



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 7, 2009  
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## **Prominent Local Pediatric Neurologist to be Named Autism New Jersey's Health Care Professional of the Year**

**Voorhees, NJ** – Pediatric neurologist Mark Mintz, M.D., President and CEO of The Center for Neurological and Neurodevelopmental Health (CNNH) and The Clinical Research Center of New Jersey (CRCNJ), will be presented with Autism New Jersey's Health Care Professional of the Year Award on Thursday, October 8 at a noon luncheon during their 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Sheraton Convention Center Hotel in Atlantic City.

Autism New Jersey's Health Care Professional of the Year Award honors a New Jersey medical professional with an exceptional record of providing health care services to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The three-day conference, October 8 through 10, will include multidisciplinary presentations by medical, educational and research professionals, who will share the latest findings and breakthroughs in the diagnosis and treatment of autism. Following the award ceremony, Dr. Mintz will address attendees at 2 p.m. on the topic of "Pharmacological Management of Autism" as part of Thursday's workshop theme titled, "Physicians and Parents Enhancing the Health and Quality of Life for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum." Dr. Mintz will discuss how pharmacological therapies can improve behavior and optimize functioning, when properly managed and conservatively utilized. The workshop will include other presentations on "Best Practices in Screening and Diagnosis"; "Recent Advances in Understanding the Causes of Autism"; "Desensitization to Medical Procedures"; and "Medications and How to Evaluate their Effectiveness". The day will conclude with a panel discussion by physicians, who are also parents of children with autism.

Under the leadership of Dr. Mintz, CNNH has received the distinction of being designated an Autism Center of Excellence by the NJ Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism. Awarded a \$1 million grant to meet the overwhelming demand for autism services in New Jersey, along with five other centers,

CNNH has been a model for the state in autism assessments, programming, research and education. CNNH offers expanded and comprehensive early identification, evaluation and treatment services for the entire nine county southern New Jersey autism population.

“I am honored to be chosen as the 2009 recipient of the Healthcare Professional of the Year award,” said Dr. Mintz, a longtime Cherry Hill resident. “It’s been a pleasure and privilege to assist patients and families throughout New Jersey in understanding the diagnosis of autism and providing the most advanced diagnostic tools and treatment options so children with autism can achieve success. I want to thank Autism New Jersey for considering me for this award and for all their important support and advocacy they provide to families.”

New Jersey has the highest prevalence of autism in the United States according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Autism New Jersey is a non-profit agency that provides information and advocacy, services, family and professional education, and consultation. The organization is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with autism and providing support to families.

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CNNH offers comprehensive evaluation, diagnostic testing, and treatment for infants to young adults with neurological, neurobehavioral, neuropsychological, and neurodevelopmental disorders, such as autism. The Center brings together national and local experts to provide accurate and definitive diagnoses and comprehensive treatment intervention using the most advanced diagnostic tools and technology. For more information about CNNH, please call Phyllis Rothman at 856.346.0005 x 121 or visit [www.thecnnh.org](http://www.thecnnh.org)

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