

Dr. Andrew Racine Named Recipient of 2010 Emily Fenichel Award for Leadership

The New York Zero-to-Three Network is pleased to announce that **Andrew Racine, MD, PhD** has been named the 2010 recipient of the Emily Fenichel Award for Leadership. Established by the New York Zero-to-Three Network in 2007, the award honors the memory of Emily Fenichel, MSW, Associate Director of ZERO TO THREE: The National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, whose work often served to bring the voices of “unsung heroes” in the zero-to-three field to the fore. Because many zero-to-three leaders and professionals work quietly in their schools or organizations without much public acknowledgement, the Emily Fenichel Award is intended to provide an opportunity for their dedication to be recognized.

Dr. Racine is Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Director of the Division of General Pediatrics at The Children’s Hospital at Montefiore, and has been a steadfast champion and supporter of the infusion of infant mental health programs into the pediatric home. Due in no small part to Dr. Racine’s leadership, intelligence, humor and vision, Montefiore is now the home of two Healthy Steps programs that co-locate infant mental health specialists into primary pediatric care. Via these programs, thousands of the Bronx’s most at-risk children receive the earliest mental health intervention possible via education of medical students, pediatric residents, and attending pediatricians, screening of infants and their caregivers, and intervention.

Dr. Racine received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his MD and PhD in Economics from New York University. Dr. Racine was an intern and pediatric resident at the Children’s Hospital in Boston. He received board certification from the American Board of Pediatrics in 1987.

Dr. Racine’s clinical interest in general pediatrics concentrates on the health issues confronting infants, children, adolescents and their families in urban environments. He is the Pediatric Medical Director for two practices: The Comprehensive Family Care Center, a federally qualified health center in the east Bronx, and the Family Care Center, a hospital based general practice adjacent to the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore. These sites combine an attending based practice of pediatrics with a resident continuity clinic. Together they provide care for approximately 20,000 patients and their families. At the National Bureau of Economic Research, where he has an appointment as a Research Associate, Dr. Racine has collaborated with other health economists to investigate such topics as trends in infant mortality rates, the economic determinants of child health status, and the role of publicly financed health insurance in accounting for variations in children’s health.

An active member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Racine has served as the Co-Chair of the Youth Advocacy Committee for Chapters 2 and 3 of District II for several years. Dr. Racine has been ahead of the curve regarding infant mental health, looking to partner with professionals in our field to bring services to pediatrics since the early 1990s. He has been steadfast in his support, never letting this goal move too far from the forefront. Because he is so universally respected as a leader, he was able to be a true champion for the infant mental health professionals coming into Montefiore. Even as his colleagues wondered what in the world he was talking about, and why they needed to give up office space for such a thing, he gently persisted, and, as a result, true gold standard programs have emerged.

With his particular combination of extraordinary intellect combined with humility and a gentle touch, Dr. Racine’s nominators say he “is a force to be reckoned with.” He so clearly understands the connection between maternal mental health and infant mental health, as evidenced by a favorite quote of his, “There is no child health without mother health.” Dr. Racine will be present with the Fenichel Award at New York Zero-to-Three Network’s Annual Spring Conference taking place at the Penn Hotel on May 14, 2010.

Emily Fenichel was a pioneer in what has become the field of “zero to three,” a body of knowledge, a network of people and programs, and a movement dedicated to promoting the well-being of infants and toddlers. Fenichel spent 30 years at ZERO TO THREE: The National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, starting in its early days when there were only two employees and growing into her roles as Associate Director, editor-in-chief of the influential bimonthly journal Zero to Three, staff coordinator of the National Training Institutes, and mentor to leaders all over North America and beyond. Fenichel’s openness, patience, capacity to respect others, and unparalleled editing skills brought unheard voices to the field’s notice and helped create a sense of community for professionals working with infants and toddlers across disciplinary, systemic and national boundaries. She was responsible for guiding and inspiring numerous publications that defined the zero-to-three field, including DC 0-3R, now a classic. Fenichel traveled far and wide helping people put their ideas, programs, and stories into words. She transformed doers into writers and leaders, and the world of ideas which were becoming the zero-to-three field enlarged. Humble by nature, Fenichel possessed vision, a towering intellect, a formidable memory, a dead-pan, sharp sense of humor, unusual kindness, and a remarkable ability to listen deeply. She also adored babies. Tragically, Fenichel died in a traffic accident on June 8, 2006 in Washington, DC.