

Media Contacts:

Denise LeBloch – 630-909-7104 or dlebloch@marianjoy.org

Charmaine Mufich – 630-909-7100 or cmufich@marianjoy.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARIANJOY DOCTOR RECEIVES “MAKE A DIFFERENCE” AWARD FROM ILLINOIS BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION

November 2, Wheaton, IL – Dr. Patrick Walsh, Director of Psychology and Coordinator of the Brain Injury Program at Marianjoy, received the “Make a Difference” Award at the Illinois Brain Injury Association’s Annual Education Conference for his efforts to increase awareness on the seriousness of sports concussions and their impact on the brain. Concussions and their long-term effects have had increased focus recently. Newly published studies have shown that this type of brain injury is affecting young athletes at a much higher rate and may lead to the early onset of conditions such as dementia, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and Lou Gehrig’s disease.

“I am grateful that Marianjoy’s Sports Concussion Program received such recognition,” notes Dr. Walsh. “Helping families, coaches, athletic directors, and health professionals truly understand the short- and long-term effects of concussions is vital to ensuring they provide the best resources for student athletes. Every concussion is different and learning about the symptoms, impact, and treatment of the injury can make a world of difference in recovery. I look forward to working to advance prevention and treatment of concussions collectively.”

A variety of educational presentations relevant to brain injury and rehabilitation were held at the conference. Among these included a sports concussion clinic presented by Dr. Walsh and Dr. Beth Pieroth-Wilson, neuropsychologist consultant for the Chicago Bears, Chicago Blackhawks, and Northwestern University. The pair addressed a number of topics including when it is safe to return to play. They were followed by keynote speaker, Chris Nowinski of the Sports Legacy Foundation, who has been heavily involved in raising awareness of sports concussions among professional athletes and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a progressive degenerative disease found in athletes who have had multiple concussions.

Marianjoy offers a comprehensive treatment program designed for individuals experiencing physical, cognitive, and/or emotional difficulties from concussions or mild head trauma through its Post Concussive Clinic. For more information on the treatment of concussions, please visit www.Marianjoy.org or call the Post Concussive Clinic at 630-909-6020.

Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital is a nonprofit teaching hospital in Wheaton, Illinois, dedicated to the delivery of physical medicine and rehabilitation programs including stroke, neuromuscular, orthopedic, brain injury, spinal cord injury, and pediatrics. Marianjoy’s \$60 million, 120 private room replacement hospital is a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance the naturally holistic approach to rehabilitation. Founded in 1972, Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital maintains an extensive network of inpatient, subacute, and outpatient sites and physician clinics throughout the Chicago area. Marianjoy is a member of Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare.

###