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**Annual Retreat Public Forum at CINJ Addresses the Unmet Needs of Cancer Survivors**  
*Discussion on Employment, Insurance and Sexuality Results in Call to Action for More  
Multidisciplinary Research on this Growing Population*

**New Brunswick, N.J., June 5, 2008** – Picture this. You’ve battled and beat cancer and even though you’ve been back at work for quite some time, your boss continues to pass you over for a promotion citing “you may not be up to it yet.” Your spouse doesn’t understand that your feeling of being sensual is different than what it used to be. And how are you ever going to rebuild your nest egg after you depleted it for cancer treatment? It is these very real scenarios that cancer survivors are forced to face. That is why survivorship experts converged upon The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) this past week to participate in a public forum, which called for more multidisciplinary research on cancer survivorship in order to better address the need of this growing population.

The event, now in its twelfth year, is part of the Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey, which is a joint venture between CINJ and the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research. CINJ is a Center of Excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In addition to these principals, there were over a dozen partnering organizations that contributed their expertise to the panel and the overall discussion.

CINJ Deputy Director Edmund Lattime, Ph.D., who also is the associate director for education and training at CINJ and professor of surgery at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, is the co-chair of the Annual Retreat. He notes this year’s topic especially warrants further exploration, “The nation’s current surviving cancer population is expected to double over the next few decades. While that shows we are doing an increasingly more effective job in cancer prevention and treatment, we need to be mindful of a patient’s post-treatment needs in order to ensure the best quality of life possible. It is precisely the reason we meet in this fashion, so that we have an opportunity to share our expertise with the hope of implementing a call to action to address such critical needs.”

A panel discussion featuring numerous survivorship experts including CINJ Chief Nursing Officer, Regina S. Cunningham, PhD, RN, AOCN and assistant professor of family medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, explored such topics as spirituality, sexuality, and employment and financial issues for cancer survivors. Dr. Cunningham’s presentation focused specifically on the diverse and complex physical challenges sometimes met by this population, which often include cardiac and pulmonary issues, reproductive issues and general mobility.

“Because evidence on physical consequences among survivors is still emerging, we do not have a true comprehension of such issues. And the information we do have relates to only a few cancer types. This clearly shows a pressing need to carefully follow diverse populations of adult survivors over time so that we can gain a better understanding of their experience with physical challenges and other concerns,” she noted. Cunningham currently is involved in research on the transition of survivors back into the primary care setting.

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More than 100 cancer survivors, their families, healthcare providers, and researchers were in attendance at the public forum, portions of which will be made available at <http://www.youtube.com/cancerinstnj> this summer.

The Annual Retreat also encourages leading experts in the basic science and clinical aspects of cancer to join together to share their research with each other and the public. At a separate session at the Piscataway Campus of the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School last week, CINJ scientists and others highlighted numerous poster sessions on the latest in cancer research. In addition to keynote addresses by Arnold J. Levine, Ph.D., member, CINJ and professor of pediatrics and biochemistry at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and David Allis, Ph.D., Rockefeller University, approximately 150 abstracts submitted by cancer researchers statewide were presented to the nearly 600 participants.

### **About The Cancer Institute of New Jersey**

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is the state's first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer. CINJ's physician-scientists engage in translational research, transforming their laboratory discoveries into clinical practice quite literally bringing research to life. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a center of excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. To support CINJ, please call the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Foundation at 1-888-333-CINJ.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Network is comprised of hospitals throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important discoveries into the community. Partner Hospital: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Affiliate Hospitals: Bayshore Community Hospital, CentraState Healthcare System, Cooper University Hospital\*, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (CINJ-Hamilton), Saint Peter's University Hospital, Somerset Medical Center, Southern Ocean County Hospital, The University Hospital/UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School\*, and University Medical Center at Princeton. \*Academic Affiliate

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