



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Ryan
CINJ Office of Communications
732/235-9891
ryanje@umdnj.edu

**NEW JERSEY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT CINJ
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER**

Governor McGreevey Proposes \$18.25 Million for 2005 Budget

TRENTON, N.J., FEBRUARY 24, 2004 – Governor James E. McGreevey today proposed that \$18.25 million of the FY2005 budget be dedicated to The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ), furthering the McGreevey Administration’s commitment to solving the cancer crisis in New Jersey.

Last year, CINJ received an \$18 million state appropriation to fund the “five point plan” for the eradication of cancer in New Jersey. The five-point plan included increasing access to clinical trials for all New Jerseyans through the development of New Jersey Cancer Trial Connect (NJCTC), the first of its kind web-based resource, designed to provide information about innovative cancer clinical research trials to patients, their families and healthcare professionals. In just under one year, NJCTC (www.njctc.org) has received more than one million hits and continues to serve as an effective vehicle to disseminate information about cancer clinical trials. Other facets of the plan included: increasing access to cancer care and research to underserved communities and minorities and the inception of the first annual “Governor’s Conference on Cancer Research,” which brought researchers and scientists from all over the world to New Jersey to discuss effective partnering methods for cancer research.

“The implementation of the five-point plan has been an enormous success due, in large part, to the commitment of Governor McGreevey and his administration,” commented William N. Hait, M.D., Ph.D., Director of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Associate Dean of Oncology Programs and Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. “With continued support from the state, we will be able to build upon the foundation we have laid by improving cancer control and prevention activities and strengthening our position as a leader in the war on cancer through research, treatment and education.”

-more-

Currently, New Jersey ranks number one in prostate cancer incidence/rate and number one in breast cancer deaths. In 2004, the American Cancer Society predicts that 43,830 new cases of cancer will be reported, resulting in approximately 18,060 deaths.

“It is clear that the successes and milestones in the treatment of cancer across New Jersey would not be possible without the continued support of Governor McGreevey and the New Jersey Legislature and their resolve to combat cancer,” explained Dr. Hait. “We are extremely grateful that, despite budget deficits and economic uncertainty, the state’s position on cancer remains steadfast and unwavering,” he continued.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is the state’s first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. CINJ is dedicated to improving the prevention, detection, treatment and care of patients with cancer, through the transformation of laboratory discoveries into clinical practice. CINJ’s Providers’ Network is comprised of twenty-one Partner and Affiliate institutions throughout the state and provides a mechanism to rapidly disseminate important, valid discoveries into the community. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is part of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

###