



**THE POWER OF POISON: *FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA TO YOUR OWN BACKYARD* EXHIBITION
TO OPEN AT THE PHILLIP AND PATRICIA FROST MUSEUM OF SCIENCE THIS SUMMER**

Special Exhibition Debuts Saturday, May 26 in Celebration of Museum's One Year Anniversary

MIAMI – April 2, 2018 – Bubbling cauldrons, slimy frogs, venomous bites—oh my! Discover poison's power as it seeps through the walls of the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science during its newest exhibition, ***The Power of Poison: From the Depths of The Sea to Your Own Backyard***. Opening Saturday, May 26 in the Hsiao Family Special Exhibition Gallery, *The Power of Poison* explores poison's role in nature, human health and myth, while coming face-to-face with the different poisonous and venomous species from South Florida and around the world. In an unprecedented move, the exhibition will extend to other parts of the museum in a full-fledged "toxin takeover."

The story of poison is full of surprises at every twist and turn. In the natural world, poisons and venoms are powerful defenses, made and used by many organisms in the struggle to survive and reproduce. But as scientists probe the secrets of poison, we're finding that these substances can also be powerful forces for healing. As the museum's largest and most ambitious exhibition to date, guests will explore some of history's most puzzling poisoning cases through digital interactive stations and a theater where live presenters share dramatic stories of how poisonings led to advancements in forensic detection. Frost Science is also expanding the exhibition with a toxin takeover of the museum, incorporating elements of *The Power of Poison* into the museum's permanent exhibitions with activations and exhibition elements on the rooftop terraces (milkweed and monarch butterflies!) as well as the envenomation of the Aquarium (lionfish, scorpionfish, stonefish, rabbitfish and more). Guests will also encounter poison dart frogs and venomous snakes. In addition, the museum's newly-opened Inventors inResidence lab, located on Level 5 of the North Wing in the Knight Learning Center, will host a scientist that is using nano-pulsed lasers to analyze samples for the presence of carcinogens and other environmental toxins.

The Power of Poison will stimulate all senses. Through a partnership with scent company Aroma360, guests will experience different fragrances diffused throughout the exhibition.

While exploring *The Power of Poison*, visitors can expect:

- **Poison and venom in Nature** – Organisms use poison to protect themselves or to capture prey. Guests will enter a diorama of Colombia's Chocó forest where dart frogs, huge Brazilian wandering spiders and toxic caterpillars use toxins to their advantage.
- **Poison in Myth and Legend** – Many years ago, people couldn't tell if sickness was caused by disease, poison or even magic. Guests will travel back in time and investigate some of history's most intriguing poisoning cases.
- **Detecting Poison: Villains vs. Victims** – Guests will explore the role of poisons in forensic science through live interpreters in the exhibition theater.
- **Poison by Accident** – Visitors will channel their inner Sherlock Holmes while investigating evidence, comparing clues and examining victims' symptoms to determine the poison being used.

- **Poison for Good** – Many poisons from plants and animal venoms have helped developed life-saving drugs. Guests will learn about these types of toxins and where they come from.

The exhibition is supported locally by **Jackson Health System** and **Florida Poison Information Center-Miami**. *The Power of Poison* is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org).

The Power of Poison will be on view from **Saturday, May 26, 2018 through Monday, September 3, 2018** inside the Hsiao Family Special Exhibition Gallery on the first floor of the museum. Admission to *The Power of Poison* is included in all museum admission tickets. Additional information on the exhibition, events and programming can be found at frostsscience.org/poison.

Follow Frost Science on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @frostsscience.

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About the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science (Frost Science)

Located in Downtown Miami's Museum Park, the Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science is a leading science museum dedicated to sharing the power of science, sparking wonder and investigation, and fueling innovation for the future. Sitting on four acres, the 250,000-square-foot museum is divided into four buildings: the Frost Planetarium, Aquarium, and the North and West Wings. At Frost Science, visitors can explore the world of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in an experiential setting with interactive exhibitions and unique shows. Frost Science is supported by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County. This project is supported by the Building Better Communities Bond Program and the City of Miami. It is sponsored, in part, by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. Learn more at frostsscience.org. Follow Frost Science on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @frostsscience.

About Jackson Health System

Jackson Health System is a nonprofit academic medical system offering world-class care to any person who walks through its doors. Governed by the Public Health Trust, a team of citizen volunteers acting on behalf of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, Jackson Health System ensures that all residents of Miami-Dade County receive a single high standard of care regardless of their ability to pay.

An integrated healthcare delivery system, Jackson Health System consists of its centerpiece, Jackson Memorial Hospital; Jackson South Medical Center, Jackson North Medical Center, Holtz Children's Hospital, Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital, Jackson Behavioral Health Hospital, a network of UHealth Jackson Urgent Care centers, multiple primary care and specialty care centers; and two long-term care nursing facilities. The new Jackson West Medical Center campus, under development in the City of Doral, will feature adult and pediatric emergency rooms, numerous outpatient services, and the 100-bed José Milton Memorial Hospital.

For more information on Jackson Health System, visit jacksonhealth.org.

About the Florida Poison Information Center-Miami

The Florida Poison Information Center – Miami is operated out of Jackson Memorial Hospital as a joint program of Jackson Health System and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. This state-of-the-art center serves all of South Florida by answering calls to the 1-800-222-1222 poison control hotline, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Florida Poison Information Center – Miami has been serving callers with questions about chemical poisonings, venomous bites and stings, medication overdose and other toxic products since 1990. Calls to the poison control hotline are fast, free and confidential. For more information, please visit <http://www.jacksonhealth.org/wellness-poison-control.asp>.