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For Immediate Release

Florida Heart Research Institute Leads the Fight Against Hypertension in Miami-Dade's Hispanic Community

Miami, Florida, November 19, 2007—The Florida Heart Research Institute announced today that it is launching the SHARP Study: **Study in Hispanics to Assess Reversal of Pre-hypertension**. Hypertension is a major threat in our health and our lives. Untreated, this “silent killer” can lead to heart attack, heart failure, stroke and kidney failure. Dr. Maria Canossa-Terris, Medical Director of the Florida Heart Research Institute, notes that “our research at Florida Heart Research Institute has taught us that hypertension is more prevalent amongst the Hispanic population of Miami-Dade County than it is in the general County population”.

“Pre-hypertension is the ideal time to identify and reverse this deadly process before any damage has occurred,” notes Dr. Paul Kurlansky, Director of Research of the Florida Heart Research Institute. “This exciting initiative has the potential to advance the field of hypertension treatment and research not only for Hispanics, but for the community at large,” comments Kathleen DuCasse, Florida Heart’s Chief Executive Officer.

Heart disease is the number one cause of death and disability in the U.S. In 2003, an estimated 65,000 Floridians died of heart related illness (nearly 40% of all deaths), and hospitalization costs to care for Floridians with heart disease exceeded \$4.4 billion.

FHRI was founded more than 60 years ago as Miami Heart Research Institute, an international leader with a mission to **Stop Heart Disease** through cardiovascular research, education, and prevention programs. For more information regarding these and other exciting projects at Florida Heart Research Institute, please contact Dr. Paul Kurlansky at (305) 674-3154, or visit us at www.floridaheart.org

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