



Your link to the latest news on research, treatment, prevention and education from the state's only National Cancer Institute - designated Comprehensive Cancer Center

Investigators at CINJ Explore Cancer Survivor Expectations of Family Doctors

According to the National Cancer Policy Board, it is estimated that by the year 2050 there will be more cancer survivors in the United States than those newly diagnosed with the disease. That is why researchers at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) are taking a closer look at the specific needs of cancer survivors as they transition from specialty care back to their primary care provider. A research study sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, CINJ and the U.S. Department of Defense will look at how breast and prostate cancer survivors view their medical needs as they no longer need to be under the care of an oncologist and go back to their regular family doctor, internist or gynecologist for follow-up care. Breast and prostate cancer survivors were chosen as the focus of this trial, because those groups represent the most common forms of cancer in survivors and screenings such as mammograms or blood work to see if the cancer has returned are often performed in a primary care setting. A selected group of 36 survivors will undergo a 60 to 90 minute phone interview and will be asked a number of questions pertaining to how they view care from their primary care physician in relation to follow-up cancer care. Data from this first phase will then be used to develop a separate, self-conducted survey of 15 to 20 minutes featuring similar, but more specific questions targeted toward 720 survivors. While the entire study is expected to last five years, participants will only take part in their individual interview or questionnaire just one time.

Amazing Show, Fantastic Seats, Great Cause...

A limited number of center orchestra seats are being made available for the musical comedy *The Drowsy Chaperone* at The State Theatre in New Brunswick, in an effort to benefit New Jersey's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. A portion of each ticket will support the work of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. The special 8:00p.m. performance will be held Friday, February 13, 2009, and will feature a private post-show dessert reception at the theatre. Tickets can be purchased by calling 732-247-7200, extension 536, and mention CINJ. For additional information visit the CINJ Foundation's web site at www.cinjfoundation.org or call 732-235-8614.

In Person Consult Strongly Desired When Learning About Genetic Risk of Breast Cancer

If you were being told that you were at genetic risk of developing breast cancer, would you want to find out over the phone? New research findings by a team at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Fox Chase Cancer Center (FCCC), found that convenience played a large role in the findings to that question. The findings were recently presented at the annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. As demand for genetic testing increases, delivering results by telephone, with or without a genetic counselor, rather than the traditional practice of in-person disclosure in the context of genetic counseling is occurring more frequently. The pilot study of 27 women and three men, who underwent BRCA 1/2 cancer risk assessment at CINJ and FCCC, included 26 participants who already received their results in person. Ninety-percent of that group indicated they were satisfied with being notified by their genetic counselor face to face. However, when asked about receiving results by phone, 45 percent overall said if they had to do it again, they would be interested. Three out of the four who had not yet received their results also expressed interest in receiving their results in this fashion. There were, however, differences among the group who had already received

results based on individual outcomes of the test. Although interest in phone disclosure was high among those with negative results (55 percent) and those with uncertain results (62 percent), only 25 percent of participants who were found to have a BRCA1/2 mutation would have been interested in receiving that information over the phone. Although nearly all genetic counselors reported they sometimes disclose results by phone, about a third of those surveyed questioned that practice. Their most frequent concern was for patients who did not follow-up with an in-person appointment to learn how they can best manage their cancer risk. The latest findings by the CINJ team indicate further investigation is warranted on the advantages and disadvantages of receiving such information via phone. The research team is planning a follow-up study on the subject, in which patients who have received BRCA 1/2 results by either phone or in person, will be followed for one year to understand the impact of those procedures. This will include how individuals follow recommendations made by clinicians to prevent or reduce their risk of developing cancer.