When one thinks of cancer research, one may think of the traditional test tubes, beakers and microscopes and how what is being examined translates into new treatments for patients. While traditional science is a large part of that dynamic, computer technology is an equal partner, allowing researchers to explore the nuances of the disease in a faster, comprehensive, more precise fashion. Under the direction of David J. Foran, PhD, members of his laboratory and the Center for Biomedical Imaging at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) are spearheading the development of special computational applications that can examine and characterize patterns within cancer malignancies. By capturing and cataloguing such massive data, scientists can further understand what role protein and molecule development plays in disease onset and progression.

Dr. Foran’s team recently was awarded $3.7 million in grant funding to support this cutting-edge work, the majority of which comes from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Included in that is $1.7 million to advance the team’s work in expanding a family of data-mining, imaging and computational tools to further characterize hematologic malignancies. It also supports the development of a computer support system with a large processing capacity in order to perform quick, 
— Continued on page 3

Inside the CINJ Foundation

Strength in Community Partnership: Panera Bread

What do rising dough and fighting cancer have in common? In New Jersey, it’s a bakery-café company committed to supporting cancer research, education and prevention. October marks the five year anniversary of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation and Panera Bread® partnership. Initiated through the Pink Ribbon Bagel campaign, the partnership has expanded to include being named the 2011 Community Breadbox Partner for Panera Bread® New Jersey.

As this year’s Community Breadbox Partner, funds collected in 2011 through coin boxes near the registers at Panera Bread® bakery-cafés in the central and northern regions of New Jersey will benefit the mission of CINJ.

The Community Breadbox initiative is part of Panera’s comprehensive Operation Dough-Nation® Program, which has a concentrated focus on giving back to patrons and the communities in which Panera’s bakery-cafés are located.

Since 2007, during Breast Cancer Awareness month in 
— Continued on page 16

Answer: Who is ‘Watson?’

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— Continued on page 16
Director’s Corner

"The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them." It was that line of thinking that propelled Australian Nobel Prize-winning physicist William Lawrence Bragg to help define the foundation of modern X-ray technology. It is that same line of thinking that drives our physician-scientists at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey to embrace new discoveries and transform them into other applications.

Through research, CINJ continues to expand its foundation of knowledge and the technical tools with which rapid advances can be made.

CINJ is a leader in the evolving field of bioinformatics, which is the science of using computers, databases, and math to organize and analyze large amounts of biological, medical, and health information. As you’ll read in our cover story, the work being done by Dr. David J. Foran and his team in CINJ’s Center for Biomedical Imaging will advance our understanding of cancer prevention, early detection, and why individual responses to treatments are different even when the diagnosis is the same.

But research isn’t only about developments in the science or computer laboratories. Our clinical faculty, population scientists and other investigators also make vast contributions to the areas of clinical, prevention and education research.

For instance, as you’ll read on page 6, CINJ member Dr. Cristine Delneo and colleagues from CINJ and the UMDNJ-School of Public Health, closely examined tobacco- and smokeless tobacco-use patterns by South Asians in New Jersey and the Northeast. Their findings will help pave the way for interventions tailored to this population. And as you’ll see on page 8, Dr. Molly Gabel, director of the CINJ Network, recently reported on how CINJ’s Network hospitals are helping to further shape and optimize efforts in the nationwide collection of cancer data. These data serve as critical tools in educating cancer care providers at hospitals across the country on how to best identify, improve and administer best care practices.

The projects described above illustrate the wide-ranging impact that CINJ has on cancer research, not only in our state and region, but beyond. As the state’s only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, CINJ is committed to serving as a vital research hub. And with your support of this mission, together, we can advance the science of cancer.

Sincerely,

Robert S. DiPaola, MD
Director, CINJ; Associate Dean for Oncology Programs and Professor of Medicine, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Metabolism Mystery

In talking to members of Eileen White’s laboratory about their work at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, one might feel as if they’re in the middle of a detective novel. The Dick Tracy of this story is a high-tech piece of equipment known as the Seahorse and the mystery at hand is determining how cancer cells use energy to stay alive. Investigators in the White lab have been using the recently acquired machine to unravel the inner workings of cancer cell metabolism and to see how these cells handle stress, especially starvation.

Cancer cells are largely addicted to food, which helps fuel cells, giving them the energy they need to create other cancer cells. The Seahorse measures this energy, thus providing clues about the process and potential answers to how cancer cells manage their energy needs by manipulating food intake and consumption. Such fuel supports the “power-houses” of the cell, known as mitochondria.

When deprived of needed nutrients, cells will try to overcome such stress and sustain themselves by getting rid of individual defective mitochondrion by transporting them to a special area of the cell for dismantling and recycling. Once this process is complete, broken pieces remain, which are used as building blocks to create new cancer cells.

The White lab is looking at ways to inhibit this dismantling and recycling process, which would lead to accumulation of defective mitochondria, ultimately resulting in the self-destruction of the cell.

One way of blocking this process is by combining standard chemotherapy with targeted drugs. CINJ investigators are applying this knowledge to current clinical trial offerings involving the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, which has shown to inhibit this dismantling and recycling process.

But further identifying the intricate nature of this process is not possible without being able to assess a cell’s energy usage in a rapid and precise fashion. It used to take days with an older form of technology to take such measurements. Now with the Seahorse, it only takes minutes and the information is more clearly defined. It is an advancement that CINJ Associate Director for Basic Science Eileen White, PhD, says is helping to propel new discoveries.

“Science continually requires advanced technology, and the Seahorse has proven to be transformative. It is essential and critical for us to have such equipment, as it really makes a difference in the progress of cancer research,” noted Dr. White, who is also an adjunct professor of surgery at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and a professor of molecular biology and biochemistry at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Funding for CINJ’s Seahorse was made possible through a grant from the CINJ Foundation, supported by the Val Skinner Foundation, E.J. Grassman Trust and The Hyde & Watson Foundation.

Answer: Who is ‘Watson?’ — Continued from page 1

reliable comparative analysis and classification of various tissue patterns.

By expanding the current suite of tools, Foran’s team will be able to systematically investigate computational markers in a wider range of tissues, cancer types and biomarkers for symptoms of disease, which are used for prognosis and applied toward clinical outcomes.

Related to this project, Foran’s team also received funding from the NIH to integrate pathology imaging data standards that have been developed by Foran’s lab and investigators at Emory University with an existing radiology imaging data standard being developed at Stanford and Northwestern Universities. The resulting effort is designed to support large-scale, multi-site collaborative clinical and research studies involving large cancer data sets.

And perhaps now considered an honorary member of Foran’s team is Watson — the IBM computer system which earlier this year beat some of the best and brightest human minds on the game show Jeopardy!. Foran was one of six scientists worldwide to receive a portion ($75,000) of Watson’s winnings to support the team’s work involving IBM’s World Community Grid effort. World Community Grid is a virtual supercomputer that taps into unused – or idle – computer power of nearly two-million personal computers in more than 80 countries. This computational power is then made available to scientists who require high speed computing for their research. Foran is applying this power to IBM’s Help Defeat Cancer project.

Microscopic slide containing tissue samples originating from a group of patients prior to being analyzed in the Foran Laboratory.
**FACULTY FEATURE:**
**John Glod, MD, PhD**

Dr. Glod began his career at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey in 2003. He was drawn to the institution by the opportunity to combine cutting edge work on the basic biology of brain tumors with the care of children with brain cancer. His work has identified potential new ways of treating patients with brain tumors.

Over the course of his training in pediatric oncology and neuro-oncology at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Johns Hopkins, and the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Glod developed a strong interest in understanding pediatric brain cancer. While the treatment for many pediatric cancers has improved dramatically over the past fifty years, pediatric brain tumors remain a difficult to treat and devastating illness.

Dr. Glod’s work is helping to understand the role that macrophages, a cell of the immune system, play in the growth of brain tumors. For instance, his laboratory has shown that macrophages are important in the formation of blood vessels in the tumor. A better understanding of the interaction between macrophages and brain tumor cells could someday be used to develop new ways to treat patients with brain cancer.

He is a member of the diverse and committed team of specialists at CINJ’s Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Division, that are needed to care for children with brain cancer. In addition to overseeing medical treatment, understanding the psychological toll that these devastating diseases have on patients and their families is critical in providing the best possible care and is one of the most rewarding aspects of his job.

**Philanthropic support of Dr. Glod’s research includes grants from the CINJ Foundation funded with gifts from the AHEPA Fifth District Cancer Research Foundation, Wave of Hope Foundation, The Beez Foundation and The Tino Carbone Foundation.**

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**At The Cancer Institute of New Jersey clinical research is key to providing comprehensive cancer care to patients throughout the state. With more than 140 active clinical trials, CINJ is leading the way toward uncovering new methods of treatment and prevention of cancer. Most cancer clinical trials are medical studies that test new treatments and new or better ways of using existing treatments for cancer. Researchers use these clinical trials to answer questions about a treatment and to make sure it is safe and effective. CINJ researchers are currently studying a number of new ways to prevent and treat various cancers. For more information on how to take part, individuals should call CINJ’s Office of Human Research Services at 732-235-8675 or e-mail cinjclinicaltrials@umdnj.edu.**

**Clinical Trial Studies Drug Combination for Melanoma Use**

Could a drug that is now used to treat a nerve cell condition and another prescribed to treat kidney cancer be combined to combat the deadliest form of skin cancer? That is the focus of research now underway at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, which aims to determine safe dosing levels for the drugs known as riluzole and sorafenib when used together in the treatment of patients with melanoma.

Melanoma cells often produce a protein called Grm1, which aids in the growth of the disease. Riluzole, which is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of ALS (known as Lou Gehrig’s disease – a condition that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord), has been shown to block Grm1’s action. Recent riluzole studies at CINJ have shown evidence of tumor shrinkage in melanoma patients.

Sorafenib, an FDA-approved drug used to treat kidney cancer and a form of liver cancer, is considered a “targeted therapy” that has been shown to slow the spread of cancer cells. Recent laboratory studies at CINJ have shown a more positive effect in the treatment of melanoma with riluzole and sorafenib together than if either drug were given by itself. This new study will investigate the combination of the two drugs in patients with advanced melanoma.

Adults with stage III or stage IV melanoma (cancer that has spread beyond where it first occurred) who are unable to have surgery to either cure or lessen their cancer symptoms, are eligible to take part in the trial, although other criteria must be met.
CINJ Celebrates its Nurses

Appraising the expertise and caring nature of its dedicated nursing team, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey celebrated these professionals this past spring during Oncology Nursing Month. CINJ’s annual recognition event includes the Elizabeth Gibby Osborne Lecture and the Oncology Nursing Excellence Awards, which are scholarships awarded to outstanding nurses at CINJ. The event acknowledges the CINJ nursing staff for the great strides it makes in caring for, communicating with and educating patients and their families.

This year, CINJ nurses had an opportunity to learn more about their profession from Selinza Mitchell, RN, an experienced nurse and educator, who believes that communication, stress management and improving patient satisfaction help empower nurses in their daily duties.

Event Committee Chair Carla Schaefer, BSN, RN, OCN, CINJ’s adult treatment area nurse manager, notes that support for extended educational opportunities for nurses is key. “It is essential that oncology nurses are given the opportunity to learn from those who have not only vast amounts of knowledge but also experience. While learning about ways to better communicate with patients is critical, rediscovering the reasons that they decided to enter the healthcare field will remind them that they make a difference every day,” she said.

The other highlight to this year’s celebration was the awarding of the annual Oncology Nursing Excellence Awards. Pam Scott, RN, was selected by her peers as this year’s recipient of the Research Nurse Clinician award, while Yuk (Aggie) Wong, BSN, RN, OCN, MA, captured the Primary Treatment Nurse award. Also nominated were Sonya Greenwood, RN, OCN, and Joan Quagliata, RN, OCN. All four women were regarded for their collaborative efforts with fellow nurses, doctors and other team members, and were heralded as champions for promoting oncology nursing as a profession.

Knowledge is Power

Knowledge is power. This sentiment is echoed in the work of today’s nurses and their pursuit of both clinical knowledge and technical expertise, and the sharing of such information with their colleagues. One such nurse from The Cancer Institute of New Jersey recently shared her expertise in breast cancer care with her peers at the Oncology Nursing Society’s 36th Annual Congress.

The conference featured panel discussions and presentations on prevention, detection, symptom management, treatment advances and other topics dedicated to oncology nursing.

Jacquelyn Lauria, RN, MS, APN, AOCNP, an advanced practice nurse at CINJ, chaired a symposium highlighting the “Top 10 Questions of Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer Following First Line Therapy.” Lauria, who is involved in treatment, research and education at CINJ and the training of oncology nurses at CINJ’s Network hospitals, noted, “I feel it is important for practitioners to be well-versed, not only in their direct nursing care, but also in patient education. If nurses can anticipate patients’ questions and answer them effectively, it will enhance treatment outcomes and patient satisfaction.”

Research at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey are studying the role of the mineral selenium in reducing one’s risk for prostate cancer. Consider taking part in this study.

CINJ researchers are trying to see if selenium yeast or selenomethionine lower prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels and prevent other markers related to the development of prostate cancer in healthy men of different age groups.

- Participants will be asked to take over-the-counter selenium supplements or a placebo for twelve months.
- Five visits to CINJ are required during the study, where blood and urine samples will be taken.
- Compensation is provided.

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Study on Tobacco Use by NJ South Asians Could Help Future Quit Efforts

Efforts to adapt tobacco cessation efforts to the unique needs of South Asians living in the United States may receive a boost from what is believed to be a first-of-its-kind study. The research, conducted by investigators at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and UMDNJ-School of Public Health, closely examined tobacco- and smokeless tobacco-use patterns by South Asians in New Jersey and the Northeast. The findings appear in the June 1st edition of the *Journal of Oncology* (J Oncol. 2011;2011:252675. Epub 2011 May 17).

The study utilized population behavioral surveillance data from the 2003 and 2006-2007 National Cancer Institute Tobacco Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey. At focus were data from 7,354 adults in New Jersey (176 of whom were South Asian) and 71,152 adults in the Northeast (583 of whom were South Asian). South Asians were defined as those who indicated they or one of their parents was a native of India, Pakistan or Bangladesh.

Overall, cigarette smoking rates among South Asians were similar to or lower than those of the general population. However, while previous data show the use of smokeless tobacco is a predominant behavior among Caucasian males in the U.S., this current study found that South Asian males in New Jersey have the highest rate of current use among males in the state. In the Northeast, the rate for South Asian males is lower. Smokeless tobacco use was found to be extremely low among all racial/ethnic female groups both in New Jersey and the Northeast.

The study also found that tobacco use behavior among South Asian subgroups was not the same. For instance, among South Asians, Pakistani males were found to be overrepresented among current cigarette smokers in the Northeast while more Indian males in this region were found to use smokeless tobacco.

CINJ Member Cristine Delnevo, PhD, MPH, director of the Center for Tobacco Surveillance and Evaluation Research Program and interim chair, Department of Health Education and Behavioral Science at UMDNJ-School of Public Health, is the lead author of the study. She says it is methodologically unique, because it utilized country of origin to identify South Asians.

The research was supported through grants from the National Cancer Institute.

The holidays soon will be here, and they are a busy and exciting time. Filled with family and friends it is a time to reconnect and strengthen relationships. With all of the activity, the commitments and the “to do” lists, there can be stress. There are strategies to help manage the stress of the season, which lets you focus on the joy. Interestingly, all of the tactics result in an improved quality of life and most of them are cancer preventative too!

Start by taking stock of what the holiday season means to you

Think what you have enjoyed over the years. What memories make you smile or even laugh out loud? What warms your heart? As you look back, pay attention to the words “should” and “ought to.” If those crept into your mind, the activity is less of something you care about and more of what you think others want you to care about. Imagine letting go of those activities or at least engaging in them in a different way this year. Prioritizing or altering what you do can improve the whole experience.

Give to yourself first

Your body is a machine that performs best when it has the right kind of fuel, is used the way it is built for, and gets recharged. By giving yourself three critical gifts – good food, body movement and adequate sleep – you will have a great holiday season.

**Good food** for cancer prevention means eating complex carbohydrates, healthy fats, lower fat proteins and...
DAY BREAK!

many fruits and vegetables. Most of your plate should be filled with whole grains, vegetables, fruits and beans. Choose water over a sugary drink and limit your alcohol intake.

You may think that the phrase “use your body” is code for “exercise” but it doesn’t have to be. Just a few changes can make a difference. When you go shopping, park on the other side of the mall in a spot that is further away. Take the stairs over the elevator or escalator. Leave the grocery cart at the door and carry the bags to the car. Just pay attention and you will find ways to easily add more movement to your day.

*Adequate sleep* is critical to recharge all the parts of your body. It starts with a decision. Look at when you need to wake up and count backwards seven to nine hours. That is your bedtime! Plan your evening to be ready for sleep at the designated time. It helps to have a 15 minute routine you follow beforehand, something in lower light that is minimally engaging, since it cues your body for sleep.

**Learn some relaxation techniques for the unavoidable**

No matter how much you plan or what you prepare for stress is unavoidable, especially during the holiday season. Having a quick way to combat it can really help. Working with breathing is simple and can be done anytime, anywhere. One method is a sigh, a very deep and purposeful sigh. Just breathe in deeply then exhale fully. Then do it again while imagining your muscles smoothing out. A “purposeful sigh” can be done as many times as you need to until relaxed.

Want more information? Using your favorite search engine try “sleep hygiene,” “relaxation techniques,” or “healthy eating.”

— Barbara Hale, MSW, LCSW, is the manager of the Social Work Department at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

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Cancer Data Collection Standards Aiming for New Heights

Measuring up, managing data, and moving quality initiatives forward. Those key elements were at focus recently during a national meeting of experts who collect, manage and analyze cancer data. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Network of hospitals is a national leader in this area, and CINJ Network Director Molly Gabel, MD, was invited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC) to share her expertise before the National Cancer Registrars Association 37th Annual Conference.

Helping to further shape these nationwide efforts and optimize how that information is used is CINJ’s Network of hospitals. The CINJ Network was one of the lead entities invited by the CoC in 2009 to help steer a national initiative aimed at improving data collection on cancer treatment and creating a new quality assessment system for use by health providers across the country. CINJ is also a partner in the management of the New Jersey State Cancer Registry, which is a National Cancer Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) database utilized by researchers nationwide to conduct population-based and other studies pertaining to cancer.

Dr. Gabel’s presentation focused on how to utilize data to manage patient care and also improve care processes. And based on the CINJ Network model, she also addressed how institutions can use such data to compare themselves to similar entities on local, regional and national levels so that they can identify areas for improvement.

“One has to have forward thinking when reviewing cancer data,” noted Gabel, who is also an associate professor of radiation oncology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. “Instead of looking at high percentages of patients with advanced stage breast cancer at an institution and simply concluding that those numbers are high, one needs to take a step further and ask questions such as ‘do we have an opportunity to develop a clinical trial for this aggressive disease’ or ‘do we need a patient navigator for this population?’ It is all about moving forward in the best interest of patient care.”

It was a day to “Live, Laugh and Learn” at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey during its National Cancer Survivors Day event in June. Cancer survivors and their guests had an opportunity to attend uplifting educational sessions with CINJ experts and visit CINJ laboratories, as well as view artwork created by cancer survivors as part of the Lilly Oncology Art Exhibit that was on display. Also included was the unveiling of the Survivor’s Quilt, which was crafted by CINJ survivors and caregivers at the 2009 CINJ LIVE-STRONG Event. Capping off the day was a luncheon featuring New York Times bestselling author Bruce Feiler, author of The Council of Dads: A Story of Family, Friendship, and Learning How to Live, which tells the inspirational story of how friendship and community can help one survive one of life's greatest challenges – cancer. To view a video recap of the day, visit: www.cinj.org/survivorship/ourprogram.html.
The Teacher Becomes the Student

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey’s CURE (Continuing Umbrella for Research Experience) Program is facilitating role reversal and sending teachers back to school. The program typically offers high school students and undergrads with instruction in cancer biology and pairs them with a faculty mentor for a two-year research experience in a CINJ laboratory. But thanks to a grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, four central New Jersey high school teachers recently engaged in a similar experience, with a goal of incorporating what they learned into their respective classrooms.

One such teacher who returned with new strategies to make science more interesting for his students is Andre Bridgett (left) from the New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology High School.

“The CURE program has allowed me to share with my students techniques and experiences that we have only read about in our textbooks,” Bridgett said. “Another benefit was having one of the CINJ scientists visit our school and share more about the program. The students asked wonderful questions about research opportunities and the steps required for becoming a research scientist. That kind of enthusiasm doesn’t come from a textbook.”

CINJ’s Director of Research Education Sunita Chaudhary, PhD, who oversees the CURE Program stated, “We have high hopes that by providing such knowledge and scientific materials to teachers at both the high school and community college levels, we can enable them to better represent a pertinent and ever-changing field that needs the interest of new, bright young minds every day.”

CURE was started in 2003 by funding from the NCI and receives continued support from the NCI and Johnson & Johnson to encourage disadvantaged students to pursue careers in healthcare. For additional information on the CURE program visit: www.cinj.org/education/CURE.html or call 732-235-9869.
CINJ Opens New Satellite LIFE Center

Central New Jersey residents who may be at increased risk for various cancers now can receive genetic counseling and related services at two University Medical Center at Princeton (UMCP) locations through collaboration with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. On designated days each month, board certified genetic counselors from CINJ’s LIFE Center are now on-site at UMCP in Princeton and UMCP’s Breast Health Center in East Windsor.

Individuals seeking services on their own or through a physician referral will work closely with genetic counselors to document an in-depth family medical history and assess their risk of breast, ovarian, colon or uterine cancer. Counselors can arrange for a blood test to determine if an individual is genetically susceptible to those types of cancer. The LIFE Center at UMCP and the Breast Health Center will provide for appropriate pre-test and post-test genetic counseling as well as physician follow-up to those who undergo genetic testing.

“Prevention and early intervention are critical in the fight against cancer, so these services offered through the LIFE Center are invaluable,” said Linda Sieglen, MD, Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs at Princeton HealthCare System, a comprehensive healthcare system that includes UMCP. “The counseling services will help us to identify people whose family history shows a vulnerability to certain types of cancer and refer them to appropriate care.”

LIFE-altering Event

On a continued mission now twelve years strong, LPGA veteran Val Skinner and some of the most elite women golfers in the world gathered recently to raise awareness and funds in order to help educate young women about breast cancer through the LIFE Center at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

The LIFE (LPGA pros In the Fight to Eradicate breast cancer) Event was founded by Skinner following the loss of a dear friend and fellow LPGA member to breast cancer at age 28. The golf outing has raised nearly $7.3 million since its inception in 2000, with nearly $3.5 million supporting CINJ’s LIFE Center. Skinner was the driving force behind the creation of the LIFE Center, which offers numerous components related to breast cancer education including genetic counseling, cancer risk assessment and the BioCONECT program aimed at teaching high school students about the biology of breast cancer and how to prevent the disease (see back page).

“Because of Val Skinner’s continued commitment, we have been able to offer LIFE services and programs through a number of satellite centers across New Jersey,” noted CINJ Chief Medical Officer Deborah Toppmeyer, MD, who is the director of both CINJ’s LIFE Center and Stacy Goldstein Breast Cancer Center. “We also have had the tremendous opportunity in recent years to expand the BioCONECT program throughout New Jersey and outside of our borders thanks to support from the LIFE Event. We remain grateful for Val’s dedication to this cause,” added Dr. Toppmeyer, who is also an associate professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Skinner says she is thankful and “extremely proud” of her fellow LPGA players and the LIFE Partners for supporting the effort. Players this year included LPGA Hall of Famers Nancy Lopez and Karrie Webb, as well as Laura Davies, Jiya Shi, Morgan Pressel, Brittany Lincicome, Stacy Lewis, Azahara Munoz and many more.

Supporters for the 2011 event include LIFE Partners: the Joe Plumeri family, Emblem Health, QualCare, Guy Carpenter & Company, Marsh & McLennan Companies, and Genentech. Other notable supporters are Amy Perella, Assured Guaranty, C. R. Bard, Inc., The ACE Group and Cox Classic/Steven A. Cox Foundation.
Kudos!

Janice Mehnert, MD, medical oncologist at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and assistant professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and Eileen White PhD, associate director for basic science at CINJ, are the recipients of a 2011 V Foundation Grant in Translational Clinical Research. The $600-thousand, three-year award will support their work in examining cell self-digestion in the development of melanoma tumors.

Roger Strair, MD, PhD, chief of hematological malignancies at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, has received a grant from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for his work in NF-kB inhibition in acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). Dr. Strair, who also is a professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, is one of 17 investigators to share in the overall $10.2 million award, receiving $600-thousand for a period of three years.

Elliot J. Coups, PhD, a behavioral scientist at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey has been named a member of the Psychosocial Risk and Disease Prevention Study Section, Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Coups, who also is an associate professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School was selected based on his demonstrated competence and achievement in the field of population science. In his new role, Coups will be responsible for reviewing grant applications submitted to the NIH and for surveying the status of population science research.

Faculty Join CINJ

Several new faculty members have recently joined CINJ. These physicians and scientists complement the work being done at CINJ.

Vladimir A. Belyi, PhD, is an assistant professor of medicine UMDNJ-RWJMS and resident member at CINJ. Dr. Belyi is a visiting member of the Simons Center for Systems Biology at the Institute for Advanced Study, where he conducts research in the areas of genomics, structural and functional evolution and epigenetics. He completed his postdoctoral research on virus assembly, protein-RNA interactions and DNA/RNA packaging at the University of Massachusetts.

Chang S. Chan, PhD, is an assistant professor of medicine at UMDNJ-RWJMS and resident member at CINJ. Dr. Chan is a visiting member of the Simons Center for Systems Biology at the Institute for Advanced Study, where he studies the genetics of autism and cancer. Dr. Chan completed postdoctoral study of post-transcriptional regulation in complex genomes at Princeton University.

Ting Chen, PhD, is an assistant professor of radiation oncology at UMDNJ-RWJMS in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Division of Radiation Physics. He most recently served as a bioinformatics specialist at CINJ, where he underwent post-graduate training in medical physics in radiation therapy. Dr. Chen’s research interests include design and development of novel algorithms to improve medical image processing and registration. He is also a visiting assistant professor at Rutgers University in the Biomedical Engineering Department.

Laurie J. Kirstein, MD, is an assistant professor of surgery at UMDNJ-RWJMS in the Division of Surgical Oncology. Dr. Kirstein returns to CINJ’s Stacy Goldstein Breast Cancer Center after recently serving as an assistant professor of surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She completed a breast surgery fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital/ Dana Farber Cancer Center, which was preceded by a residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center. Dr. Kirstein has performed clinical studies in breast cancer and has a special interest in cancer pain management. She serves as director of the Breast Surgery Fellowship Program.\n
Aparna Kolli, MD, is an instructor of surgery at UMDNJ-RWJMS in the Division of Surgical Oncology. Prior to joining CINJ, Dr. Kolli completed a breast surgery fellowship at the University of Michigan, which was preceded by a residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Dr. Kolli has a clinical research interest in breast cancer in South Asian women.

Jerod Stapleton, PhD, is an assistant professor of medicine at UMDNJ-RWJMS in the Section of Population Studies, Division of Medical Oncology. Prior to joining CINJ, Dr. Stapleton completed his doctoral training in the Department of Behavioral Health at the Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Stapleton has a research interest in psychosocial and behavioral factors as they relate to cancer risk and the development of cancer intervention programs. He has a particular interest in skin cancer prevention and the psychology behind indoor tanning bed use by young people.
Meridian Health: Research Strength

As a System Partner of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Meridian Health continues to build on its collective strength in oncology research and treatment. More than 60 specialists at Meridian care for over 4,000 new cancer patients annually throughout central and southern New Jersey. Each of Meridian’s hospitals has a Commission on Cancer accredited cancer program and a very strong commitment to quality cancer care and clinical research.

In its continued effort to expand and enhance capabilities to conduct clinical research, Meridian recently opened the Meridian Health Clinical Research Center at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. This state-of-the-art research facility was designed with clinical trial research effi-

The Cancer Center at Mountainside Hospital

As a part of the premier hospital for the Montclair area, the Mountainside Hospital Cancer Center is proud to offer its community the best in cancer care, close to home. Mountainside offers a full range of oncology services including medical, surgical and radiation oncology, infusion therapy, genetic counseling, diagnostic services and access to promising clinical trials, all as a part of a comprehensive program that puts leading research into action.

As a part of its commitment to patients, Mountainside offers a complete menu of services from one convenient location, which ensures that patients and their families won't need to travel far from home to find the best care available. On the Mountainside campus, patients receive diagnoses, treatment, wellness services, free screenings, counseling, aftercare and more, all in one place.

Just as in the nation’s top academic institutions, Mountainside holds weekly, multi-disciplinary roundtable discussions involving a team of specialists, ensuring that every patient receives the collective benefit of Mountainside’s talented staff.

The Mountainside Hospital Cancer
In efficiency and patient convenience at the forefront. With 4,000 square feet of space, it offers: five patient exam/clinical trial visit suites, a dedicated patient reception and registration area, patient comfort area, secure document and drug storage, and a patient consultation office.

One of the unique clinical trials Meridian is offering, in collaboration with the CINJ Oncology Group (CINJOG), aims to unlock the mysteries of why some women develop breast cancer at an earlier age than others. Designed by CINJ medical oncologist Kim Hirshfield, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, this study includes both healthy women and those with breast cancer. Investigators hope to identify genetic markers for the disease and pinpoint genetic differences between women who develop the disease and those who don’t.

Ken Nahum, DO, is the principal investigator for CINJOG studies for Meridian. Along with 15 sub-investigators — including Denis Fitzgerald, MD, at Riverview Medical Center and William Lerner, MD, at Ocean Medical Center — Meridian has enrolled more patients than any CINJ affiliate hospital in the state since the study was expanded to CINJOG sites in 2010 and accounts for about 40 percent of overall affiliate volume in this trial.

Led by Howard Ross, MD, the Meridian Health Oncology Quality Council recently introduced two new research efforts focusing on gastrointestinal malignancies. The first will examine the harvesting of lymph nodes to help look at treatment options for colon cancer. In addition, the Council is doing immunohistochemistry testing (IHC) on colorectal tumors to help assess risk for hereditary cancer syndromes.

Mountainside Hospital is on the Montclair-Glen Ridge border in Essex County.

Oncology program is the only one of its kind in Essex and Passaic counties accredited by the American College of Radiology.

Mountainside values its affiliation with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. It is an important component of the commitment to sophisticated, quality care close to home.

Update from CentraState

Last year, CentraState Medical Center added minimally invasive robotic surgery to its cancer program for the treatment of prostate and other cancers, using the daVinci® surgical system. In addition, CentraState was the first hospital in New Jersey and one of only seven sites in the U.S. to offer a skin documentation system, called MoleSafe, for the early detection of melanoma and other skin cancers.

In other news, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) has granted three-year accreditation with commendation through 2014 to the Cancer Program at CentraState. CentraState also earned ACoS CoC re-accreditation as a Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program; doubled the size of its infusion therapy unit; and began construction for an expansion of the radiation oncology unit.
National Companies Raise Statewide Support and Awareness for Cancer

Three companies are leveraging their national name recognition to support The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, which benefits their local employees and citizens throughout the state.

For the second year, BJ's Wholesale Club and its vendor partners will raise funds and awareness for breast cancer programs at CINJ through its BJ's for Pink campaign. During the month of October, proceeds from the sale of specially marked merchandise will support a CINJ Foundation breast cancer research grant from the BJ's Charitable Foundation. On Wednesday, October 5th, BJ's in Edison will also host a free “pink picnic” to celebrate survivors and caregivers and educate attendees on the latest breast cancer research and treatment options. In addition, individuals can access a community wall full of tips for those going through treatment, real-time news and content about breast cancer, inspirational messages and information about CINJ programs through a specially designed website. Go to www.bjsforpink.com to learn more and reserve your spot at the “pink picnic” lunch.

Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company has kicked off its 2011 “Quotes for a Cure” campaign which donates $10 for every life or auto insurance quote requested through any of Allstate’s 235 New Jersey agents (www.allstateagencies.com). The program, which runs through November 1st, represents Allstate’s commitment to giving back to the communities they serve.

Bloomingdale's, a new CINJ partner, will host Pink Events in their four New Jersey stores to celebrate CINJ’s breast cancer research, treatment and prevention efforts. Special events will be held on October 20th in select New Jersey stores. For more information, go to www.bloomingdales.com/pink

Workplace Giving Supports Cancer Research and Care Close to Home

New Jersey state and federal employees joined the fight against cancer at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey with gifts made through last year’s Employees Charitable Campaigns. Through these voluntary workplace giving programs, donors can easily support CINJ with a one-time gift or regular payroll deduction. This fall, individuals can select the CINJ Foundation as one of their designated charities to support in the 2011-2012 campaign – there is no simpler way to support cancer research, treatment, prevention and education in our state.
Students and Communities for a Cause

In June, Long Branch Public Schools hosted their 6th Annual Wave of Hope event to benefit The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. The district’s ten schools each held fundraisers and then joined together for a Friday night carnival. Since 2006, the Wave of Hope Foundation has raised $126,000 for breast and pediatric cancer research, a pediatric hematology and oncology fellowship and for CINJ’s greatest needs… For the third year, the Edison High School A.T.A.C. (Assertive Teens Against Cancer) Club successfully combined its efforts to raise cancer awareness and funds for cancer research at CINJ. This year’s $5,000 donation brings the club’s three-year total raised to $18,000… In June, Morris Hills High School brought talent to the stage and voted for its own Morris Hills Idol. Proceeds from the ticket sales resulted in a $1,600 gift, bringing the school’s five-year total to $7,400 in support for CINJ… More than 70 women joined head Princeton University football coach Bob Surace and his coaching staff for the 2011 Princeton Football Women’s Clinic. Through position meetings and on-field drills, ladies learned the game of football and culminated the fun-filled day with a celebratory lunch. Raising $2,100 this year brings the event’s nine-year total to support breast cancer research and programs at CINJ to more than $14,000… Students from 16 DECA Chapters throughout the state participated in the New Jersey DECA 2010-2011 Statewide Community Service project in tribute to Sandy Helfand, a DECA advisor at Northern Highlands High School who passed away from cancer earlier in the year. DECA is a non-profit organization that prepares students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. For the statewide effort, each chapter held a fundraiser in its respective school or community with the combined proceeds totaling over $11,000 in support of CINJ… One hundred golfers joined event organizer Jason Eckhardt and CINJ Stacy Goldstein Breast Cancer Center Director Dr. Deborah Toppmeyer for the 3rd Annual “ARM’s Away” Golf Outing. The event, held in memory of Eckhardt’s mother-in-law, Arlene Ruccio Meyer, has raised more than $34,000 to advance breast cancer research and care at CINJ.

Quarters for the Cure Makes Cents for Cancer

Since 2004, students throughout the state have joined ranks to raise $109,000 for CINJ – one quarter at a time. This year, participating schools will have until March 30, 2012 to collect as many quarters (or dollars) as they can through creative fundraising efforts. For more information and to register, visit www.cinjfoundation.org.

Golfers Tee Off for Cancer

Guy Chiarello and Guy DelGrande host their 3rd annual charity golf event, which has raised more than $200,000 in support of leukemia and lymphoma research at CINJ.
A Special Day Celebrated with a Gift of Hope

It was three years in the making, but from the very first time they locked eyes from across the room in 2007, Kristina and Anthony knew there was a special connection between them. They married in October 2010 and throughout their 16 months of wedding planning, there was one aspect of their special day that was agreed upon early. The couple wanted to make a charitable donation on behalf of their wedding guests in lieu of favors. Kristina Spadavecchia explained, “Anthony and I have both lost close family members from cancer. This was our way of contributing to their memory even when they could not be with us physically on our wedding day. We also had several guests at our wedding who are cancer survivors and it was our way of honoring them as well.”

As a pediatric physical therapist and a graphic designer working for the Newark Public Schools, Kristina and Anthony, respectively, know firsthand the beneficial impact that hope brings to patients and students alike. The couple wanted to extend this gift of hope to others saying, “It gave us so much joy to make this donation to this wonderful cause. We hope that by example we can encourage others to do the same. In the midst of an amazing celebration we were happy to make our day complete by giving this gift of hope to others.”

If you would like to include CINJ in your special occasion celebration (birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc), please call CINJ Foundation Development Services Associate Stacy Boyer at 732-235-7773.

Strength in Community Partnership: Panera Bread

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October, the CINJ Foundation has earned a donation for each of the Panera Bread® signature Pink Ribbon bagels sold. These sweet treats have raised $28,000 in support of breast cancer research and education programs at CINJ. Also in October, Panera Bread® New Jersey will participate as a sponsor in the annual Award of Hope Gala honoring four individuals who have made a difference in the fight against cancer at CINJ.

This year Panera Bread® New Jersey also expanded its commitment to fighting cancer in New Jersey to include education and prevention efforts. A continental breakfast greeted the more than 200 guests attending the CINJ Survivor’s Day celebration, and in recognition of National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Panera Bread® New Jersey co-sponsored free prostate cancer screenings with CINJ, its flagship hospital, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Panera Joint Venture Area Director Robert MacEachern served as an ambassador for his employees for this screening effort.

Having shown great success with past community giving campaigns, MacEachern felt that Panera could make a significant difference in the cancer fight. “It has always been the Panera mission to serve our communities beyond providing quality products and experience. By expanding our partnership with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, we know we will have an even greater opportunity to help countless people in our state. These are our patrons, neighbors, employees, friends and family,” he said.
A BOLD Initiative

While science lessons were not on the agenda for too many high school students this summer, a few dozen took on a “BOLD Initiative” to enhance their biology knowledge. The BOLD (BioCONECT Oncology Leadership Development) summer camp experience – offered by The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and the UMDNJ-School of Public Health (SPH) – gave students a chance to learn about the development of cancer. The teens researched their “pedigree” by exploring their own family history of cancer, and discovered jobs in the oncology field through a career “speed dating” exercise.

The camp program stemmed from the BioCONECT curriculum, created by educators at CINJ and SPH, which allows students to interact online with fictitious twins whose mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Students learn about the development of cancer and what lifestyle steps can be taken to prevent the disease. Training is offered to teachers in New Jersey to help them implement the curriculum in their biology classes.

To learn more about the BioCONECT program, call 732-235-4988, e-mail cscbre@umdnj.edu or visit www.cinj.org/BOLD.

IRA Charitable Giving Opportunity

Congress Extends Special Incentives Through End of Year

If you are 70 and-a-half years of age or older, you can make a tax-free charitable gift, up to $100,000, from your IRA to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation. To qualify for this provision, the gift must be made from a traditional or Roth IRA and be transferred directly to the CINJ Foundation by December 31, 2011. Making a gift from your IRA fund may help you meet your required IRA distribution and provide other tax benefits. Please consult your financial advisor about the best ways to take advantage of this giving opportunity.

For questions regarding account transfer information, call the CINJ Foundation at 732-235-8614.

A Night at The Prom

Cancer survivor Kristin DeMauro (center) strikes a pose on the dance floor as others join in the fun at the Hem/Onc Prom hosted recently by CINJ, the CINJ Foundation, Embrace Kids Foundation, the Beauty Foundation and Beauty Foundation Friends. The special night for teen cancer survivors and youngsters receiving treatment at CINJ or Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, featured a memorable night of dinner, dancing and entertainment.