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For Immediate Release

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**MDADVANTAGE ANNOUNCES 2015 RECIPIENTS OF PRESTIGIOUS
EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE AWARDS**

***Richard P. Mackessy, MD, of Union County Orthopaedic Group and
Resident of Elizabeth, Among Honorees***

Lawrenceville, NJ, February 26, 2015 – MDAdvantage Insurance Company, a leading provider of medical professional liability insurance, today announced the 2015 Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine award recipients.

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. Each year, exemplary New Jersey physicians and leaders whose dedication to education, research and public service has 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 since 2003.

Patricia A. Costante, Chairman and CEO of MDAdvantage, stated, “MDAdvantage is proud to once again sponsor the *Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards*®. Being able to recognize all the progress that has been made in healthcare since the awards were first bestowed in 1939 is an honor and a privilege for all of us involved. My hope is that by highlighting these advances, we are able to inspire the healthcare providers and leaders of tomorrow.”

Among those being honored this year is Richard P. Mackessy, MD, of Union County Orthopaedic Group and Chief of the Orthopedics Department at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, and resident of Elizabeth, who will receive the Outstanding Medical Educator Award. The award is presented to a medical educator who has made an outstanding contribution to graduate or undergraduate medical education in New Jersey.

Also being honored are:

- Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award:
Amy B. Mansue, *President and CEO, Children's Specialized Hospital*
- Edward J. Ill Physician's Award®:
Margaret C. Fisher, MD, *Medical Director of the Unterberg Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center and Professor of Pediatrics at Drexel University College of Medicine and St. George's University School of Medicine, Grenada*
- Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Basic Biomedical Research:
Estela Jacinto, PhD, *Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School*
- Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Clinical Research:
M. Maral Mouradian, MD, *William Dow Lovett Professor of Neurology and Director of the Center for Neurodegenerative and Neuroimmunologic Diseases in the Department of Neurology at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School*



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- Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen's Award®:
Captain Joseph P. Costabile, MD, *General and Vascular Surgeon, Virtua Surgical Group*

Paul J. Hirsch, MD, Chairman of the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation, said, "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. The Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation and MDAdvantage are grateful for the support of our contributors, advertisers and, most especially, the Excellence in Medicine Scholarship Honor Roll members who step up with significant annual contributions to support the scholarship fund."

This year's awards will be presented at the *Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards®* ceremony on May 6, 2015, at Greenacres Country Club in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. All profits from the event will be dedicated to support seven medical and healthcare student scholarships. To order tickets, participate as a Scholarship Honor Roll member, place an ad in this year's awards journal or make a direct contribution, please contact the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation at 609-803-2350 or visit www.EJIAwards.org.

Richard P. Mackessy, MD

Richard P. Mackessy, MD, is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon at Union County Orthopaedic Group in Linden, New Jersey. Dr. Mackessy has a special interest in hand and upper extremity problems, especially pitching and overhead athletic injuries, and has a longstanding commitment to teaching and community service.

Dr. Mackessy attended St. Benedict's Prep and Holy Cross and earned his medical degree at University of Bologna and New Jersey Medical School. After completing his orthopaedic residency at the St. Lukes-Roosevelt program, Dr. Mackessy completed his orthopaedic hand fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University under the tutelage of Dr. James Hunter.

Dr. Mackessy is a dedicated educator for the medical residents at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and the Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Sciences. While in private practice, he was also the Chief of the Hand Service at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) for 15 years and Chief of the Pediatric Service at United Hospital for 5 years. He is a member of the New York Hand Society and American Society of Surgery of the Hand. He has represented the field of medicine on trips to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, and has been a forceful spokesperson for the medical profession and for those who do not have much of a voice in their own medical care, including the poor and the indigent.

Dr. Mackessy is currently the Chief of the Orthopaedics Department at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, as well as an attending orthopaedic surgeon at Overlook Hospital and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital—Rahway. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Trinitas Health Foundation. He has been honored with numerous awards, including the Sergio Award for Healing the Children (1999), Teacher of the Year, the UMDNJ Department of Orthopaedics (1993 and 1998) and the United Hospital Fund Distinguished Trustee Award (2013). Dr. Mackessy is a Past President of the New Jersey Orthopaedic Society and a representative of New Jersey for the Board of Councilors of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

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