecialized IBD care pathways across regional divisions, the MUSC IBD team brings advanced biologic therapies, multidisciplinary co-management, and clinical trials directly into local communities.

MUSC, the state's only academic health science center, consists of six colleges and educates and trains more than 3,200 students and approximately 900 residents annually. As the healthcare system of the Medical University of South Carolina, MUSC Health is dedicated to delivering the highest-quality and safest patient care while educating and training generations of outstanding healthcare providers and leaders to serve the people of South Carolina and beyond. Patient care is provided at 16 hospitals (including owned and affiliated), with approximately 2,700 beds and four additional hospital locations in development; more than 350 telehealth sites and connectivity to patients' homes; and nearly 750 care locations situated in all regions of South Carolina. In 2024, for the tenth consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report named MUSC Health in Charleston the No. 1 hospital in South Carolina.

The MUSC College of Medicine was the first medical school in the southern United States and the 10th medical school in the country. Today, the College is home to approximately 1,500 faculty members committed to providing excellence in clinical care and training 740 medical students, 38 Master of Public Health students, and approximately 900 residents and fellows. The College is also home to a robust basic, clinical, and translational research enterprise. A national leader on many fronts, the College strongly emphasizes inclusive excellence and has been nationally recognized for its efforts in diversity in higher education and the workforce.

Reporting to the Chief, Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, [Dr. Garth Swanson](#), the Section Chief will have the resources and support to set a bold vision for the growth of IBD in clinical, education, and research programs of excellence. The program maintains a significant clinical volume and anticipates recruiting additional faculty members. This is also a key leadership position within the nationally recognized Digestive Disease Center.

The successful candidate will have significant experience in all leadership domains, including education, research, and clinical enterprise. Candidates should have demonstrated experience in faculty recruitment, mentorship, and the development of innovative clinical and educational programs. Resources will be available for the new Section Chief to build on existing strengths and achieve national prominence for the Division.

Applicants must hold an M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degree, be board-certified in Gastroenterology and/or Hepatology, and possess outstanding leadership skills and administrative experience with a demonstrated commitment to clinical care, research, and education.

Organization Overview

I3 Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinical Lead. The Integrated Innovation Institutes (I3) at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) represent enterprise-level strategic initiatives designed to bridge basic science, clinical trials, and healthcare delivery. The I3 framework unites university researchers, health system clinicians, and commercialization infrastructure to accelerate translational medicine and care model redesign, rather than functioning as isolated academic departments. The Digestive Disease I3 houses four focus areas - Liver, IBD, Neurogastroenterology, and Pancreatobiliary. The clinical lead of the MUSC IBD I3 is partnered with a basic science lead, Dr. Amy Engevick, to develop innovations across MUSC and the state of South Carolina that improve clinical care and research for patients with IBD. This position comes with buydown to support the leader's time and commitment to this role.

In FY26, the MUSC Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Section demonstrated remarkable clinical growth and deep regional integration. In FY27, the section actively managed a complex longitudinal cohort of more than 2,000 distinct IBD patients, generating over 8,000 encounters annually and accounting for 7% of total clinical encounters. Central to this trajectory is the section's strategic integration with the expanding MUSC Regional Health Network (RHN)—an enterprise encompassing 16+ hospitals, over 2,700 licensed beds, and nearly 750 care sites statewide. By embedding subspecialized IBD care pathways across regional divisions (including the Midlands, Pee Dee, and Catawba hubs), the MUSC IBD program brings advanced biologic therapies, multidisciplinary surgical co-management, and clinical trials directly into local communities while preserving seamless, bi-directional coordination with the downtown academic medical center for quaternary care.

Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Clinical Activities

The Division is nationally and internationally regarded for its expertise in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and offers a Patient-Centered Medical Home model, with diagnostic testing ranging from routine lab work and colonoscopies to advanced studies such as chromoendoscopy, balloon enteroscopy, and video capsule endoscopy. All urgent IBD patients are offered appointments within days of referral and have access to more than 20 clinical trials in investigative drug therapies, diagnostics, and nutrition.

Division clinical faculty are members of the [Digestive Disease Center \(DDC\)](#) at MUSC. The DDC brings together diverse specialties involved in evaluating and treating digestive diseases and disorders. Clinical services are coordinated within five sections: liver disease; pancreatic and biliary disease; gastrointestinal cancer; and general gastroenterology/functional and inflammatory bowel disease and nutrition.

The Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology also administers the only liver transplant program in South Carolina. Multidisciplinary teams work together to provide seamless personalized care for patients. As of 2024, satellite locations have expanded to Bluffton, Columbia, Florence, Greenville, Lancaster, and other locations throughout South Carolina.

Physicians in the Division provide patient care services across a variety of clinics, focusing on hepatology, liver transplant, esophageal/motility, and a full-time nutrition service. The pancreatic/biliary disease clinic includes a dedicated patient-centered IBD medical home that consists of a dietician, pharmacist, behavioral health social worker and nurse navigator. Division faculty also teach clinics at both the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and MUSC. In addition to specific clinics, procedures performed include advanced general endoscopic procedures, endoscopic ultrasound, ERCP, and esophageal manometry/24-hour pH monitoring. The Division is nationally and internationally regarded for its expertise in advanced endoscopy and houses a Remicade infusion clinic.

Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center

The GI clinic at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center serves an average of 2,000 to 3,000 Veterans per year within the procedure center at the VA Medical Center. GI procedures include colonoscopies, esophagogastroduodenoscopies, PEG tubes, and liver biopsies.

Education

The Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology has a proud history of training students, residents and fellows. The fellowship training program attracts top-tier physicians each year. Clinical care and research are integral components of the GI fellowship program, which is designed to groom the next generation of GI specialists.

MUSC's fellowship programs provide comprehensive training in all aspects of the specialty, including clinical and basic research. The [GI Clinical Track Fellowship](#) is a three-year comprehensive training program that offers both inpatient and outpatient training in all aspects of gastroenterology, including general luminal GI, Hepatology, biliary-pancreatic consultation, inflammatory bowel disease, and esophageal motility diseases. [The GI Research Track Fellowship](#) is a three-year program where fellows can pursue either clinical / translational research or basic science investigation. Areas of research strength include nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, liver fibrosis, portal hypertension, drug-induced liver injury, and chronic liver disease. In addition, the Division is home to a Gastroenterology Transplant Fellowship program and an Inflammatory Bowel Disease Fellowship.

Fellows train at two hospitals, University Hospital and the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center (VAMC). Rotations are completed within the first 24 months on the general luminal, biliary-pancreatic, and liver services. The fellowship is an ACGME-accredited training program, and trains 12 fellows per year.

Research

The Division boasts an active and diverse research program. The Division has been home to some of the most progressive researchers in gastroenterology and hepatology, including Dr. Peter Cotton's work pioneering and naming the ERCP procedure and creating the Digestive Disease Center. Current projects in the division range from bench and animal studies, drug and device trials, to observational and epidemiologic research in various areas, including pancreaticobiliary and esophageal disorders, gastrointestinal cancer, nutrition, inflammatory bowel disease, and liver disease.

Beginning in 2020, MUSC was awarded more than \$16.5 million in NIH funding to open two new tightly integrated centers. MUSC is now the only institution in the country to house both a [Digestive Disease Research Core Center \(DDRCC\)](#), which supports the research of established scholars, and a Center for [Biomedical Research Excellence in Digestive and Liver Disease \(CDLD\)](#), which mentors early-career investigators to become independent scholars. The DDRCC is one of only 17 DDRCCs in the nation.

GI faculty interact and collaborate with investigators in a number of other research units at MUSC, including the Hollings Cancer Center, an NCI-designated cancer center.

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)

Founded in 1824 in Charleston, MUSC is the oldest medical school in the South, and South Carolina's only integrated, academic health sciences center with a unique charge to preserve and optimize human life in South Carolina through education, research, and patient care. Each year, MUSC educates and trains over 3,200 students and approximately 900 residents in six colleges: Dental Medicine, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. With approximately \$359 million in research funding in fiscal year 2024, MUSC leads the state in federal and National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, with more than \$220 million.

As the healthcare system of MUSC, MUSC Health is dedicated to delivering the highest-quality and safest patient care while educating and training generations of outstanding healthcare providers and leaders to serve the people

of South Carolina and beyond. Patient care is provided at 16 hospitals (including owned and affiliated), with approximately 2,700 beds and four additional hospital locations in development; more than 350 telehealth sites and connectivity to patients' homes; and nearly 750 care locations situated in all regions of South Carolina. In 2024, for the tenth consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* named MUSC Health University Medical Center in Charleston the No. 1 hospital in South Carolina.

MUSC has a total enterprise annual operating budget of approximately \$7 billion. The nearly 26,000 MUSC family members include world-class faculty, physicians, specialty providers, scientists, students, affiliates, and care team members who deliver groundbreaking education, research, and patient care.

For more information, visit:

[Strategic Plan](#)

[MUSC](#)

MUSC Research

As South Carolina's premier biomedical research institution, MUSC is committed to recruiting top scientists to serve the needs of residents. With approximately \$359 million in research funding in FY24, the collaboration between faculty, staff, students, fellows, and our partners accelerates the movement of scientific discoveries to patient and public healthcare that improves lives. Key research areas include addiction sciences, cancer, cardiometabolic health, community health, digestive diseases, drug discovery, health disparities, inflammation & fibrosis, oral health, and stroke rehabilitation.

From the laboratory to the patient's bedside, MUSC researchers are committed to pursuing innovative biomedical discoveries that lead to health innovations for the lives we touch. MUSC currently holds an impressive 11 NIH T32 training grants across several disciplines, including 72 predoctoral and 43 postdoctoral student positions. Additionally, MUSC faculty have nine NIH R25 awards with focus areas on increasing diversity, training in entrepreneurship for women in STEM, a summer undergraduate program for addiction research, and high school team science pathway programs, among others. These numerous training and educational awards demonstrate the passion and commitment of faculty in educating the next generation of researchers.

For more information, visit: research.musc.edu

To learn more about our strategic research areas, visit: <https://research.musc.edu/our-research/areas>

MUSC Health



MUSC Health, the clinical enterprise of MUSC, is dedicated to changing what is possible in healthcare. Nationally recognized for its innovation, patient and family-centered care, and quality outcomes, this integrated healthcare system is accessible at the downtown Charleston campus and through more than 100 outreach locations, clinical affiliations with numerous healthcare partners, and a robust telehealth

network. MUSC Health sees more than one million patient encounters annually, and its specialized care teams consistently rank among the best in the country. As a premier health sciences center, MUSC Health is at the forefront of the latest advances in medicine and includes [South Carolina's #1](#) and most preferred hospital (as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* on its Best Hospitals 2025-2026 list and the National Research Corporation respectively), an NCI-designated Cancer Center, a Level I Trauma Center, and South Carolina's only nationally recognized children's hospital.

For more information, visit: www.muschealth.org

MUSC Medical Center

MUSC Medical Center is a key component of MUSC Health. It houses an [NCI-designated Cancer Center](#), a [Level I Trauma Center](#) and South Carolina's only nationally recognized [children's hospital](#). Three adult specialties - cancer, gynecology, and ear, nose, and throat and six pediatric subspecialties - cardiology & heart surgery, cancer, orthopedics, neonatology, nephrology, gastroenterology, and GI surgery- are ranked in the top 50 in the country.

MUSC also houses a well-established and productive solid organ and tissue [Transplant Center](#) encompassing comprehensive clinical care, including adult and pediatric services. The transplant research enterprise is well-funded, works closely with the Department of Surgery, and is at the cutting edge of transplantation. These centers are the sole transplant focus in the state and amongst the largest in the country.

MUSC Physicians

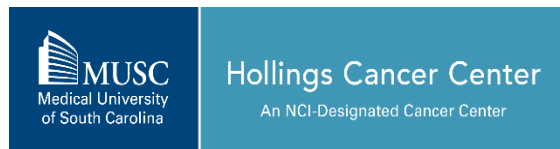
MUSC Physicians, the physician practice plan, provides services ranging from prevention and wellness to highly specialized care at outpatient clinics and facilities on the MUSC campus and extending into the community. MUSC Physicians offers the widest range of specialty care available within any health system in South Carolina.

Integrated Centers of Clinical Excellence (ICCE)

MUSC Health's Integrated Centers of Clinical Excellence (ICCE) are the organizational units of MUSC Health. Committed to care models that improve patient experience and achieve optimal patient outcomes, these comprehensive care teams are led by [physician chiefs](#) who are charged with providing patients with the most innovative, efficient, and effective subspecialized care. Currently, there are 17 ICCE chiefs.

The ICCE chiefs are involved in all aspects of the day-to-day management of the integrated clinical delivery team, including physicians, advanced practice providers (APPs), administrators, business managers, and other dedicated, collaborative ICCE-specific resources.

MUSC Hollings Cancer Center



As one of only 72 National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer centers in the nation, the only NCI-designated center in South Carolina, and the most extensive academic-based cancer research program in the state, Hollings' mission is to reduce the cancer burden and [health disparities](#) in South Carolina and nationally through [innovative research](#),

[exceptional education and training](#), [multidisciplinary patient care](#), [statewide cancer prevention programs](#), and [progressive public policy transformation](#). At Hollings, specialists across more than 20 academic departments join forces to study and treat cancer from diverse perspectives. Our three research programs - [cancer biology & immunology](#), [cancer prevention & control](#), and [developmental cancer therapeutics](#) - create new and better methods for preventing and treating this complex disease. With an annual research funding portfolio of more than \$44 million and more than [200 clinical trials](#), Hollings focuses on getting this research to where it matters most: in clinics to benefit cancer patients. Hollings Cancer Center's Office of Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination (CRTEC) has an annual budget of approximately \$1.9 million that funds numerous education and training programs and initiatives.

For more information, visit: hollingscancercenter.musc.edu

Position Summary

Reporting to the Chief, Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, the Section Chief will lead the Inflammatory Bowel Disease efforts for the Division. The new Section Chief will also work to ensure the division is aligned with the Digestive Disease, Endocrine, and Metabolism Integrated Center of Clinical Excellence (ICCE) to grow and expand clinical initiatives.

The Section Chief will be responsible for providing strategic leadership and oversight of division activities, including growing and diversifying research programs; expanding clinical and procedural activities while providing the highest level of patient care; enhancing the Division's educational programs; and recruiting, mentoring, and developing faculty.

The Section Chief will assist the Division Chief in resource planning, policy development, promotion of research and scholarly activity, and exploration of innovative funding opportunities for the Division. In addition, the Chief will supervise the academic and clinical activities of the faculty within the Division.

The general duties of the Section Chief, Inflammatory Bowel Disease will include:

- Oversee the development and academic progress of IBD faculty in the Section.
- Lead the IBD Fellowship Program, including recruitment, education, mentorship, and program oversight.
- In collaboration with the Division Chief, develop and oversee the financial affairs of the Section.
- Work collaboratively with health system leadership to ensure the success of IBD at MUSC Health.
- Participate in the leadership of the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology as a member of the divisional leadership team.
- Partners with faculty to promote the education of fellows, residents and medical students, facilitating a cohesive environment for trainees.
- Maintain a practice in inflammatory bowel disease.

Candidate Qualifications

Required Qualifications

- M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. or equivalent degree;
- Board Certification in gastroenterology and licensure or eligibility for licensure in the state of South Carolina;
- Completion of a 4th year Advanced Fellowship in Inflammatory Bowel Disease;
- Progressive administrative leadership experience in an academic medical center environment;
- Eligible for appointment of associate or full professor.

Preferred Professional Experience and Characteristics

- Strong national network and a proven ability to attract world-class faculty, clinicians, trainees, and staff;
- Strategic planning skills and expertise in management, finance, and clinical operations;
- Ability to unify groups through dynamic leadership;
- Demonstrated ability to successfully lead a team through an organizational change effort;
- Balanced commitment to educational, clinical, and research missions;
- Commitment to employee, environmental and patient safety, and quality initiatives;
- Strong commitment to interdisciplinary cooperation and learning;
- Understanding of compliance requirements at the federal and state levels.

Personal Characteristics

- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills;
- Demonstrated qualities of self-awareness, self-regulation, and empathy;
- Demonstrates a record of promoting collaboration and cultivating strong internal and external relationships;
- Capacity to embrace change with an appropriate respect for culture and tradition.

The Community

Charleston, South Carolina

Few cities can claim the varied charms of Charleston. The Charleston area, with a population of over half a million spread across three counties, offers a lifestyle that combines metropolitan living with the beauty of the southeastern coast. Located on a peninsula formed by the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, downtown Charleston is a popular resort area with ninety miles of beach stretched along the tri-county coast. The average annual high of 78 degrees encourages a wide range of outdoor activities. The area beaches ([Folly Beach Surf Cam](#)) are superb playgrounds for participating in water sports, sunbathing, fishing, or simply taking a moonlit stroll. Most are located only minutes from the medical center. Fishing, hunting, boating, and playing golf and tennis are year-round activities that can be found throughout the Charleston area. Charleston also has several large parks for further outdoor recreation. They boast amenities such as miles of bicycle paths, paddleboats, and a water park with a 200-foot water slide, splash fountains, picnic areas, observation decks, campgrounds, and children's playgrounds.



While Charleston's cultural, scientific, and commercial worlds are firmly planted in the modern age, the city itself retains echoes of an earlier era. A horse-and-carriage ride along the city's old cobblestone streets reveals tall, narrow houses of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, beautiful private gardens, the historic Battery overlooking [Charleston Harbor](#), and the open marketplace with its vendors selling their wares and weaving baskets. Charleston is a regional center for many cultural activities highlighted in late spring by the internationally renowned [Spoleto Festival USA](#), which offers the finest in theater, opera, dance, music, and art.

Coinciding with the international Spoleto Festival is the local Piccolo Spoleto Festival -- a celebration of Charleston area artists. The city is home to the Charleston Jazz Festival, [Gullah Gitchee culture](#), Greek festival, and PRIDE celebrations. Throughout the rest of the year, the arts continue to play an important part in Charleston. Theatrical and musical productions are performed at the 250-year-old [Dock Street Theatre](#), the Gaillard Municipal Auditorium and in smaller theaters in the area.

The [Charleston Symphony Orchestra](#) offers a full season of classical and pops concerts. The Charleston Opera Company and the area ballet companies complement a year-round program in the performing arts.

There is an abundance of visual arts and historical museums located in the area. [The Charleston Museum](#), organized in 1773, is located in the downtown area, City Hall Gallery (where John Trumbull's original portrait of George Washington hangs), the [Gibbes Museum of Art](#), the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Studio Museum, the [International African American Museum](#), which opened in 2023, and dozens of private galleries and studios. Historical displays and facilities are located at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor and Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's

Island. [Charles Towne Landing](#) features life as it was in Charleston in the 1700s and houses many live animals that once roamed the area in that era. Many hours of planning and challenging work go into the effort of retaining the historic charm of Charleston, as is seen in much of the downtown area. Many homes and buildings bear the stamp of historical preservation and restoration; they provide veritable architectural museums.

There are plenty of attractions for "non-art-lovers" as well. The opening of the [North Charleston Coliseum](#) and [Carolina Ice Palace](#) has brought a wide variety of new entertainment to the Charleston area, including hockey, rock concerts, circuses, ice skating shows, and public ice skating. Local sporting events throughout the year include the [Carolina Stingrays](#) hockey team, the [Charleston RiverDogs](#) professional baseball team, and [The Charleston Battery](#) professional soccer team. The [South Carolina Aquarium](#) is also a wonderful attraction on the Charleston peninsula.



Three famous gardens are located near Charleston: [Middleton Place](#), [Magnolia Plantation](#), and [Cypress Gardens](#). All feature beautiful oak trees and camellias blooming in the winter and early spring and azaleas blooming during March and April.

Those seeking homes in the Charleston area have a wide range of possibilities -- from the waterfront to the rural countryside, from the historic district to carefully planned subdivisions. Charming older homes, contemporary homes, apartments, and townhouses are available at a wide range of prices. Selling prices, rental costs, and property taxes are lower than the national average for comparable housing.

Charleston Visitor's Guide: <http://www.charlestoncvb.com/>

South Carolina Visitors Guide: <http://www.discoversouthcarolina.com/>

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include a curriculum vitae (CV) and a letter of interest addressed to the Selection Committee. Review of applications will commence immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries to the WittKieffer consultants, Jeff Schroetlin, Megan Welch, and Fayth Hoecker, assisting MUSC with this recruitment, preferably via email, to fhoecker@wittkieffer.com.

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.

All images and logos used in this leadership profile were attained from Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine and/or are owned by Witt/Kieffer Inc. via Getty Images.



WittKieffer is the premier executive search and advisory firm developing inclusive, impactful leadership teams for organizations that improve quality of life. For more than 50 years, we have operated exclusively at the intersection of not-for-profit and for-profit healthcare delivery, science, and education – the Quality of Life Ecosystem. Through our expert executive search services as well as our Professional Search, Interim Leadership, and Leadership Advisory solutions, we strengthen organizations that make the world better.

Visit [WittKieffer.com](https://www.WittKieffer.com) to learn more.

WittKieffer