

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts: Elizabeth Sanjenis
The Jeffrey Group
(305) 860-1000 Ext. 101
esanjenis@jeffreygroup.com

Brendaly Rodríguez, M.A.
Recruitment and Outreach, HCHS
(305) 243-1392
HCHS-SOL@miami.edu

The University of Miami Kicks-Off Health Study of Latino Population

University begins recruiting participants for National Institutes of Health research

MIAMI, FLA. – (March 12, 2008) – The University of Miami announced today it has begun recruiting participants for a groundbreaking study of health and disease in Latin American populations living in the United States. The University of Miami has been chosen by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as one of four sites in the country to conduct the Hispanic Community Health Study – Study of Latinos (SOL)., UM is currently sending out letters to eligible Hispanic candidates inviting them to take part in the Miami portion of the research.

“We are very excited to finally kick-off this pioneering study that will be so important for our South Florida community, and Hispanics across the country,” said Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. “Latinos are a vital lifeline to this city and conducting a study of this magnitude is invaluable in helping us offer improved care to the families that trust us with their health every day.”

Although the Hispanic population is the fastest-growing minority group in the United States today, little research has been conducted on their personal lifestyle practices and health conditions. As a result, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the NIH - - has launched this six and a half year epidemiological study that will look at everything from risk factors such as diet, physical activity, smoking and obesity and conditions including heart disease, diabetes and cognitive impairment.

The other sites involved in the study are New York (Bronx,) Chicago, and San Diego.

"The University of Miami is proud to have been selected as a partner by the NIH to determine how knowledge about lifestyle practices and health conditions in U.S. Hispanics/Latinos can help us improve the health and well-being of the people living in our community," added Neil Schneiderman, Ph.D., principal investigator of the Miami field center and James L. Knight Professor of Psychology, Medicine and Psychiatry.

A total of 16,000 eligible participants will be recruited nationwide representing Mexican/Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and Hispanics from Central and South America. Each participating field center will recruit 4,000 men and women with the following characteristics:

- 18 to 74 years of age (6,000 participants between the ages of 18 and 44 years, and 10,000 participants between the ages of 45 and 74 years will be selected in total)
- Varying income and educational levels

The study is by invitation only – this means that only Miami residents who receive a letter in the mail or are sought by a certified UM recruiter are eligible to participate. A random selection procedure that will increase the representation and participation of Latinos in the selected geographical areas has been developed by the study and implemented in Miami and other participating cities.

For more information about the study, please call 305-243-1828 or visit <http://www.saludsol.net>

###