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For Immediate Release

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**MDADVANTAGE ANNOUNCES 2016 RECIPIENTS OF PRESTIGIOUS
EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE AWARDS**

***Anita Chopra, MD, of Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine and NJ
Institute for Successful Aging, Among Honorees***

Lawrenceville, NJ, March 18, 2016 – MDAdvantage Insurance Company, a leading provider of medical professional liability insurance, today announced the 2016 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 patient care, 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*®. This event highlights New Jersey’s very best healthcare leaders and providers who have made major innovations in patient care, education and research and have significantly impacted their community and the healthcare delivery system. My hope is that by highlighting these individuals and their stellar careers, we are able to inspire the healthcare providers and leaders of tomorrow.”

Among those being honored this year is Anita Chopra, MD, who will receive the Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen’s Award®. The award is presented to a citizen or group of citizens of New Jersey who merits recognition for distinguished service in advancing and promoting the health and well-being of the people of our state. Dr. Chopra is Director of the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging and Professor and Chair of the Department of Geriatrics and Gerontology and William G. Rohrer Endowed Chair in Geriatrics at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Also being honored are:

Outstanding Medical Educator Award:

Sara Cuccurullo, MD, *Medical Director and Vice President, JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute; Clinical Professor and Chairman, Residency Program Director, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School*

Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award:

Barry H. Ostrowsky, *President and CEO, Barnabas Health*



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Edward J. Ill Physician's Award®:

Jean Anderson Eloy, MD, *Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery; Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery; and Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School*

Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award:

Christopher O. Kosseff, *President and CEO (retired), on behalf of Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care*

Outstanding Scientist Award:

Robert Korngold, PhD, *Chairman, Department of Research and Chief, Basic Research Division, at the John Theurer Cancer Center, and Senior Scientist at the David and Alice Jurist Institute for Research at Hackensack University Medical Center*

Special Award:

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, *founders and sponsors of Holy Name Medical Center, among numerous sponsored ministries and missions, for their service as champions of the underserved, the poor, the sick, immigrants and the powerless, in New Jersey and beyond*

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 4, 2016, 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.

Anita Chopra, MD

Anita Chopra, MD, is the Director of the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging and Professor and Chair of the Department of Geriatrics and Gerontology at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, where she is the William G. Rohrer Endowed Chair in Geriatrics. Dr. Chopra is a board certified internist/geriatrician, certified Medical Director for long-term care and Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Geriatrics Society.

As an advocate for older adults since 1984, Dr. Chopra has been integral in developing the field of geriatrics at the University. Recognized as one of the premier sources of geriatric care in New Jersey, the Institute is also nationally recognized for the training it provides to physicians-in-training, community-based physicians, other health professionals, human service providers, older



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adults and their caregivers. She has served as Director of several extramurally funded educational initiatives, including the statewide New Jersey Geriatric Education Center and a Geriatric Medicine, Dentistry, and Psychiatry Fellowship that have received federal funding for more than two decades. For these achievements, *U.S. News and World Report* has ranked the Institute among the top 20 graduate schools in geriatric medicine in the nation for the 14th time since 2001.

Dr. Chopra has authored or coauthored numerous publications and nationally disseminated enduring educational materials. She has served as principal investigator or coinvestigator for 20 clinical trials. In addition, she has secured \$11.8 million (federal) and \$3.2 million (non-federal) in grant funds as principal investigator. She has also served in leadership positions for many professional and community-based organizations, including several advisory committees to the New Jersey Department of Health.

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