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## **Welcome SC Perfusion to our inaugural newsletter!**

We are pleased to ‘roll-out’ this format as a method of sharing interesting news and pertinent events, in hopes of enhancing awareness and kinship among perfusionists in South Carolina!

2018 proved to be a significant year for the Palmetto State Perfusion Society (PSPS), as we reawakened the entity, formed a board, envisioned a mission, developed a website: [SCPerfusion.org](http://SCPerfusion.org), and have arranged and scheduled our inaugural meeting, scheduled to be held in Greenville, SC on June 1!

We all have an appropriate pride for how our profession is postured here: From a truly outstanding school of perfusion, to the consistent excellence of our colleagues in each of the 17 cardiac surgical programs throughout South Carolina.

PSPS is confident that 2019, and beyond, can produce yet heightened excellence, as we continue to identify and communicate ways to help each other.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter, and will provide feedback as to methods and information aimed to enrich its intended purpose!

Warm regards,

Al Cain, CCP – President, PSPS

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## **News from around the State**

We have several major announcements from around the state that we wish share: First, we have two colleagues retiring after spending the majority or entirety of their career serving the people of South Carolina. We also welcome two new perfusionists entering SC and congratulate a colleague.

## **Dr. Joe Sistino, Clinical Director of Cardiovascular Perfusion**

Medical University of South Carolina

This summer, Dr. Joe Sistino will retire from his role as Program Director at the College of Health Professions at MUSC. Joe has enjoyed a long and distinguished career within perfusion and will be sorely missed by the hundreds of students and colleagues that have been impacted by him and his tremendous body of work.



Dr. Sistino came to Charleston, South Carolina in 1999 to join MUSC as a clinical instructor for the cardiovascular perfusion program. He was named clinical director later the same year. Under Joe's guidance, a robust simulation center was developed and the program was elevated from Bachelors to Master's Degree status. In addition to the considerable academic based workload, Joe also served as Chief of Perfusion until 2012. Concomitant to his leadership of clinic and school, Dr. Sistino has served the greater perfusion community by contributing heavily to perfusion research, with greater than 75 peer reviewed publications and more than 100 perfusion conference presentations. Dr. Sistino was recognized for these contributions in 2015 by being named Amsect Perfusionist of the Year.

Post retirement, Joe will continue to assist the perfusion program in a reduced capacity. He also looks forward to spending more time with his grandson Micah, and sailing his boat: "Southern Comfort." A grateful 'Palmetto State Perfusion Society' salutes you Joe, for your delivery of skilled perfusion care, for a life purposed to shape a collective body of knowledge, and the provision of a stellar education platform for many appreciative students who have prospered by virtue of your tutelage.

Ken Ingersoll, MUSC Class of 2010

## **Davis R. Gerrald, CCP – Perfusion Manager, Greenville Memorial Hospital**

MUSC School of Perfusion, class 1986

We congratulate Davis Gerrald as he retires from clinical perfusion and embarks on a new exciting and challenging position with Maquet (Getinge Group)!

Davis is a Conway, SC native and a 1986 graduate of the MUSC College of Allied Health in Extracorporeal Circulation Technology. He was a member of the last class that had the great fortune of the 'complete James P. Dearing education experience.'

After graduation, Davis spent his first year assisting George Beshere in building the perfusion aspect of the fledgling CV program at McLeod Medical Center in Florence, SC. In the fall of 1987 he accepted a staff position with Perfusion Group Incorporated (PGI) at Greenville Memorial. Just one year later, PGI tasked Davis with starting and managing the perfusion responsibilities of the newly founded CVS program at St. Francis Hospital (Greenville). By 2008, Davis' obvious leadership capabilities and clinical acumen led him to being named Perfusion Manager at Greenville Memorial, where in 2010 he established a respected and substantial ECMO/VAD program.

It is evident following Davis' career that he has positively influenced and enhanced each program and institution in which he has worked. A mutual colleague, upon hearing that Davis had accepted a position with Getinge, said, "He will do well, he always does well!"

What better synopsis could be made of anyone's career?

Davis has been, and always will be a true friend and valued fellow perfusionist!  
Godspeed Davis!!

Al Cain, CCP (MUSC class '86)

### **Other news from around the state:**

We would like to congratulate MUSC's Dave Fitzgerald, after successful completion of his Doctorate in Health Administration! Dr. Fitzgerald will assume the role of Clinical Director of the Cardiovascular Perfusion program upon Dr. Sistino's retirement this summer. He joins Dr. Tony Shackelford and Dr. Joe Sistino, both of MUSC, in this achievement. We believe this places MUSC as the highest composition of Doctorate level perfusionists at any institution!

Again, we congratulate you Dave for your toil and success, and we anticipate celebrating the mark you make during your time at MUSC!

### **New SC Perfusionists:**

Ronnie Smith; MUSC, after 7 years at New York Presbyterian Hospital in NYC.  
Stephen Melonas; Prisma Health Richland, after 2 years at CMC, Charlotte.

We welcome you both!

## Upcoming State Events:

### Palmetto State Perfusion Society

presents:

**Annual Meeting and Membership Drive**

**June 1st, 2019 at Noon**

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**Location: Stone Pin Bowling Alley in Greenville, SC**

Please join us for a fun afternoon of networking and socializing with Perfusionists in and around South Carolina. This FREE, family friendly event is open to all CCPs, perfusion students, friends, and family. There will be vendors, CEUs, lots of complimentary food and entertainment. Mark your calendars, and we look forward to seeing you.