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For Immediate Release

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

***Christopher O. Kosseff, Rutgers University
Behavioral Health Care Among Honorees***

Lawrenceville, NJ, March 22, 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 President and CEO (retired) Christopher O. Kosseff, who will receive the Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award on behalf of Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. The award is presented to an individual who has personified, led and provided the vision for an organization, and to the organization served, for extraordinary commitment to improving the health and welfare of the citizens of New Jersey.

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*

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*



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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.

Christopher O. Kosseff

Christopher O. Kosseff is the President and Chief Executive Officer (retired) of Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care.

Mr. Kosseff was responsible for a state-wide system of academically based mental health and addiction services across New Jersey. In 1996, when he assumed responsibility for this system, the operating budget was approximately \$50 million per year, with the majority derived from Medicaid reimbursements. In 2015, the budget was \$246 million, with a dramatically diversified portfolio.

Although all of the core clinical services remain vibrant and serves the academic and clinical missions, the range of services now includes correctional healthcare, an administrative services organization, a statewide suicide prevention hotline, a clinical research and training institute and peer-operated helplines for service members, Veterans, mothers of children with special needs, law enforcement officers and child protection workers.



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Mr. Kosseff has a Master of Science degree from Syracuse University. Additionally, he holds Clinical Assistant Professor appointments in the departments of psychiatry at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and New Jersey Medical School. He has received numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal from the National Guard.

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