



United Health Foundation

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Receives \$1 Million Grant for Innovative Medical Program at Overtown Clinic

Miami, Fla. (February 15th)-- The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine announced today that United Health Foundation has awarded a new \$1 million grant to the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health to further fund the foundation's "Center of Excellence" at the Jackson Health System's Jefferson Reaves, Sr. Health Center in Overtown.

In May 2004 the United Health Foundation began a multi-year relationship with the Department of Family Medicine and the Jefferson Reaves, Sr. Health Center, with an initial \$1 million grant to create the "Center of Excellence" to directly expand access, improve healthcare quality and reduce disparities. Robert Schwartz, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, says the funding has allowed the department to "work together with the staff at Jefferson Reaves to provide the services at the center. This has allowed us to 'think out of the box' to improve health care delivery programs, access to care and focus on areas of important needs to patients."

"Providing access to health care in an underserved community is one of the main missions of our medical school and our partners at Jackson," said Donna E. Shalala, president of the University of Miami. "We are so proud that this innovative program has made such

significant progress in the past four years, and we look forward to even more advances in the coming years.”

The Jefferson Reaves, Sr. Health Center is one of 12 primary care centers in the Jackson Health System, and it also serves as the resident training facility for the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the Miller School of Medicine.

“We at the Reaves Center are very grateful to United Health Foundation, and very appreciative of our relationship with the Department of Family Medicine,” said Barbara Loyd, administrator at Jefferson Reaves, Sr. Health Center. “Their support has been invaluable in assisting us to provide expanded access and optimal quality of care to the people who live in the Overtown section of our city.”

The “Center of Excellence” at Jefferson Reaves is one of four funded by United Health Foundation. The others are in Washington, D.C., New York City and New Orleans. A study published recently by the George Washington University Medical Center documented that the quality of care provided by these centers is equal to or better than the care provided in the private sector, based on national standards.

“Our family medicine physicians and residents have been able to provide quality care such as diabetes management, physical therapy, nutritional and mental health counseling in this clinic, which is conveniently accessible to the community,” said Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the Miller School of Medicine. “Patients are also offered hypertension management, substance abuse counseling, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling and other wellness and prevention services.”

According to Reed V. Tuckson, M.D., a member of the United Health Foundation board, “We are impressed by the innovative care delivery model that has been developed by the faculty

of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and the staff at Jefferson Reaves.

Together they have demonstrated that the people of Overtown deserve and can receive high quality healthcare that meets their needs.”

Marvin O’Quinn, president and chief executive officer of the Jackson Health System, said providing quality primary care is critical to the well-being of any community. “You cannot have a healthy community without access to primary care. The services provided at the Jefferson Reaves, Sr. Health Center are of vital importance to the Overtown community, which is why we are grateful for the support given by the United Health Foundation.”

The increased funding will go toward continued expansion of the care delivery model developed at the center and will ensure that medical students and residents in training will have the opportunity to learn about delivering care in a community health setting.

“We at the Miller School are convinced that this type of training experience is essential to reaching the goal of providing all Americans with access to health care,” said Dr. Goldschmidt.

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