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New York Yankees Host Exceptional Parent's Disability Awareness Event

Awards to Dr. Robert Cancro and Dr. Orrin Devinsky of NYU School of Medicine

New York, NY June 21, 2005 – The EP Foundation for Education and *Exceptional Parent* magazine will present a Disability Awareness event on July 5, 2005 when the New York Yankees take on the Baltimore Orioles at Yankee Stadium. For this event, 300 game tickets have been donated by the EP Foundation to local disability organizations including Easter Seals of New York City, F.A.C.E.S. (Finding A Cure for Epilepsy & Seizures at New York University Medical School), United Cerebral Palsy of New York City and the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey.

The day will pay tribute to the contributions of the 54 million Americans with disabilities, their families and caregivers. At a pre-game ceremony near home plate, the EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Orrin Devinsky, MD and Robert Cancro, MD.

Dr. Orrin Devinsky is a Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry at NYU School of Medicine. His interests in epilepsy research include quality-of-life, cognitive and behavioral issues in epilepsy, surgical therapy and new medications. He has been published widely on the topics of epilepsy and behavioral neurology, with more than 250 articles and chapters and more than 20 books and monographs. He has chaired several committees of the American Epilepsy Society and has served as a Board member. He is active in the American Academy of Neurology and the Epilepsy Foundation. Dr. Devinsky is the Co-Editor of Reviews in Neurological Diseases, Epilepsy and Behavior, and www.epilepsy.com and serves as a reviewer for more than 30 journals.

Dr. Robert Cancro is a Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman of the Department at New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Cancro's major academic interest has been in the psychoses and, in particular, schizophrenia's interface between the nervous system and behavior. As director of NYU's Mental Illness Prevention Center, his present focus is on early detection and quick intervention, with eradication as a long term goal.

Dr. Cancro states, “Four of the five leading causes of disability days in the U.S. are psychiatric and 25 percent of the population has a diagnosable disorder. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in 18 to 21 year olds. Prevention is the only answer.”

Dr. Cancro has been active in the World Psychiatric Association and has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization, the United States Secret Service and Department of Justice. He has published 15 books and over 250 articles. Joseph M. Valenzano, President and CEO of EP Global Communications, Inc. will be presenting the EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Cancro.

The award given to Orrin Devinsky, MD and Robert Cancro, MD is named after the founder and former editor-in-chief of *Exceptional Parent* who was an advocate for people with special needs and who passed away in 2000. *Exceptional Parent* is this nation’s oldest and most widely referred to publication of its kind, reaching a vast audience of physicians, nurses, therapists, teachers and families involved in the care and development of children and adults with disabilities and special health care needs.

“Our goal is to help all Americans understand that we will become a stronger nation and better human beings when we learn to regard people with disabilities and special needs as people to be respected, not as problems to be confronted” said Valenzano.

The Disability Awareness program began in the summer of 2002 and last season 26 similar events were held in ballparks across the country. This year, the program has expanded to include minor league parks as well.

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