Transforming Lives, Serving the Global Community.
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TUNE IN!
Hear about the latest medical discoveries in our new podcast, Inside U Miami Medicine, hosted by Dean Ford.
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear friends,

IT IS AN EXHILARATING TIME TO BE PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, and I am delighted to share with you some of our accomplishments over the past year.

The caliber of our research program continues to ascend, securing more than $175 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health in federal fiscal year 2022 — the highest amount in the history of the Miller School. Marking another significant research milestone, the University of Miami was recently invited to join the Association of American Universities. This prestigious recognition, widely regarded as the pinnacle of excellence in American higher education, underscores our steadfast commitment to tackling the world’s most pressing challenges through preeminent research and education.

The technological landscape has undergone rapid proliferation over the past year, and we are leveraging those changes to enhance the well-being of patients across the globe. Utilizing artificial intelligence and machine learning, we are expediting information processing to propel translational discoveries and advance the health of humanity.

It is also important to recognize that healing with skill and fidelity requires a physician workforce representative of those we serve, and the Miller School is leading this charge by forming connections with promising students early in their academic careers. By helping those from diverse backgrounds pursue careers in medicine and science, we fulfill a core aspect of our mission and advance the pursuit of health equity.

Our medical and graduate students also continue to thrive. Through our innovative NextGenMD curriculum, students are gaining hands-on clinical experience as early as the first year of medical school; providing care to a population like no other in the nation; and engaging in cutting-edge research with our outstanding faculty. The Class of 2023 earned a 98% match rate, and its members are now participating in highly competitive residency programs at institutions across the country. Furthermore, our latest cohort of students boasts the highest GPA and MCAT scores in the history of our school. We are truly shaping the future leaders of health care.

Community outreach remains pivotal to our mission of advancing equitable care, both locally and globally. Students, faculty, trainees and staff dedicate countless hours each year to deliver vital services to underserved and marginalized populations in South Florida and beyond, breaking down silos and meeting patients where they are.

The future holds unparalleled opportunities for the Miller School of Medicine. Guided by the dedication, spirit and altruism that define our #MedCanes, we will continue to reach new heights and transform lives around the world.

Sincerely,

Henri R. Ford, M.D., M.H.A.
Dean and Chief Academic Officer

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—Dean Ford
SHAPING FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND SCIENTISTS

The 2022-2023 academic year proved to be an exceptional time for medical education at the Miller School. Our innovative NextGenMD curriculum continues to set our students up for success through small group learning, research opportunities alongside preeminent scientists, and hands-on clinical experience as early as their first year of medical school.

We remain the nation’s leaders in dual medical degree graduates and our graduate programs have grown significantly, driven by the introduction of several new master’s programs. Through the unwavering support of our faculty and medical education teams, our students are transforming lives and serving the global community.

A HISTORIC MATCH DAY

The Class of 2023 earned the highest match rate in Miller School history. The students were highly competitive nationally, matching in 28 specialties across the country at institutions like Harvard Brigham and Women’s, Massachusetts General Hospital, UCSF and Yale.

THREE-YEAR M.D. PROGRAM GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS

Seven medical students were the first to graduate from the Miller School’s three-year M.D. program, an accelerated path to residency that allows students accepted into the program to earn their degrees in a shortened time frame and transition into a participating University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital residency.

“"The accelerated pathway has great benefits if you have a passion for a certain specialty,” said Mickias Beyene Tegegn, M.D., one of the graduates. “Now, I can focus on the next step of my medical career.”

Since its launch in 2019, the accelerated pathway program has gained national attention. Students take part in meaningful clinical, educational, research or community work related to their specialty from their very first year of medical school.

MATCH RATE

98%

Top specialties
70 Primary care
25 Internal medicine
22 OB/GYN
15 Anesthesiology

Top Locations
81 Florida
23 California
21 Texas
16 New York

WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2027

- 10,106 Total applicants
- 201 Class of 2027 students
- 515 Average MCAT score
- 53% Non-Florida residents
- 61 Undergraduate institutions represented
**GRADUATE STUDENT OF THE YEAR**

**Serena Shah**, a third-year M.D./M.B.A. student, was named UM’s Graduate Student of the Year. The award honors a graduate student who demonstrates outstanding dedication to professional development and scholarly projects.

**NEW STUDY SHOWS M.D./M.P.H. GRADUATES TAKE ON LEADERSHIP ROLES**

A new study shows that graduates of the Miller School’s M.D./M.P.H. program are taking leadership roles in their residencies, research activities and community initiatives.

Integrating public health education into a medical curriculum allows students to gain complementary skills that provide a foundation for future achievements. The program is No. 1 in the country for dual-degree graduates.

“Our integrated four-year M.D./M.P.H. program addresses the public health needs of the 21st century, with an emphasis on leadership, research and public health,” said Latha Chandran, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., executive dean for education and chair of the Department of Medical Education. “It’s encouraging to see these results.”

**PH.D. CANDIDATE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS F31 NCI GRANT**

**Skye Montoya**, a Ph.D. candidate in cancer biology at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, has received a prestigious F31 grant from the NCI to support her research on blood cancer mutations. Her work examines why cancers can learn to resist tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

**THE MUSIC OF SOUND**

**Dimitri Godur**, a first-year M.D./M.B.A. student and musician-scientist, is leading a new study that could increase the use of cochlear implants to treat patients with severe hearing loss. His love of music is helping produce a groundbreaking discovery.

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Sana Chaudhry, a Ph.D. candidate in cancer biology, and Danielle Antoine, a Ph.D. candidate in neuroscience, have been selected for research internships with Eli Lilly and Company’s Drug Discovery and Development program.

ENROLLMENT IN GRADUATE PROGRAMS
(ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023)

1,075 TOTAL ENROLLED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>283</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.D./M.P.H.</td>
<td>216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctor of Physical Therapy</td>
<td>193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.S., Biomedical Sciences</td>
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<td>M.S., Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.D./Ph.D. (MSTP)</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D., Public Health</td>
<td>45</td>
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Our preeminent scientists and researchers are dedicated to finding new therapies for challenging diseases and conditions, while advancing public health, wellness and prevention initiatives.

—Dean Ford

Arumugam Jayakumar, Ph.D., and Michael Paidas, M.D., are on a team of researchers that demonstrated, in two cases, that the COVID-19 infection breached the placenta and caused brain damage in a newborn. The study, titled "Maternal SARS-CoV-2, Placental Changes and Brain Injury in Two Neonates," was the first to confirm cross-placental SARS-CoV-2 transmission leading to brain injury in newborns.
The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine received more than $175 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health in federal fiscal year 2022, the highest amount earned in the school’s history. The school also maintained its position as Florida’s No. 1 medical school for federal research grants.

SIX PROGRAMS IN THE TOP 25 NATIONALLY:

- Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Department of Human Genetics #2
- Department of Public Health Sciences #8
- Department of Neurology #14
- Dr. Phillip Frost Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery #15
- DeWitt Daughtry Family Department of Surgery #20
- Department of Otolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery #24
RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SELECTED TO JOIN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

The University of Miami was invited to join the esteemed Association of American Universities (AAU), a distinguished national organization of leading research universities founded in 1900.

The invitation to join the prestigious organization — considered the gold standard in American higher education — comes as the University’s research and sponsored program expenditures totaled more than $413 million in fiscal year 2022. The Miller School accounts for more than 83% of the research funding awards at UM.

$26M GRANT TO STUDY GENETIC RISK FACTORS FOR ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE IN FAMILIES OF AFRICAN ANCESTRY

Researchers at the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics are studying families that have multiple members with Alzheimer’s disease, along with continuing to expand diversity in Alzheimer’s disease research.

“We will look at DNA, blood biomarkers and more in family members with and without symptoms of the disease, to try and uncover rare genetic variants that could be clustered in families that increase their risk for getting Alzheimer’s disease,” said Margaret Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., director of the institute and Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Professor of Human Genetics.

Research on Alzheimer’s disease in African American families is particularly important because the data is lacking. The Miller School has the largest database in the world of African American families with high rates of Alzheimer’s disease.

Co-PI Gary Beecham, Ph.D., director of the Division of Research Informatics in the Center for Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics.

$21M GRANT FURThERS STUDY INTO DRUG DEVELOPMENT FOR LEWY BODY DEMENTIA

There is no approved treatment for Lewy body dementia (LBD), but there could soon be hope. With a three-year, $21 million grant from the National Institute on Aging, researchers are launching a phase 2b study of neflamapimod.

Neflamapimod works as a very specific inhibitor of an enzyme that leads to loss of brain cells that make acetylcholine. This therapy could help preserve both cognitive function and motor function, said principal investigator James Galvin, M.D., M.P.H., the Alexandria and Bernard Schoninger Endowed Chair in Memory Disorders and founding director of the Comprehensive Center for Brain Health at the Miller School.

$9.7M FOR INNOVATIVE ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH

African Americans have twice the prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease compared to other groups, while their older demographic has an increased risk of

TEAM SCIENCE DRIVES INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION, PROPPELLING NOVEL APPROACHES TO COMBAT DISEASES AND TRANSFORM PATIENT CARE.

SYLVESTER RESEARCHER BRIEFS WHITE HOUSE CANCER MOONSHOT ON REDUCING DISPARITIES IN CARE

Researchers from Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center participated in a White House Cancer Moonshot briefing on efforts to improve detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer in at-risk communities through the National Minority Quality Forum Cancer Stage Shifting Initiative.

“This White House briefing highlighted the critical importance of partnering directly with communities to eliminate disparities in cancer care,” said Patricia Moreno, Ph.D., lead of Evidence-Based Survivorship Supportive Care at Sylvester.

The focus of the briefing included environmental injustice, challenges faced by vulnerable and marginalized populations and effective strategies for engaging and educating communities. Attendees also discussed investments needed to reduce health disparities and rebuild trust between the disenfranchised communities and key health stakeholders.
diabetes, stroke, and renal function. Although there is growing evidence of modifiable risk factors that can prevent or delay cognitive decline in a person's lifetime, the scarcity of data in the African American community complicates efforts to determine whether these factors apply to this population.

“This new funding will support groundbreaking research on traditionally underserved ethnic and cultural groups, training the next generation of scientists and continuing our work in prevention and clinical care,” said David Loewenstein, Ph.D., director of the Center for Cognitive Neurosciences and Aging.

Other study leads: Rosie Curiel Cid, Psy.D., associate professor and chief of cross-cultural neuropsychology and cognitive neuroscience; Elizabeth Crocco, M.D., professor and chief of the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry; Philip Harvey, Ph.D., professor; vice chair for research and chief of the Division of Psychology.

STUDYING THE GENETICS OF INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE IN HISPANIC POPULATIONS

Researchers have started to uncover the root causes of inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. But those studies have a glaring flaw: They are predominantly based on genetic data almost exclusively from individuals of European descent.

Latin Americans have far lower rates of IBD than people in the U.S. or Europe, but they often develop IBD after moving to the states. Researchers will spend five years collecting and analyzing the genetic data of more than 3,000 Hispanic individuals, to better understand IBD in that community.

Co-Pls: Maria Abreu, M.D., director of the Crohn’s and Colitis Center; Jacob McCauley, Ph.D., genetics professor and director of the Center for Genome Technology and Biorepository Facility.

RESEARCHERS STUDY METH’S IMPACT ON HIV RESERVOIRS

An interdisciplinary team launched a study, titled “Advancing Reservoir Eradication in People Who Use Stimulants,” which will follow participants for six months testing their viral loads, immune responses, neuropsychiatric status and other markers to better understand how meth use influences HIV/AIDS.

HIV is infamous for infecting CD4 T cells, but it also infects myeloid cells. Myeloid cells are particularly difficult to study because they do not circulate in the blood. However, a lab led by Mario Stevenson, Ph.D., director of the HIV and Emerging Infectious Diseases Institute and co-director of the Miami Center for AIDS Research, has developed a way to determine if viral particles originated from CD4 or myeloid cells, and how their abundance might be impacted by meth use.

One of the strengths of this collaboration is the diversity of its expertise, which includes a psychologist, an infectious disease physician-scientist, a molecular virologist and others.

Study co-leader: Hansel Tookes, M.D., M.P.H., clinical director of the IDEA Exchange.

POWERFUL AI ALGORITHM PROVIDES NEW INSIGHTS INTO DEADLY GliOBLASTOMA

An international research group, led by scientists at Sylvester, has developed a new machine learning algorithm that can combine large datasets from multiple sources to pinpoint cancer-driving enzymes called kinases and potentially target them for treatment.

In addition, by using tumor organoids grown in the laboratory from patient samples, the team showed targeted drugs that interfere with the two kinases can block tumor growth.

“This is translational science that offers immediate opportunities to change the way glioblastoma patients are routinely managed in the clinic,” said Antonio Iavarone, M.D., deputy director of Sylvester.

Co-author: Anna Lasorella, M.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology.

INNOVATIVE CLINICAL TRIAL COULD TRANSFORM STEM CELL HEART REGENERATION THERAPY

A multidisciplinary team is playing a key role in a clinical trial, funded by a $7 million grant from the Department of Defense, that could transform the use of stem cells to regenerate damaged heart tissues.

The team is co-led by Joshua Hare, M.D., the Louis Lemberg Professor of Medicine, founding director of the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute Cell and a heart failure/cardiac transplant cardiologist; and Aisha Khan, executive director of the institute’s production laboratory. The team is studying a new approach to administering mesenchymal stem cells through an intravenous infusion rather than injecting them directly into the heart.

Explore the latest research and discoveries at news.med.miami.edu.
TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA AND THE U.S.

Using Virtual Reality to Lessen Pain, Anxiety During Vasectomy

Teams from the Desai Sethi Urology Institute are studying whether wearing virtual reality headsets during in-office vasectomy could help relieve patients of procedure-related pain and anxiety.

One of the biggest concerns for men considering a vasectomy is pain or anxiety related to pain. The team will learn if this technology helps to make the experience less painful, which would be a win not only for the patients but for the urologists doing these procedures.

New Technologies Offer Interventional Cardiologists Greater Precision

One is software, one is a device and both are helping cardiologists to care for people with blockages, restricted blood flow and microvascular disease. An AI-powered software called HeartFlow interprets CT scans of the blood vessels around the heart and generates 3D images that can help identify any vessels that are fully or partially blocked. If blood flow appears normal, it could help spare a patient from invasive procedures to measure the flow.

And if a patient is referred to the cath lab, a new tool called CoroFlow can help get a more precise diagnosis. CoroFlow is a comprehensive hardware and software solution that utilizes a thin coronary pressure wire to accurately assess flow impairment in the visible coronary arteries and the invisible coronary microvasculature to assess for disease. This technology could help when a patient has typical symptoms but does not have obstructive coronary disease.

Health Data Field Fuels New Department

The Miller School is taking a giant leap in how it acquires, manages and interprets health data. The new Department of Informatics and Health Data Science will advance how data is applied to education, research, clinical care, private ventures, and service and outreach. By bringing information from multiple disciplines under one roof, the team will help improve remote health applications, such as telemedicine and smart devices, to give patients new opportunities to heal at home rather than in the hospital.

Single-Port Robotic Arm a Game Changer for Throat Cancer Patients

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center is one of the only South Florida health systems to use the da Vinci single-port robot to remove tumors in the throat.

Among the patients who benefit most from the new technology are those with squamous cell carcinomas of the tonsil and base of tongue caused by past infection with the human papilloma virus.

"Being on the cutting edge of robotic surgical advancements that can be applied across multiple specialties allows us to provide the best possible outcomes to our patients."

—Dipen Parekh, M.D., chief operating officer of UHealth, executive dean for clinical affairs and founding director of the Desai Sethi Urology Institute
outcomes to our patients,” said Dipen Parekh, M.D., founding director and chair of the Desai Sethi Urology Institute, director of robotic surgery and UHealth chief operating officer.

NFL’S NO. 1 FUNDRAISING EVENT DRAWS LARGEST-EVER TURNOUT AND SUPPORT

Under sunny skies, 5,641 cyclists, runners, walkers and volunteers collectively raised more than $10 million at the 13th annual Dolphins Challenge Cancer to support Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. It was a record-setting day as cancer survivors, family members and friends honored loved ones lost to the deadly disease, while supporting leading-edge research that offers hope for the future.

As the NFL’s largest fundraising event, the DCC XIII donates 100% of funds raised to Sylvester, the only National Cancer Institute-designated center in South Florida. The Dolphins have now raised more than $60 million of a $75 million commitment toward the common goal of challenging cancer and supporting those impacted by cancer. The support will advance innovative research and care for Sylvester patients.

EXPANDING SPECIALTY AND PRIMARY CARE FOOTPRINT

**UHEALTH AT SOLÉ MIA**
- 370,000 sq. ft.
- Comprehensive specialty care
- Opening 2025

**UHEALTH AT DORAL**
- 150,000 sq. ft.
- Comprehensive specialty care
- Opening 2024

**TRANSFORMATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH BUILDING**
- 244,000 sq. ft.
- Cancer research, innovation, wellness and patient care
- Opening 2024

**UHEALTH AND ONE MEDICAL**
- Locations across South Florida
- Primary care for ages 14+
- Open now

**UHEALTH AND JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM, SHRINERS CHILDREN’S ORTHOPAEDICS CENTER**
- Health district campus
- Orthopaedic care
- Opening 2025
INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

CREATING A CULTURE OF BELONGING AND ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

Cultivating a diverse, equitable environment is integral to the Miller School’s mission of transforming lives and serving the global community. Our interdisciplinary teams are advancing major investigations to expand diversity in research data and better understand how certain conditions disproportionately affect minority populations. Several of these initiatives are noted in the Research section of this report. Still other programs on our campus are forging pathways for students from diverse backgrounds to explore and prepare for careers in medicine, research and science. And within our own Miller School community, our teams are fostering a culture of belonging where all are valued.

SHAPING FUTURE GENERATIONS OF HEALTH CARE LEADERS

In the fall of 2022, the Miller School forged a partnership with Miami Dade College to expand opportunities for underrepresented students aspiring to careers in medicine. This collaborative agreement guarantees qualified MDC students a place in the Miller School’s Medical Scholars Program, which equips students with the skills and knowledge needed for medical school application and enrollment.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, these summer programs welcomed 75 high school and pre-med undergraduate students from various schools across the country for a comprehensive, seven-week immersion in the medical field. From engaging in hands-on research to MCAT preparation, mentoring and more, the students gained a deeper understanding of the medical profession, established essential connections, and developed the confidence and resilience to overcome challenges in their future health care careers.

Another summer program, Summer Research Scholarship In Neurosurgery for Medical Students, is increasing its reach. The scholarship program, which was featured in the Journal of Neurosurgery, supports Black students who are interested in pursuing research or clinical careers in neuroscience or neurosurgery. Four years after its launch, the program is expanding to other leading medical schools.

CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF BELONGING

This year, we engaged our Miller School community in numerous events and innovative outreach initiatives that embody our values and commitment to a culture of inclusion.

The Women in Academic Medicine group is catalyzing change at all levels of the organization to support female faculty and advance gender equity. The group expanded this year, amplifying diverse voices and championing career advancement for female faculty.

Celebrating its second year, the Society of Black Physicians and Scientists also increased its membership. The group creates a supportive environment by fostering mentorship opportunities and advocating for unity and equity for all current and future physicians and scientists.
By celebrating vital differences of experience, background and belief, we are stronger and better prepared to tackle complex health challenges, advance medical knowledge and meet the clinical needs of our society.

— Dean Ford

- 600+ Participants on the Dean’s diversity council
- 230+ Student advising appointments
- 122 Participants in the DEI Certificate Program
- 235 Attendees supporting Women in Academic Medicine events
- 203 Members of the Society for Black Physicians and Scientists
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HEALING COMMUNITIES AND BREAKING BARRIERS

Committed to fostering healthier communities and tackling health care disparities, our students, faculty and trainees advance outreach initiatives that extend far beyond the confines of our campus. Through a wide array of programs and partnerships, we engage with diverse populations to promote access to quality health care, preventive services and health education.

MITCHELL WOLFSON SR. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

In its 23rd year, the Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Department of Community Service (DOCS) Program continues to grow and serve the most vulnerable communities throughout the region. Recently, the student-led community outreach program received $50,000 — the highest amount given — from the University of Miami Citizens Board. The award supports three new initiatives at the program’s community health fairs:

- New exam tables
- Hemoglobin A1c testing
- STI testing

WOLFSON DOCS BY THE NUMBERS:

- 4 counties
- 10 annual health fairs
- 4 student-run clinics
- 6,152 student volunteer hours at health fairs
- 2,421 physician volunteer hours
- 1,700+ patients seen at clinics and health fairs

COMMUNITY EDUCATION WITH THE GORDON CENTER

Stroke remains one of the top five causes of death in the U.S. To better combat this disease, the Gordon Center for Simulation and Innovation in Medical Education recently partnered with the American Heart Association to advance its global Advanced Stroke Life Support® program. The program serves as a curriculum, offering health care providers throughout the world the training needed to evaluate stroke quickly and stabilize and care for patients.

The Gordon Center this year also launched a new community paramedicine curriculum. It teaches paramedics to work outside of their traditional emergency response and transport roles to help facilitate more appropriate use of medical resources, while enhancing access to primary care for underserved populations.

Staffed primarily by student volunteers, Wolfson DOCS operates 10 community health fairs in many of South Florida’s most medically underserved areas. The fairs provide health education and screening for hypertension, diabetes, various cancers and other conditions.
IDEA EXCHANGE

The IDEA Exchange this year introduced a groundbreaking buprenorphine program aimed at expanding access to vital treatment for communities facing high risk of overdose and HIV infection. This innovative initiative marks a pivotal turning point in the fight against opioid addiction and its associated health consequences. By implementing this program, the IDEA Exchange is bridging the gap in health care disparities and providing a lifeline to those most vulnerable, ensuring that life-saving treatment options are readily available.

- 300+ people enrolled
- 59% overall retention rate after three months
- $2.5 million, four-year Avenir Award for HIV/AIDS research supporting the program

IDEA EXCHANGE BY THE NUMBERS:

- 6,124 client exchange visits
- 399,851 used syringes swapped for sterile ones
- 667 boxes of NARCAN distributed
- 481 overdoses reversed
- 722 rapid HIV tests
- 704 rapid hepatitis C tests

MEDICAL MISSIONS ABROAD

The newly formed local chapter of Medical Missions Abroad — led by a Miller School master’s student in biomedical science — now directs about 75 undergraduate, postdoctoral and medical students to the areas of greatest need.

The group provides preventive medicine and education to people who would otherwise have no access to a primary care physician or any other source of preventive medicine. The initiative has expanded from providing health care outreach at a church-affiliated food bank in Boca Raton to serving communities across South Florida.

AMONG FIRST IN NATION TO OFFER MOBILE PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Game Changer vehicles, which bring health education and free screenings for many cancer types to South Florida communities, are for the first time offering prostate-specific antigen screening for prostate cancer. Sylvester’s mobile PSA screening program is one of only a few in the nation.
ADVANCING FACULTY EXCELLENCE

This year, numerous faculty members at the Miller School of Medicine achieved global acclaim, from significant promotions to chair appointments and national accolades. Moreover, we continued to recruit the nation’s most accomplished and renowned experts to assume key leadership roles. These new team members bring decades of groundbreaking investigations and expertise to our institution, reinforcing and building on our already robust foundation of research and clinical care. They will also be instrumental in advancing our impact on a global scale, attracting the most talented students and trainees, and cultivating a culture of collaboration.

FACULTY AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Royal College of Physicians, Fellow
Steven Cohn, M.D., professor emeritus in the Department of Medicine

American Academy of Dermatology, President
Terrence Cronin, Jr., M.D., associate voluntary professor of dermatology

DiMare Family Endowed Chair in Immunotherapy
Jashodeep Datta, M.D., associate director of translational research at the Sylvester Pancreatic Cancer Research Institute

National Academy of Medicine, Fellow
Henri R. Ford, M.D., M.H.A., dean and chief academic officer

National Academy of Inventors, Fellow
Joshua Hare, M.D., the Louis Lemberg Professor of Medicine and the founding director of the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute

Academy of Sleep Medicine, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership Award
Girardin Jean-Louis, Ph.D., distinguished professor and director of the Center for Translational Sleep and Circadian Sciences

American Academy of Dermatology, Vice President
Robert Kirsner, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Dr. Phillip Frost Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery

American Medical Association, Inspiration Award
Erin Marcus, M.D., M.P.H., professor of clinical medicine in the Department of Medicine and longitudinal clinical educator

Indian American Urological Association, Member;
American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons, Sushruta Award
Dipen Parekh, M.D., chief operating officer of UHealth, executive dean for clinical affairs and founding director of the Desai Sethi Urology Institute

AIDS Society of India, Lifetime Achievement Award
Savita Pahwa, M.D., professor of microbiology and immunology and director of the Miami Center for AIDS Research

Sylvester Dolphins Challenge Cancer Living Proof Endowed Chair in Cancer Survivorship
Frank Penedo, Ph.D., associate director for Cancer Survivorship and Translational Behavioral Sciences at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

Latino Center on Aging, Academic Excellence Golden Age Award
Margaret Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., director of the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics

American Urological Association, Gold Cystoscope Award
Ranjith Ramasamy, M.D., associate professor of urology and director of reproductive urology at the Desai Sethi Urology Institute

Amazon Web Services, U.S. Education Champion
Azizi Seixas, Ph.D., director of The Media and Innovation Lab, associate director of the Center for Translational Sleep and Circadian Sciences, and interim chair of the Department of Informatics and Health Data Science

Movement Disorders, Cornfeld-Hurowitz Endowed Chair of Movement Disorders
Ihtsham Ul Haq, M.D., professor and division chief of Movement Disorders in the Department of Neurology

Dr. Jean-Louis accepts the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership Award from the Academy of Sleep Medicine
There is no shortage of academic talent at the Miller School. We are truly fortunate to have exceptional faculty as we work together to achieve our missions of excellence in education, research, clinical care and community service. — Joan St. Onge, M.D., M.P.H., senior associate dean for graduate medical education and faculty affairs

DEAN’S FACULTY AWARD RECIPIENTS 2022

Alexandre Abreu, M.D.
Antonio Barrientos, Ph.D.
Patricia Byers, M.D.
Steven Falcone, M.D., M.B.A.
Armen Henderson, M.D., M.B.A.
Deborah Jones Weiss, Ph.D., M.Ed.
Savita Pahwa, M.D.
Alejandra Perez, M.D.
Tomas Salerno, M.D.
Laurence Sands, M.D., M.B.A.
Shirin Shafazand, M.D., M.S.

WORLD-RENOWNED IMMUNOLOGIST NAMED SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF DIABETES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

One of the world’s leading diabetes experts, Matthias von Herrath, M.D., was named the new scientific director of the Diabetes Research Institute at the Miller School of Medicine. He’s focused on accelerating cure-based research in type 1 diabetes and advancing the integration of medicine and technology.

CHANGING HOW WE TREAT GLOBLASTOMA AND OTHER AGGRESSIVE BRAIN TUMORS

Antonio Iavarone, M.D., has made a decades-long commitment to finding better treatments for glioblastoma and other aggressive brain tumors. As the new deputy director of Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, he believes he can help advance the clinical trajectory for many brain tumor patients.

DRIVING TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE FOCUSED ON PROSTATE, OTHER GENITOURINARY CANCERS

Nima Sharifi, M.D., has been named scientific director of the Desai Sethi Urology Institute, a role in which he and his team will collaborate with Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center to drive translational science focused on prostate and other genitourinary cancers. They will focus on bridging laboratory research on prostate, kidney and bladder cancers to human studies.