
CHARM's Newsletter: August Issue

From CHARM <charm@miami.edu>

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To CHARM <charm@listserv.miami.edu>



CHARM

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CHARM's Newsletter: August Issue

A graphic for the "FABULOUSNESS CORNER" section. It features a white background with two red curtains on the left and right sides. Two spotlights, one on each curtain, shine a yellow beam of light onto the center. The text "FABULOUSNESS CORNER" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font in the center of the beams.

FABULOUSNESS CORNER

The **EIS Implementer-Researcher Symposium** held on April 10th, 2026 was a one-day training in Implementation Science research and practice. Attendees were made up of HIV/mental health service deliverers/implementers and researchers brought together to share individual expertise and establish or strengthen relationships to support shared IS work. A summary of the attendee characteristics and feedback is below.

EIS Implementer-Researcher Symposium

April 10th 2026

**32 ATTENDEES
IN TOTAL**

50% Researchers
50% Implementers



16 implementers from 7 community organizations were represented.

Most common **populations served** by implementers & researchers were:

- **Adults**
- **People living with HIV**
- **Latinx Communities**



SERVICES PROVIDED BY IMPLEMENTERS

HIV/STI Testing/Treatment	75%
PrEP	67%
PEP	67%
Primary Care	58%
Substance Use	42%
Mental Health Treatment	33%
Sexual Health Services	8%
Prevention Education	8%
Provider Trainings	8%



"I plan to use what I learned today to address multiple barriers to implementation within my office..."

"I have created new connections with implementers working in research areas that I am interested in exploring"



FEEDBACK FROM ATTENDEES

on helpful components of the Symposium

"I will feel empowered to advocate for changes"

"...presentations and activities were very helpful in applying the concepts to further my understanding of IS"



IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE SKILLS

Confidence in applying IS skills **significantly improved** following the Symposium

All attendees reported that the Symposium was **helpful for enhancing their program of research or practice**



The majority of attendees felt that the Symposium helped **create a meaningful partnership**

SAVE THE DATE

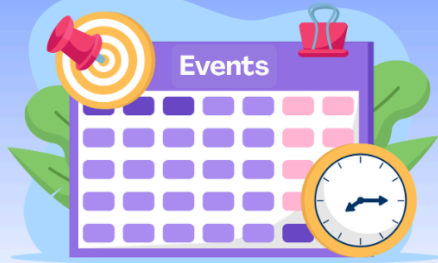
Join us again next year for the EIS Symposium on

**Monday,
May 24th 2027**





For more information about future EIS training events, opportunities and services, please contact EIS Core Coordinator Alex Porras at axp2629@miami.edu



Upcoming Events

October 27th & 28th, 2026

Florida HIV CPR Conference

Tampa, FL

The Florida HIV CPR conference seeks to bring together community members, providers, and researchers to network with colleagues and peers, learn about ongoing and current research initiatives throughout the state and create synergy amongst the attendees for potential future collaborative research projects.

Visit cprconference.org to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE!

Florida HIV CPR Conference

October 27 and 28, 2026

Tampa, Florida

*Reimagining the Future of HIV -
Integrating Science, Policy, and Community*

September 10th & 11th, 2026

Engage & Connect: Community Roundtable Series

Converge Miami | 1951 NW 7th Ave, Miami, FL 33136

You're warmly invited to **Engage & Connect: Community Roundtable Series**, a **2-day event** designed to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration between **community members, business organizations, healthcare practitioners, and researchers.**

Click [here](#) to RSVP.



Engage & Connect Community Roundtable Series

A 2-Day Event Bridging Research & Community Collaboration

Engage & Connect is a networking event focused on collaboration, idea sharing, and building stronger professional connections.



September 10–11, 2026
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Converge Miami

CHARM Awards & Opportunities



Nominations are OPEN!

Deadline to submit: August 14, 2026

The **CHARM Superlative Awards** are \$500 awards for outstanding individuals making a difference in the South Florida HIV community. The available awards include the **Tyson Cash Community Healer Award**, **Meryl James Voices for the Voiceless Award**, and the **Brenda C. Wilmont Resilience Award**.

Scan the **QR code** or [click here](#) below to nominate someone or yourself!

Questions? Contact **Meadgine Ilmet** (mfi13@miami.edu)

Recruiting? Tabling Opportunity August 8th

Caribbean (Fete) Pride will be happening **Saturday, August 8th** at Richardson Historic Park from 6pm to 11pm. If you have a study you are recruiting for, please contact **Ame Leon** (axl425@med.miami.edu) to schedule a time to drop off study flyers for tabling at this event or to join us at the CHARM table.



The poster for the CHARM Superlative Awards features a light orange background with a large blue starburst in the top right corner. At the top left is the CHARM logo with the tagline 'Center for HIV Research in South Florida'. The title 'SUPERLATIVE AWARDS' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, text states: 'These \$500 awards honor outstanding individuals making a difference in the South Florida HIV community.' and 'Know someone who deserves recognition? Nominate them today! Self-nominations are accepted.' A dark blue box titled 'Available Awards:' lists three awards with checkmarks: 'Tyson Cash Community Healer Award', 'Meryl James Voice for the Voiceless Award', and 'Brenda C. Wilmont Resilience Award'. Below this box, text says 'To nominate someone, use the QR Code or link:'. To the left is a pink starburst with a cloud containing 'Due Aug 14th at 5 PM'. In the center is a QR code and the URL 'https://tinyurl.com/charmsuperlativeawards'. To the right is an illustration of a person in a pink shirt and patterned pants holding a blue megaphone. At the bottom, a pink button says 'CONTACT US' and text reads 'Reach out to Meadgine Ilmet at mfi13@miami.edu for questions.'

Featured Publications

Bon Bagay (Good Stuff): A Faith Based Outlook on Biomedical Prevention Among Haitians and Haitian Americans

Candice A. Sternberg, Maurice J. Chery, Maika Beauvoir, Pepita Jean, Dominique Guillaume, Joelle-Ann Joseph, Regine Thermy Jean Baptiste, Tyra Montour, Valeria Botero, Anjolie Geffrard, Chantal Napoleon, Terese Gelin, Allan Rodriguez, John F.P. Bridges, Christopher J. Hoffman, Guerda Nicolas, Sannisha K. Dale, & Maria L. Alacaide

Background

- Haitians and Haitian Americans have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Churches play a critical role in information delivery in the Haitian community.

Objective

To obtain information from church leaders regarding (1) the structure of the churches, (2) thoughts on HIV/AIDS, (3) thoughts regarding PrEP, (4) barriers or facilitators of PrEP, (5) role of the church in PrEP delivery, (6) current services provided, and (7) potential interventions to help with PrEP awareness.

Methods

- Focus groups were conducted with Haitian church leaders in Miami, FL using snowball sampling.
- Focus groups were audio recorded and transcribed.
- Thematic analysis was conducted on NVIVO computer software using a general inductive approach.

Results

- Three focus groups were conducted.
- 23 (16 women and 11 men) individuals participated of which 78% were born in Haiti with an average age of 48.

Eight key themes emerged from the focus group discussions:



Democratic nature of churches



Stigma & fear toward HIV/AIDS



Culturally relevant messaging



Churches role as educators



Lack of knowledge & acknowledgement of PrEP benefits

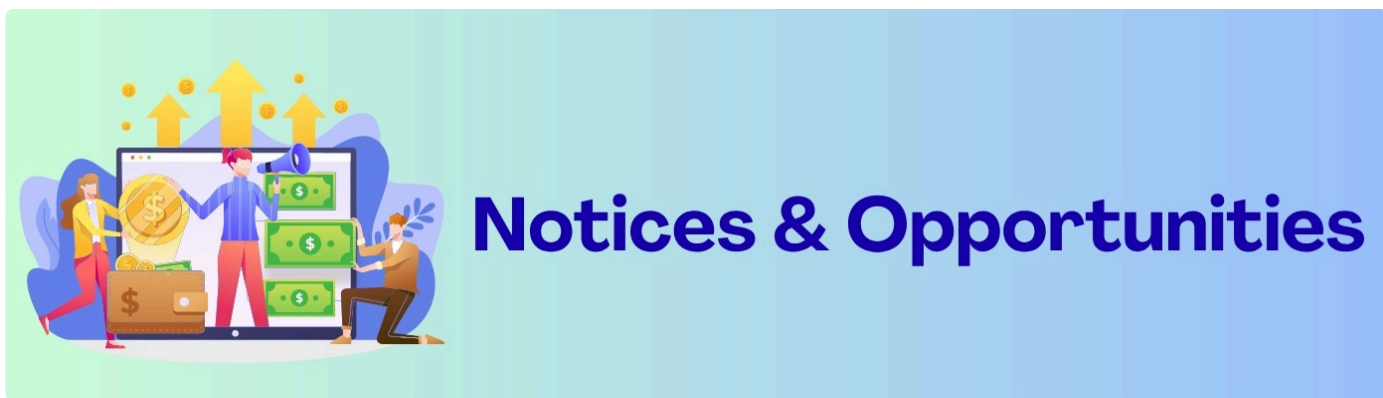


Trust

Conclusions

Churches, in partnership with trusted medical professionals and culturally relevant messaging can increase PrEP awareness among Haitians in Miami.

Sternberg CA, Chery MJ, Beauvoir M, et al. Bon bagay (good stuff): A faith-based outlook on biomedical prevention among Haitians and Haitian Americans. *PLoS One*. 2025;20(8):e0330852. Published 2025 Aug 25. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0330852



Notices & Opportunities

- **The UM PI Award Financial Dashboard is now LIVE!**
 - The **Award Financial Dashboard** is an interactive Power BI dashboard designed to provide Principal Investigators (PIs) and department/center administrators with consistent, standardized, and transparent insight into award finances.
 - The dashboard supports proactive financial management by making grant expenditure data easier to access, interpret, and act upon. Click [here](#) more information.
- **Message from UM Office Research Administration (ORA):**
 - We are frequently seeing issues with biosketches in proposals where the PI did not link the ORCID ID. Often this is not caught by validations. Please see below to help with this issue:
 - The most frequent issue is an [ORCID IDexternal site \(opens in a new window\)](#) that is not linked, not publicly visible, or not properly connected to the investigator's eRA Commons profile.
 - Even when an ORCID ID is entered, mismatches between ORCID and eRA Commons records can trigger validation errors.
 - Investigators should verify their ORCID connection in both [eRA Commons and SciENcvexternal site \(opens in a new window\)](#) well before proposal submission.
 - See ([NOT-OD-26-079external site \(opens in a new window\)](#)) for Reminders on linking ORCID ID to eRA Commons and SciENcv.
 - Please contact **Tricia Desmarais** (tad187@miami.edu) at ORA if you have any questions.
- **Open Position's on Dr. Maria Alcaide's team:**
 - R100099271 Postdoctoral Associate - Division of Infectious Diseases: [Postdoctoral Associate - Division of Infectious Diseases - Logo](#)
 - The project is also onboarding a Project Manager 2: [Search for Jobs - Logo](#), as well as several RAs, and a research coordinator.
 - For more information on these positions, please contact **Dr. Maria Alcaide** (MAlcaide@med.miami.edu).
- **COMING SOON! 2026 Lauren F. Collins, Emerging Research Pilot (ERP) Award through the Study of Treatment and Reproductive Outcomes (STAR)**
 - The award supports early-stage investigators and is dedicated to the memory of **Lauren F. Collins**, an early career leader within STAR and a remarkable scientist, clinician, and colleague.
 - *Key Details:*
 - Applications Open: **September 1, 2026**
 - Intent to Apply (non-binding): September 15, 2026
 - Full Application Due: **October 15, 2026**
 - Award Notification: November 15, 2026
 - Project Start: January 1, 2027
 - Project Completion: August 31, 2027

- Maximum Budget Up to \$50,000 direct costs
- *Eligibility & Scope:*
 - Projects must be feasible within the project period and align with the STAR priority areas focusing on HIV prevention, treatment, and related health conditions for reproductive-age women.
 - Applicants must have a primary appointment with a STAR study site (University of Miami, Emory University, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, George Washington University, University of Alabama and Birmingham, University of Mississippi Medical Center, and Johns Hopkins University) and have at least one current STAR investigator serving as a mentor.
 - They must hold a current master's degree, doctoral degree, or MD (or equivalent) and should not be more than 10 years beyond graduation of their terminal degree or fellowship/training. Examples include a doctoral student or postdoctoral fellow, research associate/scientist, instructor/lecturer, assistant professor, or equivalent at their institution.
 - Individuals who currently serve or have previously served as Principal Investigator on an R01 equivalent research grant or comparable independent research award are not eligible.
- For questions about eligibility or to request STAR protocol documents, please email [Déjà L. Er](mailto:Deja.L.Er@emory.edu) (deja.l.er@emory.edu).



Highlighted Core Services

- **Peer Review:** CHARM organizes mock review meetings of grant proposals prior to NIH grant submissions. Each review consists of a one-hour Zoom meeting with up to three reviewers, who provide structured, constructive feedback to strengthen the proposal before submission. CHARM also provides Specific Aims Reviews for investigators who would like to receive feedback on an aims page under development to evaluate the key aspects of significance and innovation in early stages of the grant proposal process. Please contact **Yanexy Rivera** at ydc9@miami.edu for more information on dates.
- **Grant Ready with CHARM:** A comprehensive pre-submission support program designed to prepare investigators for NIH grant submission. The program includes Specific Aims review, Methods

consultation as needed, and a full mock peer review. Editorial services are provided upon completion of the full program to ensure clarity, coherence, and compliance prior to submission. Please contact **Yanexy Rivera** at yc9@miami.edu for questions or to participate in the program.

- **CLARO Measures Library:** The El Centro/CHARM measures library houses a multitude of measures translated into Spanish and other languages and can be used to identify and access measures for research studies.
- **Consultations:** Consultations can be requested via the **Research Navigation Portal** (see the [CHARM website](#) for more information).
 - The **Methods Core** supports researchers and community members via consultations regarding quantitative and/or qualitative research methods, designing a study, power analysis, data management, and more.
 - **EIS Core** leadership and co-investigators are available for 1-on-1 consultations to advise on Implementation Science Guidance, grant development, match-making with community stakeholders and implementers, finding a partner for specific implementation science work, and more.
 - The **MHD-CE Core** provides consultations on psychosocial assessment, community-engaged research methods, intervention development, IRB and human-subjects considerations, identifying community partners or stakeholders, engaging with the Community Advisory Board, recruitment support, and grant development related to mental health disparities or community engagement.
- **Implementer Consent-to-Contact Database:** One-time survey for South Florida implementers involved in implementing HIV and Mental Health services at various community organizations. Respondents answer questions about their needs, priorities, and interest in participating in implementation research.

To see more information on our services, please visit our website: charm.miami.edu



Need a Consultation?



Use the **CHARM Research Navigation Portal** to easily request consultations from our 5 Cores and take your research to the next level!

Visit the [Navigation Portal Page](#) on our website for more information.



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