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For Immediate Release

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**MDADVANTAGE ANNOUNCES 2017 RECIPIENTS OF PRESTIGIOUS
EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE AWARDS**

***Maria Soto-Greene, MD, MD-HPed, of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School,
Among Honorees***

Lawrenceville, NJ, March 14, 2017 – MDAdvantage Insurance Company, a leading provider of medical professional liability insurance, today announced the 2017 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. This annual event that dates back to 1939 has been sponsored by MDAdvantage Insurance Company since 2003.

Patricia A. Costante, Chairman and CEO of MDAdvantage, stated, “MDAdvantage is proud to 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 Maria Soto-Greene, MD, MS-HPed, who will receive the Edward J. Ill Physician’s Award®. The award is presented to a New Jersey physician for dedication and extraordinary service to the profession and to the citizens of the state. Dr. Soto-Greene is Vice Dean and Professor of Medicine and Director, Hispanic Center of Excellence, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

Also being honored are:

The 2017 Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Honorees:

Outstanding Medical Educator Award:

John W. Sensakovic, MD, PhD, *Infectious disease specialist, Associate Dean for Residencies and Fellowships, Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Sciences/Seton Hall University-Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, and Director of Infection Control and Continuing Medical Education, JFK Medical Center*

Outstanding Healthcare Executive Award:

Alexander J. Hatala, FACHE, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Lourdes Health System*

Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award:

Chantal Brazeau, MD, *Professor and Interim Chair of Family Medicine and Assistant Dean for Faculty Vitality, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School*

**On behalf of the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Student Family
Health Care Center**



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Outstanding Scientist Award:

Larry Hirsch, MD, *Worldwide Vice President, Medical Affairs, Diabetes Care, BD*

Outstanding Scientist Award:

Nancy D. Connell, PhD, *Professor and Director of Research and Director, Center for BioDefense, Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Pathogens, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School*

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

Alfred F. Tallia, MD, MPH, *Professor and Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and Founding Executive Director/CEO, Robert Wood Johnson Partners, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the RWJBarnabas Health System*

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 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 3, 2017, at Park Château Estate and Gardens in East Brunswick, New Jersey. All profits from the event will be dedicated to support seven medical and healthcare student scholarships. To reserve 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.

The awards program is sponsored by MDAdvantage Insurance Company, a leading provider of medical professional liability insurance. For more information on MDAdvantage, call 888-355-5551 or visit www.MDAdvantageonline.com.

Maria Soto-Greene, MD, MS-HPed
Edward J. Ill Physician's Award[®]



Maria Soto-Greene, MD, MS-HPed, is Professor and Vice Dean at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS). She has amassed more than 30 years of experience in all aspects of medical education. Initially, Dr. Soto-Greene focused on the care of the critically ill patient, honing in on the significance of physician/patient communication and its impact on vulnerable patients and their loved ones. These experiences, combined with her own life in a family that was uninsured and economically disadvantaged, influenced her to champion initiatives for individuals from similar backgrounds. Dr. Soto-Greene is committed to advancing the school's cultural competency education with the goal of attaining health equity. She has been continuously funded by federal and private agencies since the early 1990s and has passionately worked to create unequalled opportunity for thousands of Hispanic and other individuals under-represented in medicine and science. These programs support individuals beginning at the pre-college level through medical school faculty, contributing to career advancement and cultivating the next generation of champions for social justice. Equally important, she has been a leader in disseminating best practices to other medical schools. Dr. Soto-Greene earned her medical degree from New Jersey Medical School, completed her internal medicine training at University Hospital and earned her master's degree in Health Professions Education at the MGH Institute of Health Professions. She is a board-certified internist.

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