

# University Specialty Clinics® Connecting with New Faculty

DECEMBER 2008

A photograph of a desk with a stack of old books, a pair of glasses, and a quill pen. In the foreground, there are several sheets of paper with handwritten notes in cursive. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a library or study area with more books and people.

University Specialty Clinics welcomes eight new full-time clinical faculty members and the personalities and perspectives that each brings to their position at the USC School of Medicine.

## J. Matthew Orr, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Clinical  
Family and Preventive Medicine

**What Drew Me To USC:** The vision of the department and the opportunity to return to a major university atmosphere with Division I sports!

**A Turning Point in My Career Was:** Becoming a parent; my boys have taught me what the human experience is really all about.

**My Motivation Is:** The two F's: Family and Food. (Don't tell my physician!)

**What Amazes Me About My Patients:** It takes a lot of courage and resolve to instigate change in one's life. When patients do create change, it is because of their own willingness, determination, and effort to do so. I serve more as their excuse to create change rather than the reason they do.



## Juan E. Morales, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine  
Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

**Working With University Specialty Clinics Will Give Me An Opportunity To:** Develop my clinical and research interests in pulmonary and critical care, while bringing the best care to the people of South Carolina.

**Experience Taught Me That:** Aggressive treatment is not always the best treatment. The difficult part is realizing when "less" is better.

**I Can't Work Without:** A team. Most of the time medicine is about teamwork. This especially applies to caring for critically ill patients in the intensive care unit.

**I'll Never Forget The Patient Who:** While critically ill, had a vision of an angel telling her that God had sent me to save her. She eventually recovered and was able to return home.



## Rachel A. Houchins, M.D.

Clinical Instructor of Neuropsychiatry  
Subspecialty: General Psychiatry

**Medicine Fascinates Me Because:** Every patient is unique. I'm always amazed that people can have the same disease process and such different presentations, life stories, and treatment responses.

**The Clinical Strengths That I Bring To USC Are:** Curiosity (I always enjoy the challenge of a unique or difficult case) and teaching (I was raised by two high school teachers and I have learned a lot about the ability to impart knowledge to others).

**Colleagues Say That I Am:** A hard worker and a team player.

**I Am Proud Of:** My involvement in the Association of Women Psychiatrists, in which I am the 2008 - 2009 Symonds Fellow.



3

## Kerry M. Sims, M.D.

Instructor, Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

### **What Attracted Me To Obstetrics/Gynecology:**

I love the fact that I get to do clinic, labor and delivery, and surgery every week to keep me interested. I also enjoy taking care of young women as they go through multiple changes in their lives.

**What Appealed To Me About Columbia:** I am excited to be closer to my extended family who live throughout the Carolinas, and to be in a small southern town full of growth and opportunity.

**Every Day In Medicine Is:** A little different - with an opportunity to learn from the subtle differences.

**I Am Fascinated By:** Menopause, which can be a frustrating and trying time in a woman's life. Hopefully I can make that transition a little smoother.



## Davit Mrelashvili, M.D.

Clinical Instructor of Neuropsychiatry  
Division of Neurology

**I Would Welcome More Referrals For:** Headaches, multiple sclerosis, and ALS.

**I Am Giving Back To The Community By:** My present efforts to create a multiple sclerosis center of excellence for the Columbia area.

**I First Thought About Medicine When:** Reading through an anatomy book in my mom's library at the age of six.

**The Most Challenging Aspect Of My Subspecialty Is:** To bring the hope and joy of life back to patients with non-curable neurological illnesses.



## Anna-Kathryn Rye, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics  
Division of Infectious Diseases

### **My Most Outstanding Professional Achievement Is:**

The Pediatric Antibiotic Stewardship Program, which I am heading up. It will be the first of its kind here in South Carolina. I feel we can really decrease antibiotic resistance by being judicious in our antibiotic choices.

**In 20 Years I See Myself:** Still in Columbia, South Carolina, working at Children's Hospital. I love my job here and hope to be here for a very long time. Plus I love the Gamecocks.

**If I Had To Do It All Over Again:** I would have continued tennis lessons as a kid even though the teacher told my mom it was a waste of her money. For all he knew, I could have been the next Serena Williams!



## Ramon C. Ylanan, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Family  
and Preventive Medicine

**My Passion in Medicine Is:** Sports Medicine.

**Physicians Can Impact Lives By:** Intervening medically and socially before preventable issues are missed.

**I Am Most Proud Of My Involvement In:** Youth sports.

**Teaching Provides Me With:** An avenue to pass on my experience and to learn from others.

**The Most Challenging Aspect Of My Work Is:** Balancing an athlete's desire when it is in opposition to appropriate care.

**My Professional Goals For The Next Year Are:** Helping build and grow the Sports Medicine Fellowship.



## Antoinette Williams, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine  
Division of Pulmonology & Critical Care Medicine

**As A Clinician At USC I Hope To:** Increase awareness in South Carolina of sleep related health problems. I want to contribute to research in sleep medicine focusing on women.

**What Drives My Work:** Knowing that my patients appreciate my hard work and sacrifices.

**My Most Satisfying Research Has Focused On:** The oxidative stress that is associated with sleep apnea and finding a medication that may reverse the effects of this condition.

**My Most Memorable Mentors Taught Me:** To be the best at whatever you do, no matter what you are doing, and you will be successful. (My parents)



**“Happiness, grief, gaiety, sadness, are by nature contagious. Bring your health and your strength to the weak and sickly, and so you will be of use to them. Give them, not your weakness, but your energy, so you will revive and lift them up. Life alone can rekindle life.”**

**- Henri-Frédéric Amiel**

**Swiss philosopher, poet, and critic  
1821 - 1881**

