

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Faculty Honored With Prestigious Edward J. III Awards

Three members of the NJMS faculty have been named recipients of the 2017 Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Awards. These awards recognize exceptional physicians, researchers, and leaders in health care.

Maria Soto-Greene, MD, MS-HPed, vice dean and professor of medicine and director of the Rutgers NJMS Hispanic Center of Excellence, received the Edward J. III Physician's Award. A board-certified internist, she is a tireless advocate for advancing NJMS's cultural competency education. She has a national reputation for promoting diversity and cultural competence and has served as a consultant to others on how to achieve diversity at the student and faculty levels.

Chantal Brazeau, MD, professor and interim chair of the Department of Family Medicine, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, is the recipient of the Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award. She received this recognition on behalf of the student-run Rutgers NJMS Student Family Health Care Center, which provides free, top-quality medical care to underserved residents of the Newark community. The center celebrates a milestone anniversary, its 50th, in 2017.

Nancy Connell, PhD, professor and director of research and director of the Center for BioDefense, Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Pathogens, is a recipient of the Outstanding Scientist Award. A main focus of her work is antibacterial drug discovery in respiratory pathogens. Her abiding interest in the politics of science and the ethical considerations of lab research has placed her in positions of authority in relation to a host of potentially lethal microorganisms.

The Excellence in Medicine Awards www.EJlawards.org are named for New Jersey physician Edward J. III, MD, who was a pioneer in promoting continuing education in ways that set the national standard. The awards will be presented at the Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Awards ceremony on May 3 in East Brunswick. This event, sponsored by the MDAdvantage Insurance Company, raises funds to support medical and health care student scholarships.

About New Jersey Medical School

Celebrating over 61 years of service, NJMS was founded in 1954 and is the oldest school of medicine in the state. In addition to the MD degree, NJMS offers MD/PhD, MD/MPH and MD/MBA degrees through collaborations with other institutions of higher education. Dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care and community outreach, the medical school comprises 21 academic departments and works with several healthcare partners, including its principal teaching hospital, University Hospital in Newark. Its faculty consists of numerous world-renowned scientists and many of the region's "Top Docs." NJMS hosts 27 centers and institutes, including the Public Health Research Institute Center, the Global Tuberculosis Institute and the Neurological Institute of New Jersey. The medical school is home to the Student Family Health Care Center, the nation's first and oldest continually operating free student-run clinic. In 2015, NJMS was named the #1 NIH funded institution in New Jersey. Today it is part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, the eighth oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. November 10, 2016, marked Rutgers' 250th Anniversary.