

## **NAGASWAMI S. VASAN, DVM, PHD, TO RECEIVE OUTSTANDING MEDICAL EDUCATOR AWARD**

Lawrenceville, NJ – January 6, 2009 – Paul J. Hirsch, MD, Chairman of the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation, today announced that Nagaswami S. Vasam, DVM, PhD, will receive the Outstanding Medical Educator Award. The award will be presented at the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards® ceremony on May 6, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Princeton.

The Outstanding Medical Educator Award is presented annually to a medical educator who has made an outstanding contribution to graduate and/or undergraduate medical education in New Jersey. Dr. Vasam is a Professor of Anatomy at New Jersey Medical School, and is also Director of Anatomy Programs for medical, dental and graduate students. Dr. Vasam was trained as a Developmental Biologist at University of Pennsylvania, where he also began his anatomy teaching.

Dr. Vasam has been teaching medical gross anatomy for the past 33 years and transformed the course from an intimidating nightmare into an exciting and enjoyable one that students routinely offer high praise. This pioneer's passion, persistence, and leadership have helped to change how anatomy is taught, providing an interactive small group learning environment to enhance student performance, student retention and increase the value of medical education. In 2000, he was the first basic science faculty recipient of the UMDNJ-Master Educator Award. Dr. Vasam has also received numerous other teaching awards. Presently, Dr. Vasam is a Faculty Scholar in the Harvard Macy program, which is the preeminent faculty development program in the world.

“Dr. Vasam is a true asset to New Jersey,” stated Dr. Hirsch. “His innovative approach to education and his devotion to his students have made him an extraordinary teacher in a course that is the very backbone of medical education.”

The other 2009 awardees include:

- Edward J. Ill Physician's Award®: Kenneth G. Swan, MD
- Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen's Award®: Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD
- Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Clinical Research: Joseph R. Bertino, MD
- Outstanding Medical Research Scientist Award for Basic Biomedical Research: Aaron J. Shatkin, PhD
- Outstanding Medical Executive Award: Gary S. Carter, FACHE
- Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award: John W. Beckley, MPH, on behalf of Hunterdon County Partnership for Health
- Special Award: Jill A. Lipoti, PhD, for protecting the people of New Jersey from unnecessary exposure to radiation from natural and man-made sources

The awards will be presented at the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Awards® ceremony on May 6, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Princeton. To purchase tickets or advertisements for the event or to learn more about the awards, contact the Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Foundation at 609-803-2350 or visit [www.EJlawards.org](http://www.EJlawards.org). Profits from this year's event will benefit the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and the Joetta Clark Diggs Sports Foundation's Head 2 Toe Fitness Program. The awards program is sponsored by MDAdvantage Insurance Company of New Jersey, a leading provider of medical professional liability insurance in New Jersey.

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