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For Immediate Release

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

Sara Cuccurullo, MD, of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, JFK Medical Center and JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute Among Honorees

Lawrenceville, NJ, March 7, 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 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, 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:

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

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*



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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*

Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen's Award®:

Anita Chopra, MD, *Director, 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*

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.

Sara Cuccurullo, MD

Sara Cuccurullo, MD, is Clinical Professor and Chairman, Residency Program Director, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/JFK Medical Center and Medical Director and Vice President at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute.

Dr. Cuccurullo received her medical degree from SUNY Downstate in 1987 and completed her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson/JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute (JRI). She became board certified in 1992.

Joining the staff at the JFK/JRI in 1991, Dr. Cuccurullo has served as the Residency Program Director (PD) since 1998. She has taught the PM&R Board Review course since 1991. Dr. Cuccurullo is Editor-in-Chief of *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine Board Review* and published the first edition in 2004, the second edition in 2009 and the third edition in 2014. The royalties from the sale of this textbook are donated to the JRI PM&R Residency Education Fund, which supports educational endeavors. She has received the Teacher of the Year Award six times



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and the RWJ Volunteer Faculty Award several times. In addition, she received multiple awards, including the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Middlesex County Academic Physician award. She is the VP of the National Residency and Fellowship PD Council. She has authored 29 book chapters, multiple articles and more than 50 abstracts. She heads the JRI PM&R Residency Competency Committee and developed a competency model that was presented nationally. She has published seven peer-reviewed papers on this model.

Dr. Cuccurullo was appointed Chairman of the Department of PM&R for Rutgers RWJ Medical School and the Medical Director and VP for the JFK/JRI in February 2014. As Medical Director, she has developed an aftercare program for the continued care of the rehabilitation patients discharged from JRI and a comprehensive stroke recovery program for the care of stroke patients. With this initiative, she is the principal investigator (PI) of two institutional review board (IRB) proposals researching the benefits of a rehabilitation program to treat stroke patients, including cardiovascular conditioning sessions during their recovery.

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