



New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders

50 Division Street Suite 205 Somerville NJ 08876 1 877 NJTS INFO www.njcts.org

Contact: Nicole Greco

Mail@njcts.org

908-575-7350 (O)

908-963-9778 (C)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2008

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR TOURETTE SYNDROME HONORED FOR COMBATING MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA *RECEIVES FIRST GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA AMBASSADOR'S AWARD*

Somerville, NJ- New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome is a recipient of the first annual New Jersey Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma Ambassador Award for health care.

The Ambassador Award recognizes organizations that have made significant contributions to reduce the stigma society attaches to mental health disorders. Celina Gray, executive director of the Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma, presented the award to NJCTS for its work in promoting "education, advocacy, research and creating new options for the treatment of Tourette Syndrome and associated disorders. NJCTS is empowering students and families across New Jersey to break down stigma."

Established in 2000, the New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome and Associated Disorders is a unique collaboration with the Rutgers University, healthcare professionals and educators. NJCTS and Rutgers University have established the world's first and only TS genetics repository and are working to establish a core curriculum to train mental health workers to recognize and reach out to the TS community.

"We believe empowering children and families to advocate for themselves will help demystify this disorder and foster an environment of greater understanding, tolerance and action on behalf of the mental health community at large," said NJCTS Executive Director Rice. For more information visit www.njcts.org.

(PHOTO ATTACHED)

Photo cutline: Dr. Gary Heiman of Rutgers University Department of Genetics and NJCTS Executive Director Faith Rice accept the first Ambassador's Award for Health Care from the New Jersey Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma.

###

New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome is a multi-disciplinary, cross-institutional program employing the resources of Rutgers University, healthcare professionals, the world's first TS genetics repository and Tourette Syndrome Association of New Jersey. NJCTS provides diagnosis and treatment referral services, training for a new generation of professionals qualified to work with individuals with TS, and insights that can lead to better treatments or even a cure.

