For Immediate Release

State Health Commissioner Addresses Importance of Sports Medicine
Dr. Jacobs Speaks at Grand Opening of New Center

VERONA, NJ SEPTEMBER 29, 2005 - The first multi-disciplinary neuro-musculoskeletal medicine center in New Jersey, officially opened its doors in Verona on Thursday, September 15, 2005. At a grand opening hosted by Mountainside Hospital, Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, addressed the significance of the New Jersey Sports Medicine Institute and the importance of sports medicine.

"According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 4.3 million sports and recreation-related injuries are treated each year in United States' emergency departments," Dr. Jacobs said. "These injuries occur among all population groups and account for more emergency department visits annually than injuries involving motor-vehicle occupants (3.5 million)."

A service supported by Mountainside Hospital, the New Jersey Sports Medicine Institute offers comprehensive care and treatment for sports related injuries and disorders. As part of the New Jersey Sports Medicine Institute’s alignment with Mountainside Hospital, patients needing additional diagnostic testing or surgical treatment will have access to the wide array of sophisticated services and technology available at the Hospital. The facility was designed to meet the needs of all levels of athletes - amateur, semi-professional, or professional. With over 5,000 square feet of space and a dedicated staff of experts in the field, the center combines clinical care, education, and research.

“It is estimated that every year, more than 3.5 million children ages 14 and under suffer sports injuries serious enough to require medical treatment. In team sports, most injuries — 62 percent — occur during practices, not games,” said Gerard Malanga, MD, FACSM, Medical Director of Rehabilitation Medicine at Mountainside Hospital and Medical Director of the New Jersey Sports Medicine Institute.

Dr. Malanga is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, and pain medicine. He completed a sports medicine fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and his expertise is in the non-operative treatment of a variety of sports, spine, musculoskeletal, and orthopedic disorders.

Louis Rizio, MD, a sports medicine fellowship trained orthopedic surgeon, leads the surgical component of the New Jersey Sports Medicine Institute and specializes in arthroscopic surgery of the knee and shoulder. In addition, Drs. Jay Bowen and Tom Agesen both specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation with fellowship training in sports medicine.

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and non-surgical spine care. Also, Mike Prybicien, ATC, brings an additional dimension to the Institute with his experience and expertise in athletic training, emphasizing in patient education of sports related injury prevention, management, and improvement of athletic performance.

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Photo included: (from left to right) Joseph A. Trunfio, PhD President/Chief Executive Officer of Atlantic Health System; Gregory Mulford, MD, Medical Director of Atlantic Rehabilitation Services; Renee A. Kessler, Chief Operating Officer of Mountainside Hospital; Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services; Gerard Malanga, MD, FACSM, Medical Director of Rehabilitation Medicine for Mountainside Hospital and Medical Director of the New Jersey Sports Medicine Institute