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888-355-5551 • www.MDAdvantageonline.com
For Immediate Release

Contact:
Janet Puro • 888-355-1551 x1197
jpuro@mdanj.com

**MDADVANTAGE ANNOUNCES 2014 RECIPIENTS OF PRESTIGIOUS
EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE AWARDS**

***Peter Lobel, PhD,
of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and
Rutgers Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine
Among Honorees***

Lawrenceville, NJ, April 24, 2014 – Carrying forward a 75-year tradition of recognizing exceptional physicians and leaders in healthcare, MDAdvantage Insurance Company of New Jersey (www.MDAdvantageonline.com) today announced the 2014 honorees for the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards® (www.EJIAwards.org).

The Excellence in Medicine Awards are named after Edward J. Ill, MD, a New Jersey physician who was a pioneer in promoting continuing education in ways that set the national standard. Every year since 1939, exemplary New Jersey physicians and leaders whose dedication to education, research and public service have significantly impacted the delivery of healthcare in the state and around the nation have been honored. This annual event has been sponsored by MDAdvantage Insurance Company of New Jersey since 2003.

Patricia A. Costante, Chairman and CEO of MDAdvantage, stated, “MDAdvantage is a proud and committed supporter of the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards. For 75 years, this awards program has honored the legacy of New Jersey healthcare leaders. The accomplishments of this year’s honorees exemplify the progress and the contributions that have been made by New Jersey’s extraordinary talent.”

Among those being honored this year is Peter Lobel, PhD, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Rutgers Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, who will receive the Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Basic Biomedical Research. The award is presented to an individual who has carried out biomedical research leading to important advances in biotechnology or in the understanding of disease processes.

Also being honored are:

- **Outstanding Medical Educator Award:**
David E. Swee, MD, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Development, Associate Dean for Education and Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.
 - **Outstanding Medical Executive Award:** *Stephen K. Jones, FACHE*, President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Robert Wood Johnson Health System.
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- **Edward J. Ill Physician's Award®:** *George F. Heinrich, MD*, Vice Chair and Chief Executive Officer, New Jersey Health Foundation, and Associate Dean for Admissions and Adjunct Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.
- **Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award:** Executive Director *Faith W. Rice*, on behalf of the New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders.
- **Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Clinical Research:** *Frederick F. Buechel, Sr., MD*, orthopaedic surgeon, South Mountain Orthopaedic Associates, and Clinical Professor, Department of Orthopaedics at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.
- **Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen's Award®:** *Donald M. Chervenak, MD*, obstetrician/gynecologist at Florham Park OB/GYN and Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

Paul J. Hirsch, MD, Chairman of the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation, stated, "The mission of the *Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards*® is not only to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of our honorees, but also to support the future of medicine in New Jersey. As healthcare leaders, we have an obligation to pave the way for our future healthcare providers so that they may continue the tradition of quality healthcare delivery and innovation in our state."

This year's awards will be presented at the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards ceremony on May 7, 2014, at Greenacres Country Club in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. All profits from the event will be dedicated to support seven medical and physician assistant student scholarships. To participate in the 2014 Excellence in Medicine Awards by purchasing tickets, an Honor Roll sponsorship or an advertisement in the awards journal, contact the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation at 609-803-2350 or visit www.EJIAwards.org.

The awards program is sponsored by MDAdvantage Insurance Company of New Jersey, a leading provider of medical professional liability insurance in New Jersey. For more information on MDAdvantage, call 888-355-5551 or visit www.MDAdvantageonline.com.

Peter Lobel, PhD

Peter Lobel, PhD, is a faculty member at the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine (CABM) and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS). He also serves as Director of the RWJMS and Rutgers University Biological Mass Spectrometry Facility.

Dr. Lobel's laboratory is best known for developing proteomic approaches to characterize the lysosome (the central digestive system of the cell) and to investigate the role of lysosomal proteins in human disease. This work allowed researchers to discover disease genes involved in two fatal hereditary childhood neurodegenerative disorders: late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (LINCL, also called Batten Disease) and Niemann Pick type C2 (NPC2) disease. An immediate benefit from this work was the development of methods to definitively diagnose and



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screen for these diseases. The Lobel laboratory has since made key contributions towards understanding the underlying biology and developing therapies for lysosomal diseases. Recently, Dr. Lobel and his team have worked with BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. to provide preclinical proof of concept for an enzyme replacement therapy that is currently in a clinical trial for LINCL.

Dr. Lobel graduated from the State University of New York at Purchase and received his PhD in Biochemistry from Columbia University. He conducted postdoctoral studies with Dr. Stuart Kornfeld at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and was recruited to the CABM and RWJMS in 1988. He was named a Searle Scholar and received the UMDNJ Foundation Excellence in Research Award. His work has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Batten Disease Support and Research Association and the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation.

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