

Magic Johnson and Miller School Leaders Host Community AIDS Doctors at Reception

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On hand to welcome community doctors are, from left, Miguel "Mike" Fernandez, chairman of Simply Healthcare Plans, Michael Kolber, M.D., Ph.D., Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and Dean Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D.

NBA legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the most visible face of the new Clear Health Alliance, was a special guest at a reception held at the UM Life Science & Technology Park this month for community-based HIV/AIDS physicians and patient case managers interested in the HIV/AIDS Medicaid specialty health plan offered by Simply Healthcare.

Johnson's Magic Johnson Enterprises is partnering with the Miller School and the Clear Health Alliance to ensure the delivery of high-quality medical services to the growing number of Medicaid-eligible people with HIV/AIDS in Miami-Dade County, which leads the nation in the number of new AIDS cases per capita.

The retired NBA icon has been committed to transforming urban America through HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs since he was diagnosed with HIV 20 years ago, while in the prime of his career. He has said he joined forces with the Miller School and Clear Health Alliance because they are a "dream team" destined to "change the way people are treated when it comes to HIV and AIDS."

Among those joining him at the October 5 reception were Miguel "Mike" Fernandez, chairman of the Simply Healthcare Plans board, Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the Miller School, and Michael A. Kolber, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine and Director of the Comprehensive AIDS Program and Clinical Director of the Adult HIV Section for Infectious Diseases.

Created by Fernandez's Simply Healthcare Plans, a Coral Gables-based health maintenance organization, Clear Health Alliance provides an array of benefits, holistic services and care management for Medicaid patients with HIV/AIDS. The Miller School, which was recently designated by the NIH as one of only 21 Centers for AIDS Research in the nation, has played a pivotal role in HIV/AIDS treatment, research and prevention since the disease first emerged.