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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AVMED HEALTH PLANS RECOGNIZED
AS A LEADER IN ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

MIAMI, April 16, 2010 — AvMed Health Plans was honored recently by the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) Florida Affiliate in recognition of its extraordinary vision and leadership in making aging research and healthy aging a priority in our state.

AvMed's President and COO, Ed Hannum, was on hand to accept the award at a luncheon on "Advancing the Science of Healthier Aging," in Miami.

"We are thrilled to be recognized and proud to support the work of the American Federation for Aging Research. "It is a testament to the great work of our AvMed family and AFAR."

Since its founding in 1981, the national AFAR organization has been very successful at providing start-up funding to scientists in the early phases of their careers, enabling them to study the basic mechanisms of aging, age-related diseases and processes underlying common geriatric functional disorders.

"Thanks to AvMed, young research scientists throughout Florida who apply for national AFAR Research Grants now can also compete for AFAR's first Florida-based Research grant – named the AvMed Health Plans AFAR Florida Research Grant," said Bernard Roos, M.D., president of the AFAR Florida board of directors. "AvMed will provide timely support as current cutbacks in federal funding jeopardize the careers of many promising investigators who are working to understand how aging influences disease."

The first research grant made possible by AvMed Health Plans was awarded to Dr. Yongjie Zhang, a post-doctoral Fellow in the Department of Neuroscience at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Jacksonville. Dr. Zhang's research focuses on creating a new, novel model of ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), or Lou Gehrig's disease, helping to move forward the development of ALS-based therapies.

AvMed is one of Florida's oldest and largest not-for-profit health plans, and is solely focused on providing health coverage to Florida citizens and businesses. AvMed is one of only a few health plans in the United States that enjoys dual "Excellent" accreditation status for both its commercial and Medicare health plans from the National Committee for Quality Assurance. AvMed offers health coverage options to large and small employers in most major markets around the state, and individual coverage in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. South Florida seniors can access Medicare Advantage and pharmacy coverage through AvMed Medicare Preferred.

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The American Federation for Aging Research, with a prestigious four-star rating from Charity Navigator, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support biological and biomedical research on aging. The organization is devoted to creating the knowledge that all of us need to live healthy, productive, and independent lives.

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