
**MDAdvantage Sponsors New Jersey's Most Prestigious
"Excellence in Medicine" Awards**

Lawrenceville, NJ, May 20, 2008 – A group of outstanding New Jerseyans and two exceptional community organizations were lauded on May 7 when the 68th annual Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards™ honored healthcare leaders. These coveted awards are among the highest honors given in New Jersey's medical community. The black tie gala was held at the Hyatt Regency Princeton.

MDAdvantage, a leading provider of medical professional liability insurance in New Jersey, sponsors the state's longest-running medical awards program to recognize New Jersey's healthcare efforts. "Edward J. Ill, MD was a pioneer in promoting continuing medical education in New Jersey," said Patricia A. Costante, chairman and CEO of MDAdvantage. "Dr. Ill and his colleagues took up issues of medical student education, physician certification and continuing education in ways that set the national standard. We sponsor this annual recognition program that bears Dr. Ill's name because his work reflects our commitment to healthcare."

The 2008 awardees included:

- 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
- Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Awards: Henry Acosta, MA, MSW, LSW on behalf of the National Resource Center for Hispanic Mental Health and Monsignor William J. Linder on behalf of the New Community Corporation
- Special Award given for the extraordinary trauma care provided to Governor Jon Corzine: Steven E. Ross, MD and Robert F. Ostrum, MD

Paul J. Hirsch, MD, Chairman of the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation, stated, "On behalf of all of this year's attendees and supporters, we offer our sincere congratulations to this year's award recipients. It is our privilege to pay tribute to your achievements and accomplishments in healthcare. You have raised the bar for all of us." He also stated, "We were especially honored to have Governor Corzine participate in the event. Governor Corzine acknowledged each award recipient's contribution to healthcare, and thanked Dr. Ross, Dr. Ostrum and the trauma team at Cooper University Hospital for the extraordinary care they provided to him after his April 2007 accident."

The Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation supports worthy healthcare organizations in New Jersey through its fundraising efforts. The profits from this year's event benefited Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership (HCMAP). Mark Peters, II, PharmD, President of HCMAP, accepted a check for \$30,000 on behalf of the organization, stating, "There is no doubt that HCMAP's success today is due in no insignificant part to the efforts of the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation and MDAdvantage."

The Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation is now accepting nominations for the 2009 awards program. The deadline for nominations is September 12, 2008. For more information on the awards program and the nomination process, visit www.EJIAwards.org.