Database enhancements developed at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) are helping physicians use technology to further ensure safety in the delivery of chemotherapy. Known as the Cancer Treatment Regimen Library, this new tool houses more than 400 standard care regimens for more than 100 different cancer categories. It enables clinicians to ensure appropriate treatment doses for patients based on the recommended standard of care and cross-checked against a patient’s medical record.

The collection of standard care regimens for cancer care is not a new process. What is different about this Regimen Library developed by Adam Lisi, PharmD, a pharmacy informatics specialist at CINJ, is the incorporation of a rule and notification functionality, where safety elements are built in.

When any chemotherapy is ordered, the database system reviews a patient’s electronic medical record. Each treatment regimen has specific rules associated with it. If an abnormal test result is detected within a patient’s record, the system will review the treatment rules and recommend a modification of therapy.

The regimens and rules are constantly reviewed and updated by a multi-disciplinary team at CINJ, including tumor-specific oncologists, pharmacists and nurses.

“As more of the patient’s medical information flows into our system, the clinicians have a more accurate picture of their patients, which allows them to make the most appropriate clinical decision,” said Dr. Lisi. “The [Cancer Treatment — Continued on Page 4

Electronic Tool Targets Safety in Delivery of Cancer Treatment

A ‘Grand’ Illusion

The man with the “black bag” inch ed close and pulled out never-ending handkerchiefs, squirting flowers, decks of cards and other “tricks” of the trade that make a good magician. But the man was not a magician – not in the regular sense – but he was good at making one thing disappear…fear. For min utes, maybe even hours, he helped a child feel just like a regular kid again – instead of a kid who is being treated for cancer.

That man was Barton A. Kamen, MD, PhD, immediate past chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and associate director at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ). Dr. Kamen volunteered his time at CINJ seeing pediatric — Continued on Page 12
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Director's Corner

Just recently state legislation was signed by Governor Chris Christie that will restructure higher education in New Jersey including the integration of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey into Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey beginning July 1, 2013. While Rutgers University has been a formal research partner of CINJ as recognized by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for a number of years, this new relationship will allow the collective strength of CINJ and Rutgers to further drive — and lead — the field of cancer research. As a Center of Excellence of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey — Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, CINJ has evolved into one of the nation’s leading cancer centers and is on a trajectory to continue its growth and leadership in the field.

What will this new relationship mean for CINJ? For our patients? For New Jersey and beyond? Under the Rutgers umbrella, CINJ will have broader opportunities and resources in order to advance cancer research. This access will translate into additional cutting-edge treatments for our patients and the ability to provide them with increased services. Through the integration of CINJ into Rutgers, we will be in a better position to further New Jersey as both a statewide and worldwide resource for cancer, thus resulting in job creation and further industry collaboration.

One recently launched effort that will benefit greatly from this new relationship is CINJ’s new Cancer Treatment Regimen Library. As you’ll learn in our cover story, the enhancement of this clinical support tool by CINJ investigators will further ensure safety in the delivery of cancer treatment.

This issue also describes some of the unique people at CINJ. On page 5, you’ll learn more about CINJ treatment nurse Joan Quagliata and her dedication to patients and her team. And the history of CINJ’s Pediatric Hematology/Oncology program is forever changed due to the many contributions of its immediate past chief, Dr. Barton Kamen, who is the CINJ Foundation’s ‘Award of Hope for Leadership and Patient Care’ honoree this year. At press time, we were saddened by Dr. Kamen’s passing. We would like to honor him in this edition’s cover story, which so aptly describes his dedication to cancer research and the deep devotion he had for his patients and their families. The mark he has left on CINJ, his patients and on the field of cancer research in general is indelible. We will miss our dear colleague and friend. The CINJ family expresses its deepest sympathies to Dr. Kamen’s wife Ruth, daughter Libby, and the entire Kamen family.

As Dr. Kamen’s research and work demonstrated, CINJ’s role in the cancer fight is more than just looking for the set of answers that will bring us closer to a cure. Our mission at CINJ is to make it happen. With great enthusiasm, I truly feel that the talent within CINJ integrated within Rutgers and an increased statewide presence will enable us to achieve this goal and launch CINJ to new levels as the state of New Jersey’s only NCI-Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Sincerely,

Robert S. DiPaola, MD
Director, CINJ; Associate Dean for Oncology Programs and Professor of Medicine, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Sunburn a Common Result of Indoor Tanning by College-Aged Females

Controversy remains over the risks involved with indoor tanning, especially in children and young adults. Since sunburn serves as a marker for excessive and skin-cell damaging ultraviolet (UV) exposure – which can eventually lead to the development of skin cancer – investigators at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey took a closer look at a college-aged sample of females and their indoor tanning habits. What they found was that sunburn was a frequently reported experience by these young women when they engaged in this activity.

Previous research on erythema or redness of the skin/sunburn – in relation to tanning bed use has relied on study participants’ long-term memory in recalling if and how often they experienced this effect from indoor tanning. In this study, participants were required to make a series of diary entries over a course of 12 weeks to document whether sunburn was a result of their tanning bed use during that period. The study looked at 198 female college students, with a mean age of approximately 19, from two universities in the northeastern and southeastern United States. Diary data were utilized to determine how often sunburn occurred and whether there were certain characteristics specific to both the session and the user that would predict outcomes of sunburn following tanning bed use.

The research by investigators from CINJ and colleagues from East Tennessee State University, the Pennsylvania State University and Northwestern University, appeared in the July online edition of Translational Behavioral Medicine (doi: 10.1007/s13142-012-0155-2).

During the study period, just over a third of participants did not engage in indoor tanning during the assessment period. An additional third of the sample group used indoor tanning one to ten times, while nearly 12 percent reported more than 20 sessions. Two-thirds of participants reported at least one case of sunburn related to an indoor tanning session. Half of respondents reported two or more episodes, while 36 percent reported three or more instances. Thus the authors note a positive association between the number of indoor tanning sessions and number of sunburn cases. The duration of the sessions however, was not significantly associated with sunburn risk.

Jerod L. Stapleton, PhD, behavioral scientist at CINJ and assistant professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, is the lead author of the study. “What our findings show is that indoor tanning – advertised by the indoor tanning industry as a ‘controlled’ ultraviolet radiation exposure resulting in minimal risk of burn – results in quite the opposite. Despite these claims, our results show that sunburn is a common occurrence related to tanning bed use. This is particularly worrisome given data that suggest sunburns increase future skin cancer risk,” noted Dr. Stapleton.

The study was supported by funding from the American Cancer Society: RSGPB-05-011-01-CPPB (Hillhouse).

Precision Medicine Aims to Advance Personalized Cancer Treatments

With recent advancements in technology and biomedical informatics, a more personalized approach to prescribing cancer treatment and developing these therapies is preferred over “one-size-fits-all” methods. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey has been on the cutting-edge of this movement and recently has launched a more concrete effort that is poised to change the way that molecular and genetic information is being used to diagnose and treat cancer – an initiative known as “precision medicine” – also known to many as “personalized medicine.”

Research has shown that cancer is not one disease, but rather a collection of diseases. Each cancer sub-type boasts its own individual molecular and genetic makeup, which in many cases results in cancer growth and resistance to cancer-killing drugs. By further defining the molecular profile of various cancer subtypes, investigators hope to apply this information toward developing targeted therapies. Large scale efforts on the national and local levels – including those at CINJ – have been underway to collect correlating clinical and genomic data to use as a road map in determining diagnosis, prognosis and course of treatment.

With CINJ’s newly-established precision medicine initiative, specialized investigators will further integrate that information using state-of-the-art technology to better catalogue and expedite the flow of data from researcher to doctor to patient – and in turn back to the researcher.

Leading this initiative is Lorna Rodriguez, MD, PhD, professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Rodriguez, former chief of gynecologic-oncology at CINJ, has years of experience running her own investigator-initiated clinical trials including research on cancer metastasis, drug resistance and the CD44 cell surface receptor and the role it plays in ovarian cancer metastasis. She feels the impact of precision medicine both on patients and on the health/biomedical communities will be tremendous.
A key component of a multi-disciplinary team to any gastrointestinal oncology program is the surgical oncologist. Dr. Melstrom had always been drawn to surgery and it was only during her time as a medical student at Weill Cornell Medical College rotating on services at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center that she realized that oncology would be her field of choice. She comments that “in no other circumstance did I feel as much empathy as I did for my patients and their families than with a new cancer diagnosis.”

She pursued this aim with her training as a general surgical resident at Northwestern University in Chicago. During her time there she spent two years working in a pancreatic cancer lab investigating novel therapeutics and mouse models to gain a better understanding of this challenging disease. At the same time she was cognizant as a clinician that the development of novel therapeutics from the bench to bedside is critical in making progress in every cancer. To that end, she pursued a Master’s Degree in Clinical Investigation from the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. This taught her some of the logistics and the language in designing and running clinical trials. She feels that “as clinicians we are at the forefront of these disease processes and we should be providing the bridge between the patients and these newer therapies.”

After residency she completed a two year surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center with a focus on minimally invasive techniques to treat various gastrointestinal malignancies. Her research interests are in clinical and translational studies that better define how patients will respond to certain therapeutics and how these approaches may impact long term survival. She feels that “as clinicians we are at the forefront of these disease processes and we should be providing the bridge between the patients and these newer therapies.”

Dr. Singer’s interest in medicine began in high school when he started as a volunteer emergency medical technician (EMT) with the Pompton Lakes – Riverdale First Aid Squad. He subsequently studied biology at Boston College and spent time in a surgical research laboratory at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, which is where he became interested in academic surgery. Dr. Singer attended Georgetown University School of Medicine where he graduated with honors in research and also earned a master’s degree in bioethics. He then completed his surgical training as well as a clinical ethics fellowship at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Prior to joining CINJ, Dr. Singer completed a three-year clinical and research fellowship in the Urologic Oncology Branch of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). While at the NCI, he also served as a senior staff member and lead associate investigator, as well as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health.

While Dr. Singer has extensive training in all aspects of urologic oncology, his clinical focus at CINJ is on prostate cancer. “The controversies surrounding the role of PSA screening and the appropriate management of men diagnosed with localized prostate cancer have been in the news a lot,” said Dr. Singer. “My goal is to educate each patient so he feels empowered to make the best decision for himself, whether it is regarding screening or treatment.”

Dr. Singer has particular interests in robotic surgery for high-risk prostate cancer and salvage surgery after radiation therapy failure.
Clinical Trial Studies Vaccine and Hormone Therapy Combination for Prostate Cancer

Investigators at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey have partnered with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and launched a clinical trial examining the effectiveness of a combined vaccine and hormone treatment for prostate cancer that is resistant to hormone therapy and not visible on imaging tests such as a CT scan and a bone scan. Researchers will compare these effects to those in patients who are receiving hormone therapy alone.

Investigators will explore using the body's own T-cells as a means to directly target prostate cancer. T-cells are a type of white blood cell that plays a key role in the body's natural defenses in fighting off disease. At focus is an experimental vaccine called PROSTVAC.VF. PROSTVAC.VF is a virus that has been modified to produce a PSA protein whose presence helps focus the body's immune response against the prostate tumor. Other human genetic material in the PROSTVAC.VF vaccine produces three proteins that help increase the T-cell's ability to destroy its target.

Accepted patients will receive flutamide, which is a standard hormone therapy for prostate cancer. Participants will randomly be assigned to receive the vaccine or no vaccine. Those patients not originally assigned to receive the vaccine will be given it at a later date if PSA levels are rising. Adults who are diagnosed with prostate cancer that is unresponsive to hormone therapy and not visible on imaging tests such as a CT scan and a bone scan, and have a rising PSA level, are eligible to take part in the trial, although other criteria must be met.

Meet CINJ's Nurses: Joan Quagliata, RN, OCN

Joan Quagliata, RN, OCN, is an adult treatment nurse at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. We recently asked her to share her experience in nursing with us.

I remember always wanting to be a nurse since I was a young girl. However, going into oncology was not my first choice, but I guess you can say it chose me. My diagnosis with cancer during the same time I was a nursing student led me to my career in oncology. I am a cancer survivor since 1985. The nurses who cared for me and who I learned from as a student, displayed such dedication and skill that I knew at that time this was the nursing path I wanted to take.

Throughout the years, I have worked in oncology and have been very fortunate in my career to have worked with wonderful nurses and physicians who have taught me so much. I started working at UMDNJ in 1988 in the hematology/oncology clinic and in December 2004 I transferred to CINJ where I worked as a staff nurse in the treatment area. As the primary nurse who cared for patients undergoing Phase I clinical trials I learned the complexities of clinical trials and their importance for patients. The changes in therapies throughout the years have astounded me and I feel fortunate to be a part of it.

Recently my 25th year as a nurse made me reflect about what I would want to do in the next part of my life. I have been certified as an oncology nurse throughout my career, but a new certification caught my eye – Certified Breast Care Nurse. I earned the breast care certification in August 2011 and now have the opportunity to work with the Breast Surgical Oncology group at CINJ.

Oncology nursing, like the old ad for the Peace Corps, is “the toughest job you will ever love.” It is the patients, their families, and the opportunity to help them through their struggles and triumphs that inspire me as a nurse and as a person. My wonderful family provides the balance that is needed to work in this challenging field. I wouldn’t change a thing!
Q: Why focus on this particular population?

A: The South Asian population has grown tremendously in the last ten years in the United States, especially in the New Jersey – New York metropolitan area. Despite their impressive numbers, there is a lack of information on their health needs regarding cancer, participation in clinical trials, or providing tissue specimens for cancer research and treatment.

Q: Your team will be assembling focus groups consisting of members of the South Asian community. They will be shown ‘Cancer 101’ education programs – as approved by the National Cancer Institute – that provide information on cancer screenings and risk factors, then asked to share their thoughts. How will your team take this information and develop it into tools and resources?

A: There is evidence that the Cancer 101 education program increases cancer knowledge and motivation to reduce cancer risk in communities where it has been shown. By collecting recommendations on cancer beliefs in South Asian culture, our team will be developing a South Asian-specific Cancer 101 education program targeted toward the needs of this community. Unique to this research will be attempts to understand the beliefs that South Asians may have about cancer risk factors, screening, and cancer clinical trials. This new program will include information that can change misconceptions.

Q: Any plans to expand this project?

A: Our team will be making changes to other sections of the Cancer 101 program on the role of genetics, cancer diagnosis and treatment. This will also include a section on chronic diseases that may get worse in the presence of cancer, and another section to inform caregivers and family members about cancer care, as both are issues of great concern to the South Asian community.

This project is supported by the National Cancer Institute (P30CA072720). Members of the South Asian community who wish to participate in the focus groups can call 732-235-6088 or e-mail ulperr@umdnj.edu for additional information.

Cancer 101

Rajiv Ulpe, BDS, MPH, is a community health educator in the Office of Community Outreach at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. He and colleagues are currently working on an education project known as ‘Cancer 101’ that aims to understand how the South Asian community perceives a cancer-preventative lifestyle and to see if interventions for this population need to be developed or further enhanced.

Cheers to Your Health!

Whether a toast at Thanksgiving or ringing in the New Year, alcohol often goes hand in hand with holiday celebrations, but it doesn’t have to. This holiday season be sure to treat yourself to the most priceless gift of all – your health!

Alcohol, when consumed regularly, can lead to a multitude of health problems. The extra calories consumed when drinking alcoholic beverages can have a direct effect on your health by leading to unwanted weight gain. Excessive alcohol consumption can also increase your chances of developing heart disease, diabetes, liver cirrhosis, and even cancer. According to the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR), strong evidence exists linking the consumption of alcohol with an increased risk of developing cancer of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, breast (in women), and colorectum (in men).

This holiday season, try toasting to your health with a mocktail. Mocktails are non-alcoholic cocktails that usually consist of an array of fruit juices. They are festive, fun, and full of flavor. Many popular alcoholic drinks can be made into mocktail versions such as bloody Mary’s and daiquiris. One of the most popular mocktails enjoyed by people of all ages is a Shirley Temple, which is comprised of lemon-lime soda and ginger ale with a splash of grenadine.

If sweet drinks aren’t for you, you could always opt for other non-alcoholic beverage options. Non-alcoholic beer and wine, sparkling ciders, and nonalcoholic champagne are a few other alternatives. If you choose to drink alcohol, be sure to drink responsibly and in moderation. Women should limit their alcoholic beverage intake to one drink daily and men should limit their intake to two drinks daily.

By watching your alcohol consumption, you will not only keep the extra pounds off but you will be decreasing your risk for cancer as well.

— Kristin Waldron, RD, is a registered dietitian at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.
Nearly 200 guests gathered this past summer for CINJ’s National Cancer Survivors Day celebration, “iSurvive...iThrive!” The event featured informative sessions about healthy lifestyles and the importance of technology in cancer advances, which were followed by an interactive luncheon.

• iExplore: CINJ resident member, Dr. Kathleen Scotto, vice president of research at UMDNJ (far right in photo above, right), gives a tour of her laboratory, while CINJ researcher Dr. Hatem Sabaawy, assistant professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (far left in photo at right), explains how zebrafish contribute to his research.

• iMove: After taking part in educational sessions targeting clinical trials, personalized medicine and stress relief, participants got to burn off some energy during a session with LIVESTRONG representatives, featuring seated and standing exercise routines.

• iGraze: The day capped off with a special interactive luncheon with CINJ registered dietitian Kristin Waldron (center in photo at left) and representatives of Panera Bread, who demonstrated how to make healthy salads and discussed the value of good nutrition as it pertains to a cancer preventative lifestyle.
LIFE on the Links

A young woman hearing the words “you have breast cancer,” is devastating – but for a young woman to believe that she is too young to develop breast cancer is also a mistake. It is that latter mindset to which LPGA veteran Val Skinner has long rallied to bring attention through the annual LIFE (LPGA pros In the Fight to Eradicate breast cancer) Event that supports breast cancer initiatives at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. She founded the charity golf outing following the loss of her dear friend and fellow LPGA member Heather Farr to breast cancer at the age of 28. Skinner made a promise to help educate young women that breast cancer can strike at all ages, and that prevention and early detection are key.

In order to raise such awareness, Skinner and some of the world’s most elite female golfers – including Paula Creamer, Yani Tseng, Lexi Thompson, Karrie Webb, Stacy Lewis and others – for the thirteenth straight year gathered on the links this past summer to help support initiatives at CINJ’s LIFE Center – raising $500,000.

The LIFE Center offers numerous components related to breast cancer education including genetic counseling and cancer risk assessment both at CINJ and several CINJ Network hospitals. Through the years, the LIFE Event has raised nearly $8 million, with nearly half going to support LIFE Center initiatives at CINJ.

One key initiative is BioCONECT, a high school curriculum supplement and teacher professional development program, as well as BOLD, a high school summer learning opportunity that teaches the biology and genetics of cancer through the context of breast cancer.

Both – conducted in conjunction with the UMDNJ-School of Public Health – address the need for science literacy, career awareness, health advocacy, and risk reduction through healthy lifestyle choices. These efforts touch dozens of schools both in New Jersey and South Carolina – and because of additional funding from the LIFE event, have the potential to be offered in other states as well.

“Breast cancer is a despicable disease that has affected so many, both directly and indirectly. I am so proud that the women of the LPGA continue to stand up in this fight by participating in events like LIFE,” noted Skinner. “Together, we are making a difference, and through partners like CINJ we will someday find a cure.”

“Val Skinner’s continued dedication to this cause is helping to save lives,” said CINJ Chief Medical Officer Deborah Toppmeyer, MD, who is the director of both CINJ’s LIFE Center and the Stacy Goldstein Breast Cancer Center. “Thanks to Val’s efforts and to all of those who support the LIFE Event, programs like BioCONECT are helping to educate young people about the importance of good breast health and healthy lifestyles, while also making a positive impact on science literacy,” noted Dr. Toppmeyer, who is also an associate professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Supporters for the 2012 event include LIFE Partners: Amy & Joe Perella, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Marsh USA, C.R. Bard, Emblem Health and Genentech. Other notable supporters are Assured Guaranty, ACE Group, QualCare, The Cox Classic/Steven A. Cox Foundation, Lincoln, Ken Langone and Ed Herlihy.
New Faculty at CINJ

Rajat Bannerji, MD, PhD, is a medical oncologist at CINJ and an associate professor of medicine at UMDNJ-RWJMS. Prior to joining CINJ, Dr. Bannerji completed a hematology/oncology fellowship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which was preceded by an internship and residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He has worked for several years in the development of new therapies for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and related diseases and has a strong research interest in drug development for hematologic malignancies.

Leonard Kim, MS, DABR, is a medical physicist and an assistant professor of radiation oncology at UMDNJ-RWJMS. Prior to coming to CINJ, Dr. Kim served as a staff physicist at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. He has a research interest in breast radiotherapy— including image guidance, target definition, partial breast irradiation, and brachytherapy—and is currently exploring toxicity predictors for external beam accelerated partial breast irradiation.

Sabin Motwani, MD, is a radiation oncologist at CINJ and an assistant professor of radiation oncology at UMDNJ-RWJMS. Dr. Motwani most recently completed his residency in radiation oncology at UMDNJ-RWJMS as Chief Resident. He completed his internship in internal medicine at the University of California, Irvine Medical Center.

Vimal Patel, MD, is a medical oncologist at CINJ and an assistant professor of medicine at UMDNJ-RWJMS. Prior to coming to CINJ, Dr. Patel completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in the subspecialties of hematology and oncology at UMDNJ-RWJMS.

Joni Yu-Hsuan Shao, PhD, is a population scientist at CINJ and an assistant professor of medicine at UMDNJ-RWJMS. Having completed her doctorate in epidemiology at UMDNJ-SPH, Dr. Shao most recently served as a research associate at CINJ, where she also completed a postdoctoral fellowship. Her work continues to focus on clinical and health outcomes for prostate cancer patients as well as comparative study of biomarkers for prostate cancer.

Miao Zhang, PhD, is a medical physicist at CINJ and an instructor of radiation oncology at UMDNJ-RWJMS. Dr. Zhang most recently completed a residency in medical physics at UMDNJ-RWJMS and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Dr. Zhang has a research interest in general radiological physics.

Jennifer Wei Zou, PhD, is a medical physicist at CINJ and an assistant professor of radiation oncology at UMDNJ-RWJMS. Dr. Zou most recently completed her residency in medical physics at the University of Pennsylvania, which was preceded by a research fellowship in medical physics, also at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Zou is part of the research team that will be involved with CINJ’s new Proton Radiotherapy Program to be housed at CINJ’s Flagship Hospital Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

New Roles at CINJ

Susan Goodin, PharmD, associate director of clinical trials and therapeutics at CINJ has been elevated to the additional role of Deputy Director. Dr. Goodin, who is also a professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, has been at CINJ since 1993 and will be responsible for statewide and strategic initiatives that aid in CINJ’s operational and clinical needs.

Darlene G. Gibbon, MD, associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, was appointed to serve as Chief of Gynecologic Oncology at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Having previously served as the Clinical Director of Gynecologic Oncology, Dr. Gibbon will have oversight of and responsibility for all clinical, surgical and research objectives in gynecologic oncology. Gibbon first came to CINJ in 2000.

Michael P. Kane, RPh, BCOP, a board certified oncology pharmacist at CINJ, has been promoted to the role of Director of Oncology Pharmacy Services. Kane, who has been with CINJ for the last 16 years, will be responsible for overseeing CINJ’s pharmacy operations.
The Cooper Health System recently celebrated the official groundbreaking for its new state-of-the-art cancer treatment center on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus in Camden.

The four-story, 103,050 square foot Cooper Cancer Institute, set to open in the fall of 2013, will expand access to cancer care in South Jersey by providing a full range of cancer care services and specialists under one roof.

Cooper’s administrators and Board leadership participated in the groundbreaking event, along with business, community, and elected officials from throughout New Jersey, including Governor Chris Christie, state Senator Stephen Sweeney, and Camden City Mayor Dana Redd.

The building is the newest addition to the Cooper Health Sciences campus in Camden, joining the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University which opened in July.

The new Cooper Cancer Institute will provide a full range of specialists and cancer care services with the benefit of patients having all their cancer care needs in one place, including: radiology

UMCPP Features Latest in Radiation Therapy

With only 230 installed worldwide, the TrueBeam™ Linear Accelerator is the latest tool in cancer treatment, delivering precise radiation therapy that attacks irregularly shaped tumors while leaving surrounding, healthy tissue untouched.

The new University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro (UMCPP), which opened in May, is home to this sophisticated technology in its Edward & Marie Matthews Center for Cancer Care, which also includes infusion services, health navigators, pharmacists with oncology expertise, and support services. In addition, space in the Center has been designed to accommodate a second TrueBeam™ to meet the community’s future needs.

“It’s part of the comprehensive resources for cancer care that we have been able to bring under a single roof,” said Linda Sieglen, MD, MMM, Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs at Princeton HealthCare System.

The all-digital TrueBeam™ automatically readjusts the radiation it delivers every 10 milliseconds. A patient’s every move — the slightest flinch, a breath — is detected and accounted for, ensuring that the radiation targets only a tumor and not healthy tissue.

Patients who previously required weeks of treatment now achieve better results in half the time.
Inside CINJ

and radiation oncology, hematology/medical oncology, surgical oncology, urology and gynecologic oncology; chemotherapy infusion and laboratory space; and chemotherapy pharmacy. Abundant examination and treatment space will improve patient flow and access, and conference and academic spaces will foster the team-approach to cancer treatment. A full complement of on-site supportive care services, including nutrition counseling, genetic testing and counseling, social work services, physical rehabilitation, complementary medicine therapies and behavioral health support will provide complete care for patients.

In addition to the new building, the $100 million project also includes service enhancements and equipment upgrades at the Cooper–Voorhees location including the addition of a second linear accelerator and the installation of a permanent PET/CT.

Treating Lung Cancer at Carol G. Simon Cancer Center

Carol G. Simon Cancer Center at Morristown Medical Center and Overlook Medical Center remains at the forefront in treating lung cancer, which claims the lives of more patients annually than any other cancer. The Cancer Center is home to the largest thoracic surgery program in the state, and offers everything from screening, through the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program (IEL-CAP), to airway stents for advanced disease palliation, all with a caring team of medical professionals who support the patient’s full spectrum of needs.

The thoracic surgery team employs the latest technologies for diagnosis and staging, including Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) and Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS). Most recently, the Cancer Center acquired an Electromagnetic Navigational Bronchoscopy (ENB) system to allow minimally invasive access to lesions deep in the lung and otherwise difficult or impossible to reach using traditional biopsy methods.

Once the diagnosis is made, according to Mark Widmann, MD, FACS, surgical director of the lung cancer program, “our goal is to provide patients with the most effective thoracic surgery in a caring, patient-focused manner that ensures a rapid recovery using minimally invasive techniques when possible,” including Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (VATS), thoracoscopy and laparoscopy. Traditional open approaches are used when warranted.

Carol G. Simon Cancer Center offers conventional and clinical trial protocols for chemotherapy, in both the adjuvant and neoadjuvant setting. In addition to cutting-edge radiation therapy, the Cancer Center utilizes CyberKnife stereotactic radiosurgery for unresectable lesions, or for lesions in patients who are unable to undergo surgery.

Patients also have access to a dedicated lung cancer social worker, who provides a full range of support, including smoking cessation, one-on-one counseling, support groups and access to community resources. Patients’ care plans are reviewed in bi-monthly teleconferences between the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center teams at Morristown and Overlook, including medical specialists from surgery, medical and radiation oncology, pathology, radiology and pulmonology, as well as dieticians, the lung cancer social worker, and a nurse navigator, so all aspects of each patient’s case are discussed.
Kudos!

David J. Foran, PhD, director of the Center for Biomedical Imaging at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and professor of pathology, laboratory medicine and radiology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, along with Jaydev Desai, PhD, associate professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Maryland will lead a five-year, $1.6 million project that could have future implications in the management of breast cancer. Dr. Foran and colleagues will explore the development of new approaches and technologies regarding the underlying mechanisms associated with disease onset and progression in breast cancer. The project is supported by the National Institutes of Health (1R01CA161375-01A1).

CINJ Deputy Director Edmund C. Lattime, PhD, was invited by the American Association for Cancer Research to serve as a member of the 2012-2013 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network-AACR Research Acceleration Network Scientific Review Committee. As part of the committee, Dr. Lattime will oversee a project that will provide a one-to-three year grant of $1 million to an existing, multi-institutional, clinical or translational research project within the pancreatic cancer research community.

As the incoming Cancer Education Committee Chair for the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), Antoinette R. Tan, MD, MHSc, medical oncologist at CINJ and associate professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, was asked to share her expertise and recommend the top educational sessions to her peers at the ASCO annual meeting this past summer. As the director of CINJ’s Phase I and Investigational Therapeutics Program, Dr. Tan has a research specialty in clinical trials that test the safety of new drugs and compounds.

A ‘Grand’ Illusion

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cancer patients with his classic black doctor’s bag close at hand. As noted in this issue’s Director’s Corner, just prior to press time, the CINJ family learned of Dr. Kamen’s passing.

An American Cancer Society Professor, Kamen was the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Pediatric Hematology Oncology. Kamen also sat on a number of national cancer-related boards and committees and for some 40 years has dedicated his research activities to the areas of folate biochemistry and anti-folate pharmacology with much success. He also had a strong research interest in the development of metronomic chemotherapeutic regimens.

“Research is all about solving problems. We are fortunate that science and technology have made rapid advancements over the past few decades, enabling more pediatric cancer patients to survive their disease,” noted Kamen.

But many may argue Kamen’s greatest achievement was the many lives he touched over the years through his compassionate care and warm, nurturing demeanor. “There are some pediatric practitioners who need to distance themselves personally from their patients, in order to not ‘bring their work home with them.’ It’s something I just can’t do. Each one of my patients and their families are a part of me. And while I educate them and laugh with them, there are times where I also cry with them,” he said. “By allowing myself to be human and interact with them in this way, I can truly treat them as an individual instead of just another case. I firmly believe that makes a huge difference in a child’s outcome.”

He also added that there is no glamour in his profession, but there is plenty of reward. “With pediatric cancer patients, we clinically follow them for a good portion of their lives. This includes the many traditional milestones that a child marks through young adulthood,” noted
Kam en. “There is nothing more gratifying than being invited to the college graduation or wedding ceremony of a patient who I treated some 20 years ago – and to know they are leading productive and healthy lives because of the everyday work that I do.”

To honor the man behind the ‘magic,’ the CINJ Foundation has named Kam en as its 2012 “Award of Hope for Leadership in Research and Patient Care” recipient. The “Award of Hope” was established in 1997 to publicly recognize those who have demonstrated untiring leadership and a deep commitment to serving the needs of people with cancer in New Jersey. This distinguished honor will be awarded later this fall at the annual Award of Hope Gala, which so aptly boasts the theme “A Night of Illusions.”

This annual signature event is an evening of celebration and purpose and the honorees selected reflect the spirit, passion and energy of CINJ.

Also to be recognized at the Award of Hope Gala is the Embrace Kids Foundation, which will be honored with the “Award of Hope for Philanthropic Leadership.” Formed 21 years ago as The Institute for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders, the New Brunswick-based entity provides more than $1 million in services to children and families throughout the Garden State – including those patients seen in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology program at CINJ.

And PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) has been named as the recipient for this year’s “Award of Hope for Leadership in Corporate Philanthropy.” Mark Simon, who is a partner at the firm, will accept the award on its behalf. PwC has been a tremendous supporter of the CINJ Foundation for the last 16 years, and Mr. Simon has served on the Board of CINJ Directors from 1999 until 2006. Both Mr. Simon and his wife, Tracey, have been active volunteers with the CINJ Foundation over the years and Mrs. Simon continues to serve on the Award of Hope Gala Committee.

The Award of Hope Gala remains scheduled for Thursday, October 25 at The Somerset Palace in Somerset, where a special tribute to Dr. Kam en and his life’s work will be featured. Contact Leanne Kochy at leanne.kochy@cinjfoundation.org or 732-235-4956 for more information.

Special Deliveries

CINJ’s pediatric cancer patients recently received special care packages from 10-year-old cancer survivor Nicholas Tarabokia (center), his mom Amy and younger brother Ryan. In honor of his survival and with deep determination to help children like himself, Nicholas started his own organization called Cancer Stinks Children’s Foundation. Through the customized gift boxes, which include a nightlight, teddy bear and other creature comforts of home, Nicholas hopes to bring joy to children battling cancer. CINJ interim Chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Dr. Richard Drachman (left) was on hand for the distribution and says Nicholas’ efforts are “tremendous.”

Children and teens at CINJ’s Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic have new state-of-the-art gaming systems at their fingertips thanks to a special donation from the Daniel Galorenzo Foundation. The Fun Center mobile entertainment unit features a Nintendo Wii™ (specially customized for hospital use) together with a Sharp® AQUOS™ LCD flat panel television and DVD player. The Fun Center lets users control the action on the screen through the motion of the Wii remote itself. Its design allows kids, even those who aren’t able to leave their beds or who have limited motion, to play with ease.

CINJ Foundation News
A research associate in the laboratory of Edmund C. Lattime, PhD, deputy director of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, has been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship grant totaling $92,000 to further explore and better understand how HER2 positive breast cancer metastasizes to the central nervous system. Keneshia Haenssen, PhD, was selected as one of only ten investigators to receive the United Negro College Fund (UNCF)/Merck Postdoctoral Science Research Fellowship. Dr. Haenssen’s work is also supported by the FM Kirby Foundation and has been since 2011. This current award by UNCF/Merck will help Haenssen build on her investigation of a HER2 positive metastatic breast cancer model that has central nervous system involvement.

Between 25 and 50 percent of patients diagnosed with HER2 positive metastatic breast cancer that undergo HER2-targeted treatment, not only become resistant to the treatment, but also go on to develop brain metastases. Through microarray analysis, Haenssen and colleagues identified target genes that may play a role in disease spread to the brain and spinal cord. Under the mentorship of Dr. Lattime and CINJ medical oncologist Shridar Ganesan, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine and pharmacology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Haenssen is currently studying the targeting of these genes. The goal is to determine their functional roles in the disruption of the blood-brain barrier, the triggering of signals that cause inflammation, and colonization of the central nervous system. Most recently, she has expanded her studies to include the role of the immune response in the control of metastasis using breast cancer models.

“These studies are extremely relevant to the advancement of breast cancer therapeutics, as central nervous system metastasis remains a serious clinical problem. A better understanding of its biology is clearly needed in order to develop better treatment approaches to improve survival in women with metastatic breast cancer,” noted Haenssen. “Thanks to support from the FM Kirby Foundation and UNCF/Merck, I have the ability to build upon this important research.”

The fellowship will run through August 2014.

Cancer Research: It Takes a Community

Fighting cancer starts with the most basic of biological building blocks – cells. Thanks to a lead gift from Paige and Elizabeth L’Hommedieu and combined funding from WAWA, Inc., and The Walter and Louise Sutcliffe Foundation, all 28 laboratories at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey will benefit from the addition of new equipment that further examines cancer cells and tissue.

The VI-CELL XR system helps pinpoint cell concentration and viability, which allows scientists a better understanding of whether a cell or group of cells may be vulnerable to anti-cancer treatment. The mechanics of the system allow for this identification process to be automated, saving valuable time and resources over the manual preparation and counting of tissue samples.

Four other such machines exist in CINJ’s Tissue Culture Rooms, but range in age from five to nine years.
A special thanks to organizers whose efforts, highlighted below, resulted in nearly $100,000 in support for cancer research, patient care and community outreach.

**Gifts over $20,000:**
- Middlesex County Pancreatic Cancer Walk, Middlesex County Office of Health Services and Middlesex County Cancer Coalition, New Brunswick

**Gifts up to $20,000:**
- ARM’s Away Golf Outing, Eckhardt Family, Willingboro

**Gifts up to $15,000:**
- “Golf for the Cure”, Nutley High School Football Alumni, Nutley
- Westlake Men’s Golf Outing, Jackson
- C & C Club of Somerset Run, Somerset
- Care to Walk Club, 5k walk/run, North Brunswick Township High School and Community

**Gifts up to $10,000:**
- Wave of Hope Foundation, Long Branch School District Carnival

**Gifts up to $5,000:**
- Volley for Life, volleyball tournament, Crossroads North Middle School, South Brunswick
- Princeton University Women’s Football Clinic, Princeton Football Coaching Staff
- Assertive Teens Against Cancer, Edison High School

**Gifts up to $2,500:**
- Joshua’s Closet, North Plainfield
- “Idol” Fundraiser, Morris Hills Regional High School, Rockaway
- Cancer Awareness Event, Renaissance Ladies Golf Association, Manchester

**Gifts up to $1,000:**
- Towpath “Train”ing Run, Raritan Valley Road Runners, Edison
- “Goals for Cancer”, East Windsor PAL Girls Travel Soccer, East Windsor
- “Wizard of Oz” Benefit Performance, Phoenix Productions Inc., Red Bank

**Communities and Schools Making a Difference**

The newer VI-CELL XR system will not only increase the capacity of research being done at CINJ, but also will increase efficiency, due to system enhancements and improved technology over the past decade.

Why lend such support? Sometimes, the answer is simple. For Elizabeth and her husband Paige, it has always been their aim to follow the philanthropic examples set by each of their parents. “Directly or indirectly, all of us have been touched by cancer at one time or another – perhaps ourselves, family, or maybe friends,” she said. “The only long-range answer to this disease is research, and we want to be part of that effort at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Our gift was an invitation for others to participate with us, and we are so pleased that the combined commitment of the New Jersey community has brought resources to CINJ that will advance cancer research.”

Above: State, county and local dignitaries cut a purple ribbon – symbolizing pancreatic cancer awareness – to formally kick off the Fourth Annual Pancreatic Cancer Walk hosted by the Middlesex County Office of Health Services and Middlesex County Cancer Coalition. The walk raised more than $24,000 for pancreatic cancer research at CINJ – exceeding the event goal by more than $14,000!

Above, left to right: Renaissance Ladies Golf Association Board members Barbara Wyciskala, Delmae Bautz and Rosemary Bennett distribute goody bags at their recent Cancer Awareness Event in Manchester.

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In Support of Breast Cancer Awareness

In showing their support for breast cancer awareness, Panera® Bread will donate ten cents for every Pink Ribbon Bagel purchased at one of their 41 bakery-cafés in central and northern New Jersey during the month of October to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation to support breast cancer treatment, research, prevention and education programs at CINJ. And on October 10th, 100 percent of the proceeds from the sale of this signature item – made with vanilla, bits of cherries and cranberries, and shaped in the form of a traditional breast cancer ribbon – will be donated to the CINJ Foundation. Visit www.mypanera.panerabread.com to learn more.