

# Reception Launches New Mental Health Research Center to Combat Miami's HIV/AIDS Epidemic

The University of Miami officially launched CHARM – its new Center for HIV and Research in Mental Health – at a reception held June 11 at the Miller School of Medicine.



From left, Raymond Balise, Ph.D., Victoria Mitrani, Ph.D., Adam Carrico, Ph.D., Steven Safren, Ph.D., Daniel Feaster, Ph.D., Deborah Jones Weiss, Ph.D., M.Ed., Allan E. Rodriguez, M.D., and Maria Alcaide, M.D.

Co-directors Deborah Jones Weiss, Ph.D., M.Ed., professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Daniel Feaster, Ph.D., professor of public health sciences, and Steven Safren, Ph.D., professor of psychology, were joined by Adam Carrico, Ph.D., associate professor of public health sciences and psychology, and director of CHARM's Developmental Core, in explaining the Center's mission to halt Miami's HIV/AIDS epidemic to the dozens of researchers in attendance.

CHARM is funded by a four-year \$3.32 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. Researchers may apply for up to two \$50,000 pilot program awards annually. Initial proposals are due in November and will be reviewed in December, with funding awarded in January of 2020. Support for researchers includes consultation, mentoring, centralized peer review and other forms of assistance.

For additional information about CHARM, contact Paco Castellón, M.P.H., director of research support, at [pcastellon@med.miami.edu](mailto:pcastellon@med.miami.edu) or 305-243-0987.