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CINJ Receives \$12million Grant to Support Cancer Prevention Research

CINJ was recently awarded a \$12 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for a four-year project aimed at growing the research areas of cancer prevention, control and population science at CINJ, which is a center of excellence of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The effort will concentrate on preventing cancer and diagnosing the disease earlier. This type of research requires a large collection of data on such factors as lifestyle and diet, as well as genetic and environmental risks in developing cancer. The project also will focus on the building of a program dedicated to the unique needs of cancer survivors and will offer shared resources to other New Jersey health institutions including the dissemination of data findings and cancer-related educational materials. This award will assist researchers in better understanding who among the general public is at a greater risk for getting cancer and to disseminate this information to physicians and family practices.

Panera Bread's Pink Ribbon Bagel™ Campaign Raises Money and Awareness for Breast Cancer

The power of pink was evident this fall, as \$6,000 was raised for patient education programs and breast cancer research at CINJ through Panera Bread's Pink Ribbon Bagel™ campaign. The campaign designed to bring about breast cancer awareness during the month of October, featured the sale of the cherry and cranberry signature bagels, which is shaped in the form of a traditional breast cancer awareness ribbon. Twenty-five cents of every Pink Ribbon Bagel™ sold in the 34 Panera Bread locations owned and operated by the Panera Bread franchise entity, Fenwick Group, was designated for CINJ. Over the 31-day period, 24,000 Pink Ribbon Bagels were sold throughout the Fenwick outlets in central and northern New Jersey.

Researchers from CINJ Present Findings at San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium

During a poster session in December at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, researchers from CINJ presented data that may have implications in the testing of the breast cancer susceptibility gene BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 in young women. The research focused on the similarity in the frequency of mutations in those particular genes among young African-American, Asian and Caucasian women with breast cancer. Bruce G. Haffty, M.D., chair of radiation oncology at CINJ and professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, is the lead author of the study team for *Racial Differences in Frequency and Spectrum of BRCA 1 and 2 Mutations in Young Women with Breast Cancer*, along with Dr. Deborah Toppmeyer, director of CINJ's LIFE Center and Associate Professor of Medicine, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Kimberly Ranieri M.S., certified genetic counselor at CINJ's LIFE Center. The study looked at more than 300 women of African-American, Asian and Caucasian descent, who were diagnosed with breast cancer at an age younger than 45. It showed that while the gene mutations in those with a family history of breast cancer were more frequent across all three racial groups, the frequency of the mutations was also significant for even those with a family history of the disease. Overall, the research found that the frequency of the mutations in the BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 genes was remarkably similar between the racial groups; this is despite the varied rate of incidence between those groups, with more young African-American women being diagnosed with breast cancer compared to Caucasian women. Also presenting at the 30th annual symposium were Laurie J. Kirstein, M.D., surgical oncologist at CINJ and assistant professor of surgery at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School on *Radiation After Axillary Lymph Node Dissection: Impact of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy*. In addition, Antoinette Tan, M.D., medical oncologist at CINJ and assistant professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School presented a poster on *HKO-272, an Irreversible Pan erbB Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor: Preliminary Phase 2 Results in Patients with Advanced Breast Cancer*.