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For Immediate Release

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

Alfred F. Tallia, MD, MPH, of Robert Wood Johnson Partners, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and RWJBarnabas Health, Among Honorees

Lawrenceville, NJ, March 28, 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 Alfred F. Tallia, MD, MPH, 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. Tallia is 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.

Also being honored are:

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*

Edward J. Ill Physician’s Award®:

Maria Soto-Greene, MD, MS-HPed, *Vice Dean and Professor of Medicine and Director, Hispanic Center of Excellence, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School*



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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

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*

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.



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Alfred F. Tallia, MD, MPH
Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen's Award®



Alfred F. Tallia, MD, MPH, is Professor and Chair of Family Medicine and Community Health at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Under his leadership, the department has emerged as a national center for health system change and innovation, ranking ninth in NIH funding. Dr. Tallia developed Robert Wood Johnson Partners, LLC, the integrated delivery system of Rutgers University and the RWJBarnabas Health System, designed to improve healthcare for patients across the socioeconomic spectrum. During his two years as Founding Executive Director, he grew RWJ Partners to serve more than 35,000 patients in seven New Jersey counties, with a network of 900 physicians, five hospitals and multiple post-acute facilities, while meeting quality metrics at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 94th percentile and financial targets to achieve \$3.6M in savings. RWJ Partners was recognized in 2015 and 2016 by *Becker's Hospital Review* as one of "100 ACOs to Know" out of more than 1,500 operational in the United States. Nationally, Dr. Tallia is an executive member of the National Board of Medical Examiners, and he chairs the United States Medical Licensing Examination program—the common licensure assessment pathway for all foreign and domestic medical school graduates. He has served on the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative; the Washington-based coalition of Fortune 500 payers, providers and consumers advancing healthcare reform; and on the boards of Horizon Health Innovations and the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Health System. He continues to serve numerous public and private health-related organizations in New Jersey and around the country.

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