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Contact: Kristin Queen Shaffer
202-966-5557 x245
kshaffer@geneticalliance.org

New Jersey Consortium of Care to Receive First Ever National Award for Novel Partnership

WASHINGTON, DC – April 21, 2010 – [Genetic Alliance](#) will present the Art of Novel Partnership Award to the New Jersey Consortium of Care for Children & Youth with Special Healthcare Needs & Their Families at the Awards Dinner during the 2010 Genetic Alliance Annual Conference in recognition of its unique brand of inclusive, participatory partnership.

The Consortium of Care is made up of nine organizations: Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN); the American Academy of Pediatrics-New Jersey Chapter/New Jersey Pediatric Council on Research and Education; the Arc of New Jersey Mainstreaming Medical Care; Boggs Center-University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Family Support Center of New Jersey; New Jersey Department of Children and Families; New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services; New Jersey Department of Human Services; and the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey.

"The Consortium of Care epitomizes the type of innovative collaboration that is the spirit of this award," said Sharon Terry, president and chief executive officer of Genetic Alliance. "All stakeholders contribute equally, building on each other's strengths and sharing resources to ultimately improve the health of children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN) and support their families."

This principle of family leadership and support is at the core of the Consortium of Care. Together, organizations represent and work to meet the needs of the full diversity of CYSHCN and their families, and the Consortium engages in continuous quality improvement to enhance outcomes at all levels.

Henry Tejada, a New Jersey parent, shares, "I am extremely grateful for all the information, patience, and significant investment of their time the partners in the New Jersey Consortium of Care so willingly have given to help me become a better parent for my son. I feel more equipped and ready to make the world and my community a more welcoming place for him. If it were not for all the help I received, I am not sure where my family would be right now."

The Awards Dinner takes place on July 17, 2010, during the Genetic Alliance Annual Conference, *Advancing Novel Partnerships*. Genetic Alliance will also honor Art of Listening, Art of Reporting, and Art of Advocacy awardees. For more information and to register for the conference and/or the awards dinner, go to <http://www.geneticalliance.org/conference2010>.

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Genetic Alliance transforms health through genetics, promoting an environment of openness centered on the health of individuals, families, and communities. Genetic Alliance brings together diverse stakeholders that create novel partnerships in advocacy; integrates individual, family, and community perspectives to improve health systems; and revolutionizes access to information to enable translation of research into services and individualized decision making. For more information about Genetic Alliance, visit <http://www.geneticalliance.org>.