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

***Researcher M. Maral Mouradian, MD, of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Resident of Lawrenceville, Among Honorees***

**Lawrenceville, NJ, February 16, 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 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, and resident of Lawrenceville, who will receive the Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Clinical Research.** The award is presented to an individual who has made important contributions in clinical or translational research leading to advances in disease therapy.

Also being honored are:

- Outstanding Medical Educator Award:  
**Richard P. Mackessy, MD**, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Union County Orthopaedic Group and Chief of the Orthopedics Department at Trinitas Regional Medical Center
  - 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
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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](http://www.EJIAwards.org).

### **M. Maral Mouradian, MD**

**M. Maral Mouradian, MD**, is the 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 (RWJMS). Dr. Mouradian is internationally recognized for her accomplishments in clinical and translational research focused on understanding the pathogenesis of and developing improved therapies for Parkinson's disease (PD).

Prior to joining RWJMS, Dr. Mouradian was Chief of the Genetic Pharmacology Unit of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she spent 18 years of her illustrious career as a physician-scientist. Her seminal research on the complications associated with conventional therapy for PD provided the fundamental impetus for pharmaceutical companies to develop novel treatment formulations that are now marketed worldwide. More recently, she founded MentiNova, Inc. to accelerate the development of a new drug to block these complications. In addition, she has made numerous foundational discoveries about the genetic underpinnings of PD and has identified several druggable targets.

After completing her neurology residency training at the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Mouradian obtained fellowship training in clinical neuropharmacology at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and in molecular biology under the tutelage of Nobel Laureate Marshall Nirenberg.

To date, Dr. Mouradian has published more than 200 scholarly articles, many in high-impact journals, and has edited two books on Parkinson's disease. Dr. Mouradian is an elected member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the recipient of the NIH Award of Merit and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Neurotherapeutics*.

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