



# Building a Sustainable Partnership: The MUSC/SCSU Experience

*Presentation by: Anita Harrison, MPA*



A National Cancer Institute  
Designated Cancer Center



# An MUSC/SCSU Partnership

**Medical University of South Carolina  
Hollings Cancer Center  
(Charleston, SC)**

Dr. Marvella Ford, Professor of Public Health Sciences  
and Associate Director of Cancer Disparities



**South Carolina State University (Orangeburg, SC)**

Dr. Judith Salley, Professor and Chair of the  
Department Biological & Physical Sciences



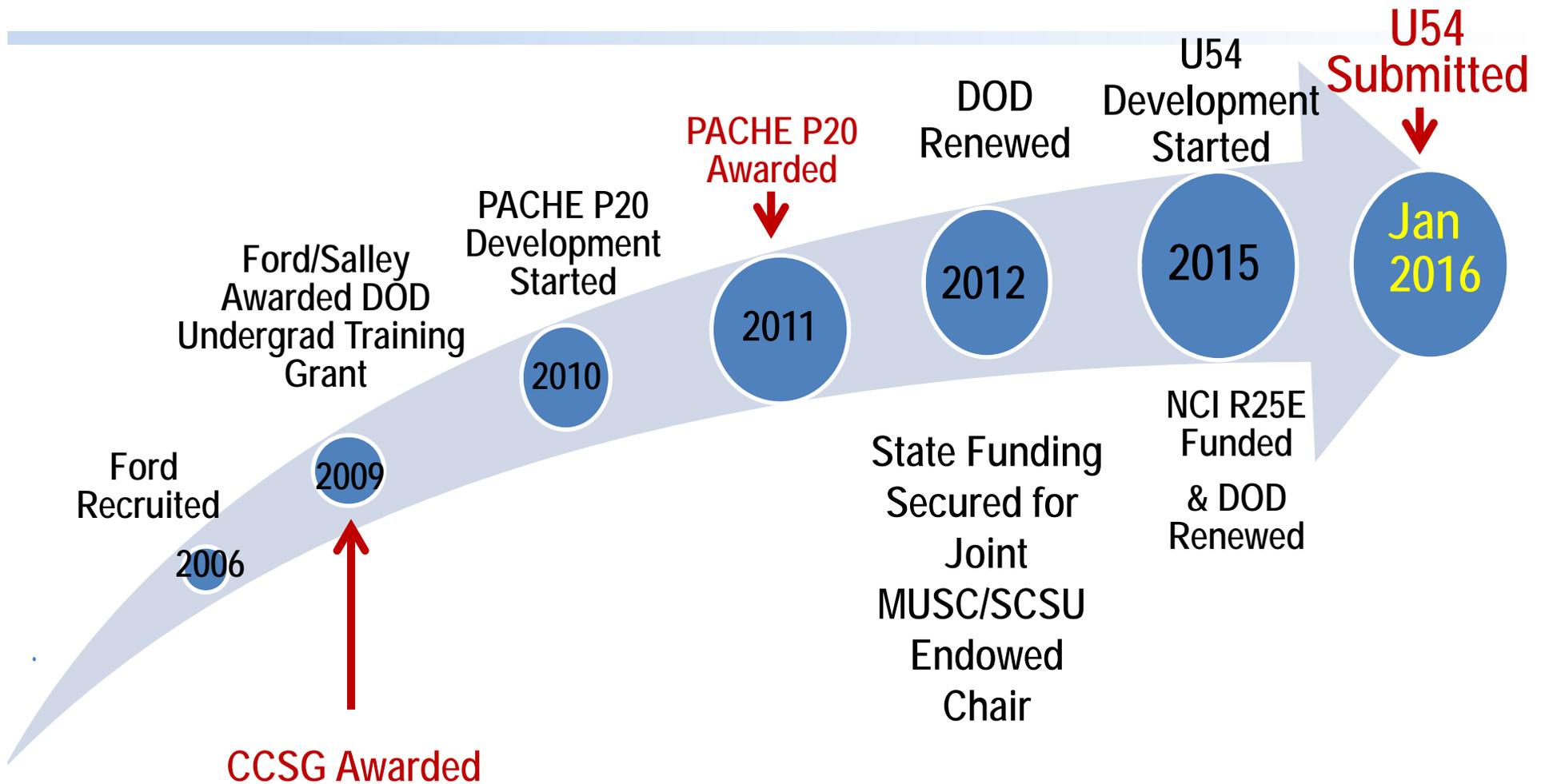
# Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity

In 2001, the NCI launched a program called the **Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE)**, formerly the Minority Institution Cancer Center Partnership.

**Goal:** to enable institutions serving underserved health disparity populations and underrepresented students (ISUPS) and NCI-designated Cancer Centers to develop effective research, education, and outreach programs to encourage diversity among competitive researchers and reduce cancer health disparities.

NCI PACHE Program supports **12 U54-funded** Center Partnerships and **9 P20-funded** Center Partnerships.

# Building A Relationship Takes Time



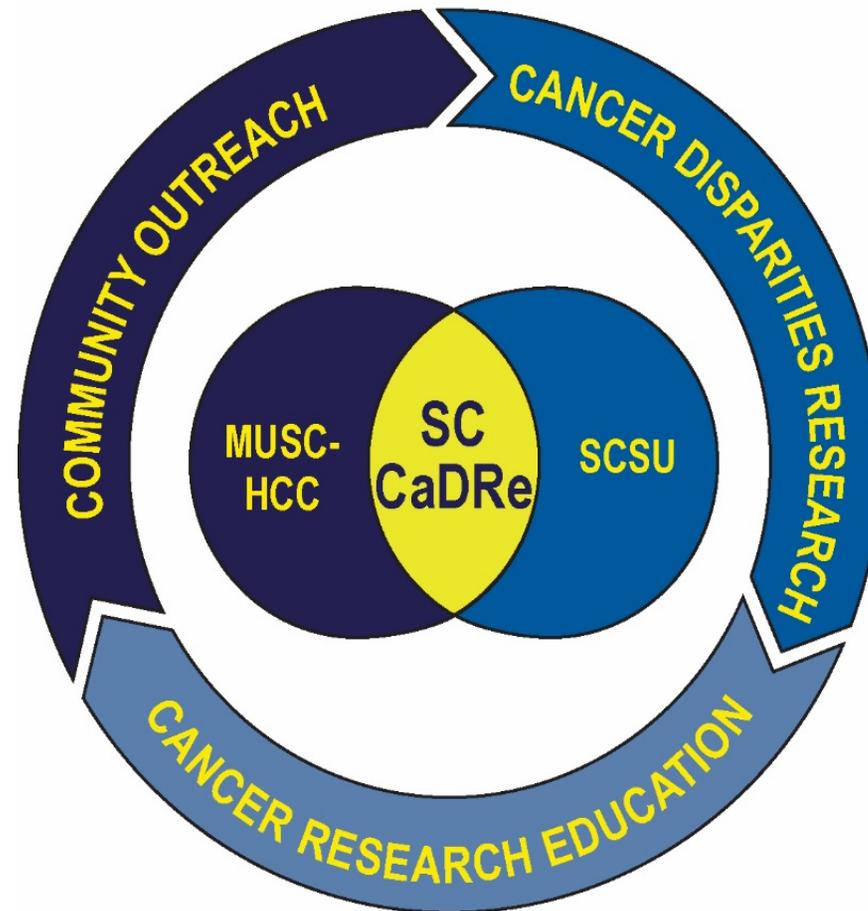
# Success of the MUSC/SCSU Partnership

- **Grant Awards:** 2 funded NCI R21s  
1 funded AHRQ R01  
1 funded R25E  
1 NCI postdoctoral diversity supplement  
1 pending NCI R21 (12<sup>th</sup> percentile)  
1 pending DOD (outstanding merit)
- **Student Success:** 25 SCSU students participated in summer research experience at MUSC since 2012
  - 1 completing a biomedical master's degree at Georgetown Univ
  - 1 full scholarship for biomedical master's degree at Claflin Univ
  - 2 accepted into doctoral programs at MUSC and USC
  - 1 accepted into medical school at MUSC
- **Publications:** 35 peer-reviewed publications from these MUSC/SCSU faculty and student collaborations

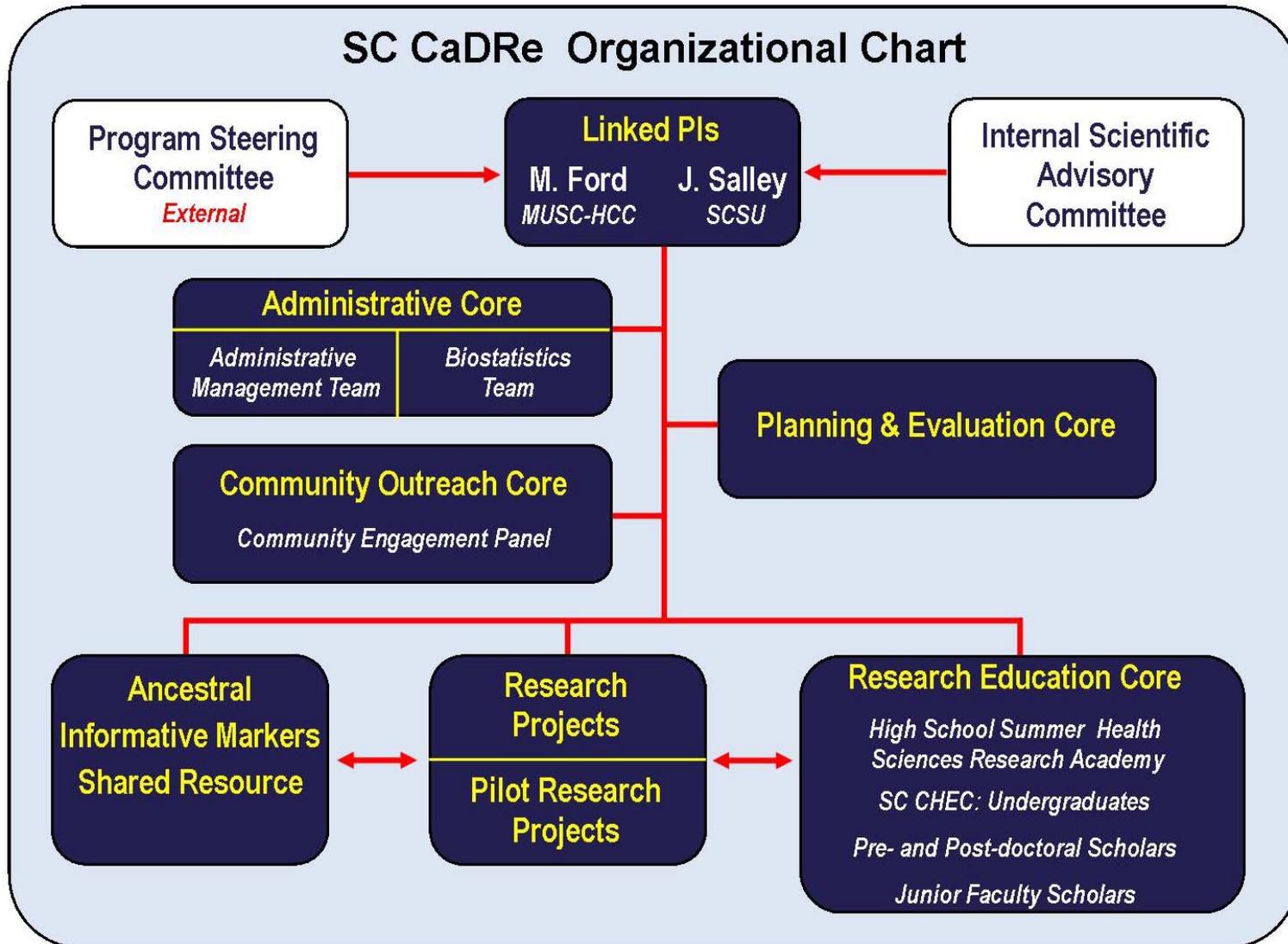
# 2016 U54 Submission

## South Carolina Cancer Disparities Research Center: SC CaDRe

\$2.5M in direct costs/year (60/40 split)



# 2016 U54 Submission



# U54 Pending: Research Education Core

## South Carolina Cancer Disparities Research Center (SC CaDRe)

MUSC/South Carolina State University Partnership

*A comprehensive, integrated pipeline initiative to expand the diversity and capacity for conducting cancer disparities research*

### High School Students

#### High School Summer Health Sciences Research Academy

40 juniors & seniors will participate in 2, two-week sessions at SCSU

### Undergraduate Students

#### SC CaDRe Research & Pilot Research Projects

10 SCSU juniors & seniors will devote 10hrs/week during the academic year & 14 weeks full-time in the summer\*

*\*Summer programming supported by DOD and R25E*

### Graduate Students

#### SC CaDRe Research & Pilot Research Projects

1 MUSC pre-doctoral student to be supported for 10hrs/week for 3 years

2 MUSC masters students to be supported for 10hrs/week for 1-2 years

### Postdoctoral Trainees

#### SC CaDRe Research Projects, Pilot Research Projects, and Other Cancer Disparities Projects

2 SCSU & 3 MUSC post-doctoral trainees to be supported for 2 years

### Junior Faculty Scholars

#### Independent Cancer Disparities Research Projects

1 SCSU & 1 MUSC assistant professor to be supported for 2 years

# What was the Administration's Role?

- Coordinated strategic planning meetings for a solid year
  - bi-weekly team meetings
  - 2 day-long, on-site meetings at SCSU and 1 day-long meeting at MUSC
- Coordinated a Request for Concepts that were vetted from July-Oct 2015 for final inclusion in U54 (20 initial concepts)
- Coordinated visit and draft reviews by external reviewers
- Wrote/edited Cores and edited Projects
- Biosketches for 45+ investigators
- Wrote 10 letters of support/commitment
- Developed budgets/budget justifications
- Compiled two separate grant applications/uploaded in Assist (twice)

# Challenges

- SCSU on 9 month academic calendar vs 12 month academic calendar – had to obtain approval from SCSU President/Deans from multiple schools for faculty release time from teaching to participate in U54.
- Building investigative teams with equal participation in the development of scientific aims; budget goal was 50/50 split but because SCSU did not have capacity for animal research some, projects had 60/40 split.
- Institutional cultural differences; hierarchical leadership structure.

# Key to Ongoing Success

- Beyond P20/U54, HCC provides institutional commitment and resources to this partnership.
- Regardless of whether the U54 is funded this round, the two institutions are committed to building on its successes.