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

***Nancy D. Connell, PhD, MD, of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Among  
Honorees***

**Lawrenceville, NJ, February 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 Nancy D. Connell, PhD, MD, who will receive an Outstanding Scientist Award.** The award is presented to an individual or individuals who have made important contributions leading to advances in treatment. Dr. Connell is Professor and Director of Research and Director, Center for BioDefense, Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Pathogens, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

Also being honored are:

**The 2017 Edward J. Ill Excellence in Medicine Honorees:**

**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*

**Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Citizen's Award®:**

**Alfred F. Tallia, MD, MPH**, *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*

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](http://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](http://www.MDAdvantageonline.com).

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**Nancy D. Connell, PhD**  
**Outstanding Scientist Award**

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**Nancy D. Connell, PhD**, is Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Division of Infectious Disease in the Department of Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and the Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences. Dr. Connell's major research focus is antibacterial drug discovery in respiratory pathogens, such as *M. tuberculosis* and *B. anthracis*. Her recent work also focuses on the use of predatory bacteria as novel therapeutics for bacterial infections. Dr. Connell has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense, industry and other agencies since 1993 and serves on or has chaired several NIH review panels. Dr. Connell has served on a number of committees of the National Academy of Sciences, including the Advances in Technology and the Prevention of their Application to Next Generation Biowarfare Agents (2004), Trends in Science and Technology Relevant to the Biological Weapons Convention (2010) and Review of the Scientific Approaches used in the FBI's Investigation of the 2001 *B. anthracis* Mailings (2011). Dr. Connell has considerable experience and interest in pedagogy, with a focus on ethics education and the responsible conduct of research. She is currently chairing the National Research Council's (NRC) Standing Committee for Faculty Development for Education about Research with Dual Use Issues in the Context of Responsible Science and Research Integrity, which has directed a series of workshops throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Dr. Connell was recently appointed a member of the Board on Life Sciences and is a National Associate of the National Academies of Sciences.

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