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MIAMI MUSEUM OF SCIENCE RECEIVES \$90,000 GRANT TO PROMOTE BRAIN MEMORY AND HEALTH

MIAMI, FL (January 12, 2007) -- The Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium is the recipient of a \$90,000 grant from MetLife Foundation to promote the understanding of aging and brain health. In Miami-Dade County alone, there are over 4 million people over 60 years old; almost 500,000 of them suffer from some type of dementia¹. MetLife Foundation awarded grants to 15 science museums throughout the United States totaling \$1 million as a part of the *Partnership for Intergenerational Learning* program.

The museum will use the grant to develop an exhibit in partnership with the University of Miami's Center on Aging. The exhibit will explore how scientists make discoveries about aging and the brain. It will also feature a series of experiments that help the mind stay sharp as it ages.

"The Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium is honored to have been awarded this grant to continue developing educational exhibits for the South Florida community," says Gillian Thomas, museum president and CEO. "We are very pleased that this award will enable us to expand our partnership with the University of Miami, creating exciting exhibits and bringing university research to the public."

The purpose of the *Partnership for Intergenerational Learning* program is to increase educational opportunities across the age spectrum and encourage exhibitions that promote a better understanding of aging, brain health and healthy lifestyles. To date the MetLife Foundation's science museums initiatives have awarded grants to 36 science museums across the country totaling \$2.25 million and directly benefiting 7.2 million people.

"The aging of the population in the US and worldwide is a very powerful factor which will affect the lives of all of us," said Dr. Carl Eisdorfer, Director of the University of Miami's Center on Aging. "Understanding of aging and health can play a valuable role in preparing

¹ 2006 County Profiles, Miami-Dade

us for our future and stimulating more research and understanding of our cognition capacity for growth.”

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & PLANETARIUM

The Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium, founded in 1949, continues to bring special traveling exhibits to South Florida such as *Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition* and *The Science of Aliens*. The Museum aims to inspire individuals of all ages, cultures and walks of life to appreciate the significance, relevance and application of the sciences in order to better understand ourselves, one another and the universe we live in.

The Museum plans to continue its dedication to science education by building a world-class cultural destination that will attract South Florida’s diverse residents and international visitors to the heart of Miami – Bicentennial Park. The new Museum will be a 200,000 square-foot facility on 20 acres of open space along with the Miami Art Museum.

The Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium is accredited by the American Association of Museums and is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. For more information about the Museum or the *Science of Aliens* exhibit, visit www.miamisci.org or call (305) 646-4200.

MetLife Foundation was established by MetLife to continue the company’s long tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. The Foundation supports programs that improve education, promote health, encourage parental involvement and family engagement, help revitalize neighborhoods and stress accessibility and inclusion. In recent years, a focus on Alzheimer’s and aging issues has been added. MetLife Foundation stresses education in all its programs. Recognizing the vital role the arts play in building communities and educating young people, the Foundation contributes to arts and cultural organizations across the United States, with an emphasis on increasing opportunities for young people, reaching broad audiences through inclusive programming, and making arts more accessible for all people. For more information about the Foundation, please visit its Web site at www.metlife.org.

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