MDADVANTAGE ANNOUNCES 2012 RECIPIENTS OF PRESTIGIOUS EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE AWARDS

Judy Donlen, RN, DNSc, JD,
of the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative
and Resident of Marlton Among Honorees


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. Every year since 1939, exemplary New Jersey physicians and leaders whose dedication to education, research and public service have 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 of New Jersey since 2003.

Patricia A. Costante, Chairman and CEO of MDAdvantage, stated, “MDAdvantage is honored to sponsor this prestigious event. Once again this year, we look forward to recognizing Excellence in Medicine Scholarship Honor Roll members, such as Kern, Augustine, Conroy & Schoppmann, PC, who share our commitment to investing in the future of medicine in New Jersey and to improving access to healthcare for New Jersey residents.”

Among those being honored this year is Executive Director Judy Donlen, RN, DNSc, JD, on behalf of the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative. Dr. Donlen, who is also President and CEO of Family Health Initiatives and a resident of Marlton, will receive the Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award. 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**: Jeffrey S. Abrams, MD, Medical Director, Princeton Orthopaedic Associates, PA, Chief, Shoulder Surgery, SportsMedicine Princeton, Clinical Professor, Seton Hall University School of Graduate Education, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and attending surgeon, University Medical Center at Princeton.
- **Outstanding Medical Executive Award**: William F. Owen, Jr., MD, former president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).
Edward J. Ill Physician’s Award®: Jeffrey C. Brenner, MD, Executive Director, Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers and Director, Institute of Urban Health at Cooper Hospital.

Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Basic Biomedical Research: Paola Leone, PhD, Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Director, Cell and Gene Therapy Center, UMDNJ – School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Clinical Research: Jeffrey L. Carson, MD, Richard C. Reynolds Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine, UMDNJ – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen’s Award®: Eve E. Slater, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and former Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Paul J. Hirsch, MD, Chairman of the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation, stated, “Once again, we are proud to acknowledge the many accomplishments and contributions of this year’s honorees, and are looking forward to an outstanding awards program. Profits from the event will be dedicated to fund scholarships for six extremely talented and deserving students who represent the future of New Jersey healthcare.”

This year’s awards will be presented at the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards ceremony on May 2, 2012 at Greenacres Country Club in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. To participate in the 2012 Excellence in Medicine Awards by purchasing tickets, an Honor Roll sponsorship or an advertisement in the awards journal, contact the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation at 609-803-2350 or visit www.EJIawards.org.

Judy Donlen, RN, DNSc, JD

Judy Donlen, RN, DNSc, JD, accepts this award on behalf of the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative, the New Jersey licensed Maternal and Child Health Consortium serving the seven-county region of South Jersey. Under Executive Director Donlen’s leadership, the Cooperative has grown from a small demonstration project to its present status as an influential force in New Jersey’s perinatal healthcare system, with a reputation for excellence in program design, community engagement, professional education and resource allocation.

The Cooperative supports more than 20 different programs and services, working at all levels to improve outcomes, from the individual family and office practice to the system of care. Dr. Donlen was instrumental in broadening the agency’s focus, looking beyond the hospital walls to realize significant progress with interventions directed toward prevention, public education and interagency collaboration, while working to eliminate barriers to care.
An early proponent of data-driven decision-making, Dr. Donlen is responsible for the agency’s current prominence in data management and analysis. The Cooperative now serves as the region’s technical support center for the New Jersey Electronic Birth Certificate, the New Jersey Immunization Information System and the Perinatal Risk Assessment Screening program. The agency has also launched several model programs that were later tapped for statewide implementation, including Moms Quit Connection (maternal smoking cessation), Wipe Out Lead (childhood lead poisoning prevention) and the 4 Ps’ Perinatal Risk Assessment Tool (universal risk assessment screening).

The present Chair of the New Jersey State Health Planning Board and former Chairperson of the New Jersey Hospital Rate Setting Commission, Dr. Donlen has also served on the New Jersey Department of Health’s Pediatric Clinical Advisory Committee, Hospital Inpatient Service Technical Advisory Group, as well as on the National Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Jersey Health Initiatives program. She received her JD from Rutgers University Law School and DNSc and MSN from the University of Pennsylvania.