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**Henry Acosta and the National Resource Center  
For Hispanic Mental Health to Receive Community Service Leader Award**

*Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Association Announces 2008 Awardees*

Lawrenceville, NJ – December 13, 2007 – Paul J. Hirsch, MD, Chairman of the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Association, today announced that Henry Acosta, MA, MSW, LSW will receive a Community Service Leader Award on behalf of the National Resource Center For Hispanic Mental Health. The award will be presented at the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards™ ceremony on May 7, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Princeton.

The Community Service Leader Award is presented to an organization that demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to improving the health and welfare of the citizens of New Jersey; and to an individual representing that organization who has personified, led and/or provided the vision for that organization. Henry Acosta is a nationally and internationally known expert on Hispanic mental health issues and is currently the executive director of the National Resource Center for Hispanic Mental Health. In his role as executive director, Mr. Acosta aims to address the nationwide lack of availability of, access to and the provision of quality mental health services for Hispanics, and to heighten awareness, acceptance and understanding of mental illness among the Hispanic population. Mr. Acosta is also the deputy director of the New Jersey Mental Health Institute, Inc. As a New Jersey licensed social worker, he has more than 16 years of direct service and administrative experience working with children and families in both clinical and social service settings. He currently serves on the New Jersey Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma and on the State of New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners, where he serves as the board's vice chairman.

“Henry Acosta has provided the vision and leadership that has made the National Resource Center for Hispanic Mental Health a national model for improving mental health services among Latinos,” said Dr. Hirsch. “We are proud to recognize this nationally recognized healthcare advocate for his tireless efforts.”

The other 2008 awardees include:

- Edward J. Ill Physician's Award™: Walter J. Kahn, MD, FACS
- Outstanding Medical Educator Awards: Joel DeLisa, MD, MS and Deepak V. Patel, MD
- Outstanding Medical Executive Awards: Judith Burgis and Eileen Moynihan, MD
- Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen's Award™: Senator Peter A. Inverso
- Community Service Leader Awards: Monsignor William J. Linder on behalf of the New Community Corporation
- Special Award: Steven E. Ross, MD and Robert F. Ostrum, MD for the extraordinary trauma care provided to Governor Jon Corzine

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. To register for the event or to learn more about the awards, contact the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Association at 609-803-2350 or visit [www.EJIAwards.org](http://www.EJIAwards.org). Profits from this year's event will be donated to Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership. The awards program is sponsored by MDAdvantage Insurance Company of New Jersey, a leading provider of medical professional liability insurance in New Jersey.